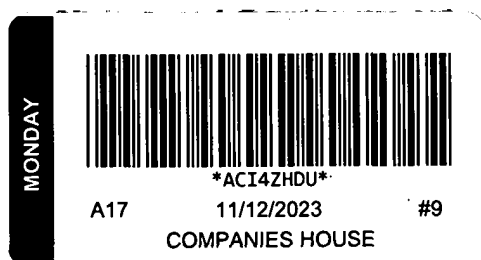


Freemantle Church of England Community
Academy
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 31 August 2023

Company Registration Number:
07561488 (England and Wales)



Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

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Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Reference and Administrative Details

Members

G Strange
V J Caldwell
M Tolcher
D Dekretser

Trustees

K Barnett (guest of Audit and Finance Group)
V Caldwell *
Z Leigh (appointed 24 November 2022)
J Moulton *
N Myszkowski (Headteacher) (resigned as Trustee 1 November 2023)
J Parker
J Powell * (resigned 31 August 2023)
M Denness (resigned 10 May 2023)

*Member of Audit and Finance Group

Invited guests:

K Bevan-Mackie (DHT)
E Hindley (to 31 December 2022)
N Myszkowski (from 1 November 2023)

Senior Management Team

Mr K Barnett, Executive Officer
Miss N Myszkowski- (Sept-Dec 2022 Co-Headteacher; Jan 2023- Substantive Headteacher)
Miss E Hindley (Sept-Dec 2022 Co-Headteacher) Resigned 31 Dec 2022
Mrs K Bevan-Mackie (Sept- Mar 2023 Professional development leader; Apr 2023- Substantive Deputy)

Company Name

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Principal and Registered Office

Mansion Road
Freemantle
Southampton
Hampshire
SO15 3BQ

Company Registration Number

07561488 (England and Wales)

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Reference and Administrative Details

Independent Auditor

Hopper Williams & Bell Limited

Statutory Auditor

Highland House

Mayflower Close

Chandlers Ford

Eastleigh

Hampshire

SO53 4AR

Bankers

Lloyds Bank Plc

63 London Road

Southampton

Hampshire

SO15 2US

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Trustees' Report

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

The Academy Trust operates an academy for pupils aged 3 to 11 serving a mixed catchment area in the Freemantle area of Southampton. It has a pupil capacity of 465 and has a roll that fluctuates between 390 and 410 including nursery 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 Trustees of Freemantle Church of England Community Academy are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as Freemantle Church of England Community Academy.

The members, with the written consent of the Diocese of Winchester and Portsmouth, may agree unanimously in writing to appoint such additional members as they think fit. The articles of association require the members of the charitable company to appoint at least five Trustees to be responsible for the statutory and constitutional affairs of the charitable company and the management of the Academy.

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

Directors' third-party indemnity is covered by a policy of insurance with DfE (RPA – Risk Protection Arrangement).

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Trustees' Report

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The Board of Directors is comprised of up to four directors appointed by the members as outlined in the constitution, the Principal (ex officio), the Principal Officiating Minister (ex officio), staff directors appointed by the members, foundation directors appointed by the members of the PCC Christ Church Freemantle, at least two parent directors elected by parents of registered pupils at the academy, and any additional or further directors elected in accordance with the Articles of Association.

Directors are subject to retirement following four years in post but are eligible for re-election at the meeting at which they retire. At each Annual General Meeting of the charitable company, the directors to retire are those who have been in office since their last election or appointment of four years.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new Directors will depend on their existing experience. Where necessary induction will provide training on educational, legal and financial matters, however all directors will undertake safeguard training and induction without exception. All new Directors will be given a tour of the Academy and the chance to meet with staff and pupils. All directors are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as directors. As there are normally only two or three new directors a year, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual, except for safeguarding induction and training.

Organisational Structure

The structure of the academy consists of three levels: the Directors, The Senior Managers and the Strategic Accountability Team. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Directors are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the Academy by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the Academy, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The Senior Managers are the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and the Executive Officer- responsible for strategic development and finance and estates management. These managers control the Academy at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the Directors and reporting back to them. As a group the Senior Managers are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff, though appointment boards for posts in the Strategic Accountability Team always contain a Director. Some spending control is devolved to members of the Strategic Accountability team, following agreement with a Senior Manager.

The Strategic Accountability Team includes the Senior Management, School Support Development Partner and Curriculum Leaders. These managers are responsible for the day to day operation of the Academy, in particular organising the teaching staff, facilities and pupils.

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Trustees' Report

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The performance management committee and SSDP receive evidence of completed objectives by the centre director and if met, the pay committee agree a pay increase following advice from the SSDP to ensure any increase is justified. New objectives are then agreed by all parties and set.

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials – there were no employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period (full-time equivalent employee number: zero).

Percentage of time spent on facility time- no time was spent on facility time by any of the trust's employees.

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time – zero.

Paid trade union activities - no time was spent on paid trade union activities by any of the trust's employees.

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

The Academy Trust no longer has links with Freemantle Home School Partnership, as this has been disbanded. During the prior year the Academy Trust purchased resources from Learn Play Nexus (GB) Limited. G Strange (Member) is a Director. Details are given in Note 23.

Objectives and Activities

Objects and Aims

The principal object and activity of the charitable company is the operation of the Freemantle C of E Community Academy to provide education for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 3 and 11 with an emphasis on basic Literacy and Numeracy Skills.

In accordance with the articles of association the charitable company has adopted a "Scheme of Government" approved by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills. The Scheme of Government specifies, amongst other things, the basis for admitting pupils to the Academy, the catchment area from which the pupils are drawn, and that the curriculum should comply with the substance of the national curriculum.

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Trustees' Report

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The main objectives of the Academy during the year ended 31 August 2022 are summarised below:

- to ensure that every child enjoys the same high quality education in terms of resourcing, tuition and care;
- to raise the standard of educational achievement of all pupils;
- to improve the effectiveness of the Academy by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review;
- to provide value for money for the funds expended;
- to comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements;
- to maintain close links with industry and commerce;
- to conduct the Academy's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness.

The Academy's main strategy is encompassed within its vision and values document, 'We aim to create a safe learning environment with a welcoming atmosphere, where pupils' personal, social and emotional development takes priority'. To this end the activities provided include:

- a broad and literature rich curriculum for all pupils to attain appropriate academic skills and knowledge, helping pupils fulfil their full potential;
- training opportunities for all staff, and especially teaching staff to develop responsible pedagogy;
- a programme of after school enrichment activities for all pupils to enrich their cultural capital.

Public Benefit

We confirm that directors have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Trustees' Report

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

The Academy is now in its twelfth academic year of operation and continues to achieve the forecast numbers of pupils 400+. Total pupils in the period ended 31 August 2022 numbered 414 and the Academy continues to have a few spaces in some year groups.

To ensure that standards are continually raised the Academy:

- operates a programme of observation, coaching and support to continue to improve standards, whilst supporting staff to reflect on research and pedagogy from reputable sources;
- works closely with our local cluster of schools to share and develop effective practice whilst enhancing our culture of reflection;
- is visited by external inspectors and educational specialists to strengthen staff's knowledge and understanding and ensure efficacy of results from entry to Key Stage 2.

Standards in core subjects remain above and/or in line with national expectations; despite an increase of pupils new to English joining the year group (2023 academy unvalidated data).

Key Performance Indicators

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)- Slightly above national expectation with combined GLD of 70.7%.

Key Stage 2- Broadly in line with national expectations with a combined RWM of 58.1% based on teacher assessment (validated 2023).

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 it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Trustees' Report

Financial Review

The Academy held fund balances at 31 August 2023 of £3,939,143 (2022: £3,439,797), comprised as follows:

- Unrestricted (free) reserves of £294,430 (2022: £250,648)
- A restricted fixed asset fund of £2,954,940 (2022: £2,977,918), which can only be realised through disposal of tangible fixed assets
- A pension deficit of £nil (2022: £296,000)
- Other restricted funds of £689,773 (2022: £507,231)

There are no known factors that are likely to affect the financial position of the Academy going forward other than the day to day running costs and the already planned building work.

The majority of the Academy's income is obtained from the DfE in the form of GAG and ESG grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, total expenditure (excluding restricted fixed assets funds and pension reserve) of £2,059,006 (2022: £2,032,580) was covered by GAG and ESG grant funding from the DfE together with other incoming resources. The excess of income over expenditure for the year (excluding restricted fixed asset funds and pension reserve) was £266,324 (2022: £176,765).

At 31 August 2023 the net book value of fixed assets was £2,954,940 (2022: £2,977,918) and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in the notes to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Academy.

Reserves Policy

The directors review the reserve levels of the Academy annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The directors have determined that the appropriate level of free reserves should be equivalent to eight weeks expenditure, approximately £380,000. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance. The Academy's current level of free reserves (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds) is £294,430 (2022: £250,648), which is less than is needed. The Academy intends to continue building up free reserves to the level needed.

Under Financial Reporting Standard No.102 it is necessary to charge projected deficits on the Local Government Pension Scheme that is provided for our support staff to a specific restricted reserve. As at 31 August 2023, the deficit on this reserve amounted to £nil (2022: £296,000).

The Academy has limited fixed assets that could be disposed of to raise funds.

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Trustees' Report

Investment Policy

The general objective is to invest surplus funds in short term low risk investments to obtain a superior return on these funds compared to that obtained from the current account.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

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

Members initiated a full review of the Board of Trustees in June 2023 and their actions and outcomes. The review is currently in 'mid-review' and will be complete by November 2023. The outcomes of the review will identify strengths and areas of development; an action plan will be created and feedback will be directly shared with members. The outcome of the review will be shared as part of 2023-24 internal audit procedures.

The directors and members receive annual reviews from the Executive Officer using the Good Estates Management (GEMs) toolkit. This identifies their responsibilities and the responsibilities of staff undertaking the day to day management of the academy estate. They use this alongside other documents, the Business Continuity Plan (BCP), the Detailed Asset Management Plan (DAMP), Land and Buildings submission, servicing documentation, training records and financial reports to ensure the estate is well maintained and further enhanced to have a positive impact on learning, pupil outcomes and well-being and gives surety that the academy complies with all relevant regulations.

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Trustees' Report

Fundraising

As part of its work within the community, the Academy Trust undertakes fundraising activities, for example through fetes, cake sales, non-uniform days etc. The Academy Trust raises funds in order to support its own operations and also to make donations to local and national charities. The Academy Trust undertakes all such activities itself, with the help of its students and their families. We confirm that when fundraising:

- No unsolicited approaches are made to members of the public.
- No commercial participators are used.
- No regularity schemes or standards are applicable.
- No complaints were made to the Academy Trust during the year.

As part of its work within the community, the academy has not undertaken fundraising activities but will be reinstating the Parent fundraising support group for 2023-24.

Plans for Future Periods

The Academy will continue striving to improve the levels of performance of its pupils at all levels and will continue its efforts to ensure its pupils are well educated and prepared for secondary education and beyond once they leave.

The most significant issue will be managing the ever-increasing transient nature of our academy and well as the increase of children with significant SEND needs; joiners from overseas requiring extensive 'catch up' provision, as well as pupils with significant needs requiring 1 to 1 or sometimes 2 to 1 provision to manage their safety and support their learning has required us to redeploy support and intervention staff. The school day has also been lengthened to increase exposure to a broad and balanced curriculum. Whilst VFM has been carefully considered, the impact of these actions cannot be underestimated in accelerating pupils' learning, improving resilience and ensuring quality first teaching benefits all learners.

The Academy aims in the future to extend provision of education for the wider community. To achieve this we have a community development plan, based on an identification and analysis of need (from links with the Southampton Cooperative Learning Trust).

Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others

The Academy did not act as Custodian Trustee during the reporting period.

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Trustees' Report

Auditor

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware
- 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 23 November 2023 and signed on the Board's behalf by:

Val Caldwell

V Caldwell

Chair of Trustees

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Governance Statement

Scope of Responsibility

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

As Trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Handbook and Competency Framework for Governance.

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the 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 Freemantle Church of England Community Academy and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

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

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Meetings attended</u>	<u>Out of a possible</u>
K Barnett, Executive Officer	6	6
V J Caldwell	6	6
J Moulton	3	6
J Parker	6	6
J Powell	6	6 (resigned July 23)
N Myszkowski- Headteacher	6	6
Z Leigh	5	5
M Denness	2	5 (resigned May 23)
E Hindley	1	1 (resigned Dec 22)

The Board ensures the effective and smooth running of the academy in curriculum, finance and estates and holds the Headteacher and senior leaders, to account for pupil outcomes and the Executive Officer and the finance team in ensuring funding is used appropriately, lawfully and in the best interests of the academy and pupil outcomes and well-being.

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Governance Statement

Governance (continued)

Conflicts of interest:

The Academy Trust holds an up-to-date register of pecuniary interests for all directors and members, this is updated at every full board meeting and is openly shared on the academy's website to ensure efficacy and transparency. The academy has no subsidiaries, ownership, joint ventures or associates to avoid any potential conflicts of interest.

Governance reviews:

The Board has continued to develop throughout the year. The directors have undertaken external and in-house training, led and delivered by the SSDP and the LA SIO. The Board continues to focus on their recommendations and will continue to work towards the outcomes given during feedback. The Board has timetabled in a full governance review schedule with Hampshire County Council Governor services, and the next is underway, during summer 2023- until Autumn 23, findings will be shared with directors late in October.

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee continues to review the risks to internal financial control at the trust and to agree a programme of work to address, and provide assurance on, those risks.

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to ensure the effective use of public funds to enhance and develop academic and pastoral development of pupils and members of staff within the academy. It further ensures that there is no mismanagement of public monies acting as the audit committee within its financial meeting and that they are accurately accounted for on a half termly basis.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Meetings attended</u>	<u>Out of a possible</u>
J Powell (Chair)	6	6
V Caldwell	6	6
J Moulton	1	6
K Barnett*	6	6

* The accounting officer attends to provide information and participate in discussions.

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Governance Statement

Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer, the 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 where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- continuing to provide a high-quality education to pupils despite increasing complexity of pupil needs and transient pupil population constraints;
- working collaboratively with other local primary schools and feeder secondary to create and enhance opportunities for staff to develop and receive training; (SCLT)
- ensuring that purchasing supplies by using economies of scale are researched and considered by the local trust group of schools; (SCLT)
- continued to acquire at least 3 quotes (where possible) are sought and considered for any procurement to ensure not only value for money but also added value for the school;
- continue researching, considering and building income generation activities and opportunities to support the DfE budget;
- reviewing contracts annually to ensure they offer value for money;
- the Finance Team continue to meet weekly to discuss the cash position and any surplus is invested on a short-term rolling deposit securing a preferential interest rate. This position is regularly reviewed by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

The academies BCP, servicing documentation training records and DAMP, are all integrated into the academies Raising Attainment Plan, alongside any financial implications the maintenance and improvements require. These identify where effective use of finance can be made and are shared at every Finance, Audit and Risk Committee meeting and Full Board of Trustees meeting as part of the Executive Officers reports. They are also integral and are an agenda item in SAT meetings, which is attended by the Chair of Directors.

Funding is used for- ongoing maintenance, planned maintenance, training for key staff for compliance, compliance checks for utility' based items, refurb and replacement programs and where finance allows improvements in the estates stock.

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Governance Statement

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 Freemantle Church of England Community Academy for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The Risk and Control Framework

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

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

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the Trustees appointed an external auditor Mrs Carole Young as Responsible Officer (RO). The accounting officer and finance officer continue to meet weekly to scrutinise the accounts for the academy and respond to identified points raised by the RO. The RO's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy's financial systems. In particular the checks carried out in the current period included:

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Governance Statement

The Risk and Control Framework (continued)

Areas of review carried out during this visit – February 2023:

- Recommendations/Follow up to RO reports 2021/2022
- Cash and Bank
- Procurement
- Monthly Financial Closedown
- Fraud, theft and bribery
- Premises Issues
- Business Continuity plans/Disaster Recovery

Areas of review carried out during this visit – April 2023:

- Recommendations/Follow up to RO reports 2021/2022
- Cash and Bank
- Procurement
- Monthly Financial Closedown
- Payroll and HR
- Efficiency, Funding and Budgets
- Fraud, theft and bribery
- Safeguarding and Whistleblowing

On an agreed 'time frame and schedule' basis the new RO will report to the Board of Trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities. There have been no material control issues arising as a result of the appointee's work this year. The RO will receive a schedule of work for the coming year to carry out checks at the direction of the Audit Committee.

The RO (external auditor) undertook a 5-day audit of the academy's procedures under the direction of the Board of Trustees during the 2022-23 financial year.

Executive Summary (including overall opinion):

February 2023

This report provides an evaluation of the suitability of financial and non-financial controls and whether the academy is compliant with its own Finance Policy and Procedures and the Academies Financial Handbook. The aim is to give assurance to the Board of effective controls and offer advice on how to address any weaknesses.

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Governance Statement

The Risk and Control Framework (continued)

The report has shown that controls are robust and that the academy is well run and in a strong financial position, this situation is constantly monitored by way of the Risk Register, with particular regard to challenges faced by rising inflation, food shortages, fluctuating refugee pupil numbers, recruitment issues and unknown Government decisions. A prudent approach is taken.

There are no concerning non-compliant issues.

Points followed upon:

- There are no controls in place to check the expenditure on the School Business manager's debit card - RO has seen a sample of receipts for debit card purchases signed by the CD;
- RO suggested a covering sheet, on top of attached evidence, listing a batch of transactions to be authorised.

Executive Summary (including overall opinion)

April 2023

This report provides an evaluation of the suitability of financial and non-financial controls and whether the academy is compliant with its own Finance Policy and Procedures and the Academies Financial Handbook. The aim is to give assurance to the Board of effective controls and offer advice on how to address any weaknesses.

The report has shown that controls are robust and that the academy is well run and in a strong financial position at the moment; this situation is constantly monitored by way of the Risk Register, with particular regard to challenges faced by rising inflation, food shortages, fluctuating pupil numbers, recruitment issues and unknown Government decisions. A prudent approach is taken. The role of the EO is being closely monitored to ensure continuity of good financial planning.

The Academy continues to achieve good attainment levels despite increasing financial challenges and a high number of pupils with diverse needs.

The report has also highlighted an exceptional Health and Safety and Safeguarding culture.

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Governance Statement

The Risk and Control Framework (continued)

There are no concerning non-compliant issues but the report suggests that there are some minor procedural issues which should be addressed:

- Overall Governance is robust and effective
- The Academy's financial situation is constantly monitored by the EO and CFO who meet weekly; this is relayed to the Chair of Directors weekly. The budget situation is reviewed and signed off at the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee meetings twice a term and taken to the Full Board meetings termly
- The new Headteacher does not yet hold a complete understanding of all financial aspects but the Academy are addressing this.

Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the 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 Responsible Officer;
- the work of the external auditor;
- 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 members of the Board of Trustees on 23 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Val Caldwell

V Caldwell
Chair of Trustees

KJL Barnett

K Barnett
Accounting Officer

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As Accounting Officer of Freemantle Church of England Community Academy I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration, I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the Academy Trust Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all 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.

KJL Barnett

K Barnett

Accounting Officer

23 November 2023

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 23 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:


V Caldwell
Chair of Trustees

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 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 properly prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and 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 financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. It includes the Reference and Administrative Details, the Trustees' Report (including the Strategic Report), and the Governance Statement. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

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

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

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Responsibilities of the Trustees

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

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

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Academy Trust, and the sector in which it operates. These include but are not limited to compliance with the Companies Act 2006, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019, the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.
- We obtained an understanding of how the Academy Trust is complying with these frameworks through discussions with management.

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

- We enquired with management whether there were any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or whether they had knowledge of actual or suspected fraud. These enquiries are corroborated through follow-up audit procedures including but not limited to a review of legal and professional costs, correspondence and a review of board minutes.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Academy Trust's financial statements to material misstatement, including the risk of fraud and management override of controls. We designed our audit procedures to respond to this assessment, including the identification and testing of any related party transactions and the testing of journal transactions that arise from management estimates, that are determined to be of significant value or unusual in their nature.
- We assessed the appropriateness of the collective competence and capabilities of the engagement team, including consideration of the engagement team's knowledge and understanding of the sector in which the Academy Trust operates in, and their practical experience through training and participation with audit engagements of a similar nature.

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

Michaela Johns

M Johns FCCA (Senior statutory auditor)
For and on behalf of Hopper Williams & Bell Limited
Statutory Auditor
Highland House, Mayflower Close, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 4AR

Date 05 Dec 2023

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Freemantle Church of England Community Academy and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 1 September 2022 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 Freemantle Church of England Community Academy 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 Freemantle Church of England Community Academy and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Freemantle Church of England Community Academy and the ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Freemantle Church of England Community Academy and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Freemantle Church of England Community Academy's Accounting Officer and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Freemantle Church of England Community Academy's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated January 2022 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.

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Freemantle Church of England Community Academy and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Consideration as to whether prior approval was sought from the Secretary of State where it is required by the Academy Trust Handbook (effective from 1 September 2022) (ATH).
- Review of any special payments to staff, including compromise agreements, to consider whether prior approval was sought where required by the ATH and that any payments are in line with the severance guidance published by ESFA.
- Consideration as to whether any borrowings have been made in accordance with the ATH.
- Review of any 'minded to' letters or Notices to Improve which have been issued to the Academy Trust.
- Review of any transactions with related parties to ensure that they have been carried out in accordance with the ATH.
- Review of governance arrangements to determine whether the requirements of the ATH have been met.
- Review of the Academy Trust's internal controls, including whether the general control environment has regard to the regularity of underlying transactions, including fraud management.
- Review of the Academy Trust's procurement policies to determine effectiveness and testing a sample of purchases to confirm that the policies have been correctly implemented.
- Identifying any conditions associated with specialist grant income and determining whether it has been spent as the purposes intended.

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Freemantle Church of England Community Academy and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

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.

Michaela Johns

M Johns FCCA

Reporting Accountant

Hopper Williams & Bell Limited

Chartered Accountants

Highland House, Mayflower Close, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 4AR

Date ...05.Dec.2023.....

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2023

(including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Un-restricted funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Pension Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and capital grants	2	2,323	-	-	26,440	28,763	8,687
Other trading activities	4	11,025	-	-	-	11,025	12,121
Investments	5	30,434	-	-	-	30,434	481
Charitable activities:							
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	3	-	2,310,768	-	-	2,310,768	2,233,538
Total		43,782	2,310,768	-	26,440	2,380,990	2,254,827
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities:							
Academy trust educational operations	7	-	2,059,006	46,000	118,638	2,223,644	2,393,526
Net income / (expenditure)		43,782	251,762	(46,000)	(92,198)	157,346	(138,699)
Transfers between funds	15	-	(69,220)	-	69,220	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses):							
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	22	-	-	342,000	-	342,000	1,867,000
Net movement in funds		43,782	182,542	296,000	(22,978)	499,346	1,728,301
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		250,648	507,231	(296,000)	2,977,918	3,439,797	1,711,496
Total funds carried forward		294,430	689,773	-	2,954,940	3,939,143	3,439,797

The notes on pages 31 to 53 form part of these financial statements.

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

Company Number 07561488

	Note	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		2,954,940		2,977,918
Current assets					
Debtors	12	134,616		115,437	
Investments	13	985,000		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		54,161		842,003	
		<u>1,173,777</u>		<u>957,440</u>	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(189,574)</u>		<u>(199,561)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>984,203</u>		<u>757,879</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>3,939,143</u>		<u>3,735,797</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	22		-		(296,000)
Total net assets			<u>3,939,143</u>		<u>3,439,797</u>
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds					
Fixed asset fund	15	2,954,940		2,977,918	
Restricted income fund	15	689,773		507,231	
Pension reserve	15	-		(296,000)	
Total restricted funds			<u>3,644,713</u>		<u>3,189,149</u>
Unrestricted income funds	15		294,430		250,648
Total funds			<u>3,939,143</u>		<u>3,439,797</u>

The financial statements on pages 28 to 53 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 23 November 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

Val Caldwell
V Caldwell
 Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 31 to 53 form part of these financial statements.

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	17	235,944	174,341
Cash flows from investing activities	18	(1,023,786)	(36,510)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(787,842)	137,831
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2022		842,003	704,172
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2023	19	54,161	842,003

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

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.

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the Academy Trust and are rounded to the nearest £1.

Going Concern

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

Income

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

- **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.

- **Grants**

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

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

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

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

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

Income (continued)

- **Other Income**

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

- **Donated goods, facilities and services**

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

Expenditure

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

- **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.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

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

Tangible Fixed Assets

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

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than land and assets under construction, 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	20-50 years straight line on buildings; not provided on land
Furniture and Equipment	3-20 years straight line
Plant and Machinery	4-15 years straight line
Computer Equipment	3 years straight line
Motor Vehicles	4 years straight line

Where the Academy Trust can identify the value of major components of freehold or leasehold buildings based upon additions following conversion to academy status, the Academy Trust reviews whether one or more such components have significantly different patterns of consumption of economic benefits. In such cases, the Academy Trust allocates the cost of the asset to its major components and depreciates each component separately over its useful life.

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

Liabilities

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

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Academy Trust has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event which it is probable will result in the transfer of economic benefits and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

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

Leased Assets

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

Current asset investments

Current asset investments comprise fixed term bank deposits. These investments are classified as a basic financial instrument and are measured at amortised cost.

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

Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value. An investment is treated as a cash equivalent when it has a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

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.

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 part 11, chapter 3 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.

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

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

Pensions Benefits

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated 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. TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

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

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

A defined benefit plan asset is recognised only to the extent that the Academy Trust expects to be able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan.

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.

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost/(income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions 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 2022 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 assumptions used are disclosed in note 22.

Critical areas of judgement

There are no other critical areas of judgement.

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Capital grants	-	26,440	26,440	8,491
Other donations	2,323	-	2,323	196
	2,323	26,440	28,763	8,687
<i>Total 2022</i>	196	8,491	8,687	

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

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

3 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
DfE / ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	1,697,544	1,697,544	1,685,059
Pupil Premium	-	166,490	166,490	143,176
UIFSM	-	50,141	50,141	41,414
Rates reclaim	-	11,760	11,760	11,674
PE and sports grant	-	19,050	19,050	19,210
Teachers' pay grant	-	1,070	1,070	1,916
Teachers' pension grant	-	3,023	3,023	5,414
Other DfE grants	-	110,949	110,949	52,789
	-	2,060,027	2,060,027	1,960,652
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	196,898	196,898	211,121
Other income from the Academy Trust's educational operations				
Other income	-	53,843	53,843	61,765
	-	2,310,768	2,310,768	2,233,538
<i>Total 2022</i>	-	2,233,538	2,233,538	

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Feed in tariff	11,025	-	11,025	12,121
<i>Total 2022</i>	12,121	-	12,121	

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Short term deposits	30,434	-	30,434	481
<i>Total 2022</i>	481	-	481	

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

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

6 Expenditure

	Staff costs	Non Pay Expenditure		Total	Total
		Premises	Other	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£	£	£	£
Academy's educational operations:					
Direct costs	1,468,977	-	211,134	1,680,111	1,639,982
Allocated support costs	331,591	84,899	127,043	543,533	753,544
	<u>1,800,568</u>	<u>84,899</u>	<u>338,177</u>	<u>2,223,644</u>	<u>2,393,526</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>1,995,165</i>	<i>69,951</i>	<i>328,410</i>	<i>2,393,526</i>	

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	3,225	9,785
Depreciation	118,638	123,946
Fees payable to auditor for:		
Audit	7,480	6,720
Other services	<u>4,010</u>	<u>3,265</u>

Included within expenditure are the following transactions:

	Total	Individual items above £5,000	
	Amount	Reason	
	£	£	
Gifts made by the Academy Trust	748	-	-

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

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

7 Charitable activities

	2022/23	2021/22
	Total	Total
	£	£
Direct costs – educational operations	1,680,111	1,639,982
Support costs – educational operations	543,533	753,544
	2,223,644	2,393,526

Analysis of support costs:

	Educational operations	2022/23	2021/22
		Total	Total
	£	£	£
Support staff costs	331,591	331,591	534,337
Depreciation	45,608	45,608	51,051
Premises costs	84,899	84,899	69,951
Other support costs	68,955	68,955	88,645
Governance costs	12,480	12,480	9,560
Total support costs	543,533	543,533	753,544
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>753,544</i>	<i>753,544</i>	

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

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

8 Staff

a) Staff costs

Staff costs during the period were:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,362,874	1,379,056
Social security costs	120,213	120,863
Pension costs	317,481	495,246
	<u>1,800,568</u>	<u>1,995,165</u>

b) Staff numbers

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	No.	No.
Teachers	21	22
Administration and support	35	39
Management	3	4
	<u>59</u>	<u>65</u>

c) Higher paid staff

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	No.	No.
£60,001 - £70,000	1	-
£90,001 - £100,000	-	1
£100,001 - £110,000	1	-

d) Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £318,037 (2022: £345,543).

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

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

9 Related Party Transactions – Trustees’ remuneration and expenses

One or more Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from employment with the Academy Trust. The principal and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment.

The value of Trustees’ remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2022/23	2021/22
		£000	£000
K Barnett	Remuneration	100-105	95-100
(Staff trustee)	Employer’s pension contributions paid	20-25	20-25
N Myszkowski	Remuneration	65-70	50-55
(Staff trustee)	Employer’s pension contributions paid	15-20	10-15
Z Leigh (from 24 November 2022)	Remuneration	10-15	-
(Staff trustee)	Employer’s pension contributions paid	0-5	-
K Staszczyk (to 30 June 2022)	Remuneration	-	10-15
(Staff trustee)	Employer’s pension contributions paid	-	0-5

During the period ended 31 August 2023, no Trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (2022: none).

10 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

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

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Land and Buildings £	Furniture and Equipment £	Plant and Machinery £	Computer Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 September 2022	3,465,974	297,082	36,372	172,288	13,750	3,985,466
Acquisitions	12,622	19,591	52,650	10,797	-	95,660
At 31 August 2023	3,478,596	316,673	89,022	183,085	13,750	4,081,126
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2022	686,788	131,202	27,828	147,980	13,750	1,007,548
Charged in year	73,030	26,114	2,449	17,045	-	118,638
At 31 August 2023	759,818	157,316	30,277	165,025	13,750	1,126,186
Net book values						
At 31 August 2022	2,779,186	165,880	8,544	24,308	-	2,977,918
At 31 August 2023	2,718,778	159,357	58,745	18,060	-	2,954,940

12 Debtors

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
VAT recoverable	20,420	16,598
Prepayments and accrued income	114,196	98,839
	134,616	115,437

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

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

13 Current asset investments

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Bank deposits	985,000	-

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Trade creditors	67,475	74,350
Other taxation and social security	25,922	26,131
Other creditors falling due within one year	31,879	23,000
Accruals and deferred income	64,298	76,080
	189,574	199,561

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	31,434	36,118
Released from previous years	(31,434)	(36,118)
Resources deferred in the year	37,635	31,434
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	37,635	31,434

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance for UIFSM and rates relief for the forthcoming year.

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

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

15 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	507,231	1,697,544	(1,445,782)	(69,220)	-	689,773
Pupil premium	-	166,490	(166,490)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	50,141	(50,141)	-	-	-
Rates reclaim	-	11,760	(11,760)	-	-	-
PE and sports grant	-	19,050	(19,050)	-	-	-
Teachers' pay grant	-	1,070	(1,070)	-	-	-
Teachers' pension grant	-	3,023	(3,023)	-	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	110,949	(110,949)	-	-	-
Local authority grants	-	196,898	(196,898)	-	-	-
Other educational activities	-	53,843	(53,843)	-	-	-
	507,231	2,310,768	(2,059,006)	(69,220)	-	689,773
Pension reserve	(296,000)	-	(46,000)	-	342,000	-
	211,231	2,310,768	(2,105,006)	(69,220)	342,000	689,773
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Fixed asset fund	2,977,918	-	(118,638)	95,660	-	2,954,940
ESFA capital grants (DFC)	-	26,440	-	(26,440)	-	-
	2,977,918	26,440	(118,638)	69,220	-	2,954,940
Total restricted funds	3,189,149	2,337,208	(2,223,644)	-	342,000	3,644,713
Total unrestricted funds	250,648	43,782	-	-	-	294,430
Total funds	3,439,797	2,380,990	(2,223,644)	-	342,000	3,939,143

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

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

15 Funds (continued)

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

General annual grant

This includes all funding received from the ESFA to carry out the objectives of the academy. It includes the school budget share; minimum funding guarantee; education services grant; insurance; rates; and pre-16 high needs funding streams.

Other DfE/ESFA grants

This is funding received from the ESFA for specific purposes.

Local authority grants

This is funding received from the local authority for specific purposes, for example Special Educational Needs funding.

Other educational activities

This includes all other educational income/expenditure.

Pension reserve

This represents the negative reserve in respect of the liability on the LGPS pension scheme which was transferred to the Academy Trust on conversion. As at 31 August 2023 the Academy Trust's share of the net assets in the scheme is now in surplus, but, as no pension asset has been recognised, the balance on the reserve is £nil.

Fixed asset fund

The fund includes the value of the tangible fixed assets of the academy on conversion, and amounts transferred from GAG or other restricted funds specifically for expenditure on tangible fixed assets, and the annual charges for depreciation of these assets.

DfE/ESFA capital grants

This is funding received from the DfE/ESFA specifically for expenditure on capital improvements.

Transfers between funds

Transfers to the restricted fixed asset fund represent the cost of fixed asset additions which have been funded from restricted or unrestricted general funds.

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

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

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

15 Funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	99,312	1,685,059	(1,240,149)	(36,991)	-	507,231
Pupil premium	-	143,176	(143,176)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	41,414	(41,414)	-	-	-
Rates reclaim	-	11,674	(11,674)	-	-	-
PE and sports grant	-	19,210	(19,210)	-	-	-
Teachers' pay grant	-	1,916	(1,916)	-	-	-
Teachers' pension grant	-	5,414	(5,414)	-	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	52,789	(52,789)	-	-	-
Local authority grants	-	211,121	(211,121)	-	-	-
Other educational activities	243,952	61,765	(305,717)	-	-	-
	343,264	2,233,538	(2,032,580)	(36,991)	-	507,231
Pension reserve	(1,926,000)	-	(237,000)	-	1,867,000	(296,000)
	(1,582,736)	2,233,538	(2,269,580)	(36,991)	1,867,000	211,231
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Fixed asset fund	3,056,382	-	(123,946)	45,482	-	2,977,918
ESFA capital grants (DFC)	-	8,491	-	(8,491)	-	-
	3,056,382	8,491	(123,946)	36,991	-	2,977,918
Total restricted funds	1,473,646	2,242,029	(2,393,526)	-	1,867,000	3,189,149
Total unrestricted funds	237,850	12,798	-	-	-	250,648
Total funds	1,711,496	2,254,827	(2,393,526)	-	1,867,000	3,439,797

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

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

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Un-restricted funds	Restricted general funds	Restricted pension funds	Restricted fixed asset funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	2,954,940	2,954,940
Current assets	294,430	879,347	-	-	1,173,777
Current liabilities	-	(189,574)	-	-	(189,574)
Total net assets	294,430	689,773	-	2,954,940	3,939,143

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

	Un-restricted funds	Restricted general funds	Restricted pension funds	Restricted fixed asset funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	2,977,918	2,977,918
Current assets	250,648	706,792	-	-	957,440
Current liabilities	-	(199,561)	-	-	(199,561)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	(296,000)	-	(296,000)
Total net assets	250,648	507,231	(296,000)	2,977,918	3,439,797

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Net income / (expenditure) for the reporting period	157,346	(138,699)
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation	118,638	123,946
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(26,440)	(8,491)
Interest receivable	(30,434)	(481)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	34,000	205,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	12,000	32,000
Increase in debtors	(19,179)	(31,001)
Decrease in creditors	(9,987)	(7,933)
Net cash provided by Operating Activities	235,944	174,341

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

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

18 Cash flows from investing activities

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	30,434	481
(Increase) / decrease in current asset investments	(985,000)	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(95,660)	(45,482)
Capital grants from DfE Group	26,440	8,491
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(1,023,786)</u>	<u>(36,510)</u>

19 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	54,161	141,206
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	-	700,797
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>54,161</u>	<u>842,003</u>

20 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022	Cash flows	Acquisition/ disposal of subsidiaries	New finance leases	Other non-cash changes	At 31 August 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash	141,206	(87,045)	-	-	-	54,161
Cash equivalents	700,797	(700,797)	-	-	-	-
	842,003	(787,842)	-	-	-	54,161
Total	842,003	(787,842)	-	-	-	54,161

21 Member liability

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

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

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

22 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 Hampshire County Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £30,900 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022: £21,801) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every four years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors.

The 31 March 2016 TPS actuarial valuation results were implemented from 1 September 2019. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation were:

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy).
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million.
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. 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 latest actuarial TPS valuation results, as at 31 March 2020, were released in October 2023. The revised employer contribution rate, arising from this valuation, is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024.

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

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

22 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £196,025 (2022: £193,156).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Employer's contributions	91,000	93,000
Employees' contributions	31,000	28,000
	122,000	121,000

The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.9% 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 an academy trust closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013 and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on GOV.UK.

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2023	2022
Rate of increase in salaries	4.0%	3.7%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.0%	2.7%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.2%	4.0%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	3.0%	2.7%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	70.0%	70.0%

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

	2023	2022
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	22.1	22.9
Females	24.7	25.4
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.6	24.7
Females	25.7	27.1

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

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

22 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Sensitivity analysis

	Increase/(reduction) in defined benefit obligation	
	2023	2022
	£	£
Discount rate +0.1%	(53,000)	(69,000)
Discount rate -0.1%	53,000	69,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	84,000	62,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	(84,000)	(62,000)
CPI rate +0.1%	51,000	65,000
CPI rate -0.1%	(51,000)	(62,000)

The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Equities	1,246,000	1,168,000
Gilts	676,000	307,000
Property	127,000	157,000
Cash and other liquid assets	63,000	18,000
Other	-	368,000
Total market value of assets	2,112,000	2,018,000

The actual return on scheme assets was a gain of £nil (2022: a loss of £133,000).

Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Current service cost	125,000	298,000
Interest income	(83,000)	(36,000)
Interest cost	95,000	68,000
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	137,000	330,000

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

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

22 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
At 1 September	2,314,000	3,985,000
Current service cost	125,000	298,000
Interest cost	95,000	68,000
Employee contributions	31,000	28,000
Actuarial gain	(425,000)	(2,036,000)
Benefits paid	(28,000)	(29,000)
At 31 August	2,112,000	2,314,000

Changes in the fair value of Academy Trust's share of scheme assets:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
At 1 September	2,018,000	2,059,000
Interest income	83,000	36,000
Actuarial loss	(83,000)	(169,000)
Employer contributions	91,000	93,000
Employee contributions	31,000	28,000
Benefits paid	(28,000)	(29,000)
At 31 August	2,112,000	2,018,000

Freemantle Church of England Community Academy

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

23 Related party transactions

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

Expenditure Related Party Transactions:

A close family member of K Barnett (Trustee and Accounting Officer)

- The Academy Trust paid remuneration totalling £23,783 (2022: £24,068) and employer's pension contributions totalling £4,382 (2022: £3,307) during the period.

A close family member of J Powell (Trustee)

- The Academy Trust paid remuneration totalling £17,520 (2022: £15,816) and employer's pension contributions totalling £3,240 (2022: £2,989) during the period.

Learn Play Nexus (GB) Limited – a company in which G Strange (a Member) is a Director:

- The Academy Trust purchased services from ELS Euro Limited totalling £nil (2022: £8,941) during the period. There were no amounts outstanding at 31 August 2023 (2022: £nil).
- The Academy Trust made the purchase at arms' length following a competitive tendering exercise in accordance with its financial regulations, which G Strange neither participated in, nor influenced.
- In entering into the transaction the Academy Trust has complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022.