

**ALDERBROOK SCHOOL
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2023

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***Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number:07687619
(England & Wales)***

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE ACADEMY, TRUSTEES AND ADVISORS

Members	A Scott S Howells D Evans A Coupland T Armitage
Trustees	T Beveridge Headteacher and Accounting Officer A Scott, Chair A M Quigley, Vice Chair and Responsible Officer S Ahmad (appointed 01.01.2023) M Chauhan (resigned 06.10.2022) K Cheung (appointed 08.12.2022) S Donald D Evans A Khan (appointed 01.09.2022) R C Leitch A Perks K Pougher O Shepherd (resigned 12.05.2023) N Zolty (resigned 23.03.2023)
Company registered number	7687619
Company name	Alderbrook School
Principal and registered office	Blossomfield Road Solihull West Midlands B91 1SN
Senior Leadership Team	T Beveridge Headteacher G Hobbs, Deputy Headteacher T Coggan, Assistant Headteacher E Jones, Assistant Headteacher C Ogan, Assistant Headteacher M McLoughlin, Assistant Headteacher T Stent, Assistant Headteacher A Thandi, Assistant Headteacher
Independent auditors	UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP 9-11 Vittoria Street Birmingham B1 3ND
Bankers	Lloyds Bank PLC Poplar Road Solihull, West Midlands B91 3AN
Solicitors	Veale Wasborough Vizard Orchard Croft Orchard Lane Bristol BS1 5WS

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' response of the charitable company for the period ended 31 August 2023.

The school operates an academy for pupils aged 11 to 18 serving a catchment area in Solihull. The school expanded to include post 16 students from September 2015. Our current capacity is 1,650 (280 per year group plus 250 in sixth form, including 30 in the ASC ARC) Alderbrook had a roll of 1,595 (2022:1,528) in the school census in January 2023. We had 239 (2022:206) students in sixth form and are still growing.

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 company was incorporated on the 29 June 2011. On 1 August 2011 Alderbrook School converted from a maintained school to Academy Trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations, and assets and liabilities were transferred to Alderbrook School from the Trustees of Alderbrook, Leading Edge School and Arts College.

The Trustees act as Trustees for charitable activities of Alderbrook School and are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company is known as Alderbrook School.

Details of the Trustees who served throughout the period are included on the Reference and Administrative details on page 3.

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 the amount required not exceeding £10. This will also continue for up to 1 year after they may cease to be a member, for the debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a member.

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy Trust business. See note 11 for further details.

Principal Activities

The Academy Trust's principal activities are specifically restricted to advance, for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a school offering a broad and balanced curriculum. The Academy Trust operates under a Funding Agreement issued by the Department for Education dated 1 August 2011, amended on 10 January 2023, and commenced operations on 1 August 2011.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The Members may appoint up to 9 Trustees as specified in the Articles and they may appoint staff Trustees through such process as they may determine provided that the total number of staff Trustees (including the Headteacher) who are employees of the Academy Trust does not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees. The Head shall be treated for all purposes as being an ex-officio trustee. There will be a minimum of 2 parent Trustees who shall be elected by parents of registered pupils at the Academy. The Trustees may appoint up to 3 co-opted Trustees.

Principles and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

New Trustees attend Trust Board meetings and subsequently populate committees, often according to interests and personal expertise, as well as being given the opportunity to view the workings of the Academy on agreed visits at the school. The opportunity also exists for Trustees to join trustee training and school based INSET. They are also given copies of school policies and any other relevant information.

Organisational structure

A corporate leadership structure operates to help improve the way the Academy is run. The structure consists of the Trustees and the Leadership Team. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage decision making at all levels.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Organisational structure (cont'd)**

The Trustees are responsible for the strategic development of the Academy: adopting and contributing to an annual School Improvement Plan and budget; monitoring the Academy by the use of reports; budgets and management accounts; questioning and challenging decisions; policy development; senior appointments and approving capital expenditure.

To ensure an efficient and effective committee structure within the Academy's School Improvement Plan there are 4 Trustee committees – Curriculum and Staffing, Business Management, Audit and Risk and Pay. The Business Management Committee responsibilities incorporate all matters pertaining to finance although the Pay Committee considers and decides the actual pay and remuneration of staff. Responsibility for Strategy, Resources, Standards, Curriculum Development and Staffing rests with the Trust Board meetings who consider these on a regular basis. In addition, there is a Health and Safety committee that is Academy based, on which Trustees also sit to ensure action points are picked up by the appropriate Trustee Committee.

The Leadership team consists of the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and six Assistant Headteachers.

The Leadership team direct the Academy at an executive level implementing Trustees' policies and reporting back to them. The Academy has a Finance Manager, directing and monitoring finance activities with her team and a Facilities Manager directs and monitors the facilities aspects. The Finance Manager and Facilities Manager collaborate over accommodation issues and the resources to operate and develop the site effectively. A Site Manager assists the Facilities Manager and takes overall charge of school lettings. The Senior Managers are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff. For senior staff appointments, the interview panels will always contain a Trustee. If Trustees request, or the school believes it would be necessary, then they may also join the appointment panels of other managerial positions. The Trustees have set out a delegation structure for managers within the school who will manage certain budgets. However, all payments from the school are countersigned twice – by the Finance Manager and the Headteacher. If the Headteacher is absent the Deputy Headteacher is able to act as a signatory for the Headteacher.

Heads of Department are responsible for the day to day operation of curriculum subject areas and accordingly organise their teaching staff, capitation, resources, facilities and students. Authorisation limits for ordering goods and services are set and agreed by the Trustees.

Risk Management

The Trustees have a responsibility to assess the strategic risks to which the Academy is exposed and will maintain a risk management register. An online risk management system has been adopted. An Assistant Headteacher leads the Audit and Risk Committee and manages the Risk Register.

The Trustees have implemented a number of processes to assess risks that the Academy faces, especially the strategic risk areas and in relation to the control of finance. These are through the work undertaken by the Responsible Officer, the Business Management Committee, the School Leadership Team and the purchase of services from Solihull MBC. The school has developed a suite of updated financial policies – together with its own Academy Handbook - which are reviewed annually. The Trustees have introduced systems, including operational procedures and internal financial controls to minimise risk. The Academy has an effective system of internal financial control.

Connected organisations

As part of its operation, the Academy has service level agreements with Solihull MBC to support the school by a variety of methods in a number of areas. The school is also a member of: the School Network formerly the Specialist Schools Trust, Solihull Chamber of Commerce, Leading Edge Trust, Arts Connect, School Direct and other education providers within Solihull and Higher education providers such as Warwick University. These links are maintained in the interests of supporting good practice and information sharing and consolidate well established mutually supportive associations. The school maintains a close relationship with Solihull Society of Arts, which has some of its sections based at Alderbrook School.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Objectives and Activities**

The Academy's main objectives are encompassed in its mission statement:

Our aim is to be an ambitious, brave and kind community, and we are proud to be a truly comprehensive school providing an education of a high quality for all our students.

The Academy has Values that underpin the above mission statement:

- Ambition
- Bravery
- Kindness

Therefore, the school provides:

- Teaching and Learning opportunities to enable the pupils to attain the highest academic standards
- Training and development opportunities for all staff to improve performance
- Teaching and Learning opportunities for pupils to become positive, informed and involved citizens
- A programme of activities in areas of sport, arts, leisure, productions, after school clubs, community links to enhance the pupils' range of experiences

The school implements the above statements in a School Improvement Plan taking the form of exception reports for each member of the Senior Leadership Team (listed on page 3) and the priorities agreed for 2022-23 as set out in the accounts presented last year are detailed below together with outcomes:

Review of School Improvement Plan and outcomes for period 2022-23**Our 2022-23 Priorities****Continue to enhance our curriculum intent and implementation.**

OUTCOME: A comprehensive programme of support, monitoring and evaluation is now in place, ensuring that all subjects in the curriculum are regularly reviewed and improvements are implemented. An internal 'deep dive' of subjects forms part of our monitoring cycle, which involves middle leaders, senior leaders and trustees in conducting a detailed and supportive review of curriculum intent and implementation. Ofsted inspected the school in April 2023. The report commented that, 'leaders have developed an ambitious and well-sequenced curriculum, including in the sixth form'.

The outcomes at both GCSE and A Level were strong. At GCSE, the school achieved a Progress 8 score of +0.49. At A Level, 34% of all grades were A or A* with an average grade of Grade B.

Develop students who are well-rounded and well-grounded.

OUTCOME: A range of interventions, outlined below, have been implemented to support students' mental health and well-being. Additional pastoral staff have ensured that earlier intervention has been possible with many more students receiving support. Work with organisations such as Think for the Future (TFTF) has helped improve attendance for vulnerable students, and has reduced negative behaviour of these students. All staff have been trained by Equaliteach to help address prejudice-based bullying. New behaviour system implemented from September 2022, with focus on positive relationships and ensuring all consequences are rational and implemented immediately. Alderbrook formed a partnership with The University of Warwick and Equaliteach to ensure the school's work on diversity and equality is effective and impacting positively on students.

In April 2023, Ofsted commented that:

"Leaders prioritise pupils' personal development. The extra-curricular programme is rich and diverse. Pupils regularly take part in a range of clubs such as debating and yoga. Pupils value being able to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and school productions. Opportunities, such as the recent trips to Spain for modern foreign languages and Oxford and Cambridge Universities for personal development, enhance the curriculum."

"Pupils' well-being is at the forefront of leaders' vision, including pupils' mental health. Leaders actively engage with pupils who need support. Parents and carers are very positive about this support. Leaders have a well-planned programme of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education. Pupils learn about topics such as healthy relationships, democracy and online safety."

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Lead ethically to increase opportunity for all.**

OUTCOME: Following a review of systems across the school, a House System has been implemented to help increase opportunity for both students and staff – 8 staff House Leaders have been appointed with House Captains appointed in each year group. The new system has increased opportunities for reward and competition within the school. Led by a member of SLT, a wellbeing group worked with staff to implement changes to existing systems, and survey the wellbeing of staff. This has given SLT detailed data on areas for improvement.

Key Stage 3:

- 1 Ensure the coherent sequencing of lessons builds towards pupils being prepared for their next stage of learning:
Further development work completed on sequencing and assessment with further CPD time planned for summer term to complete 3-yr KS3 planning work.
Initial mapping work carried out to assess synchronicity of curriculum at KS3.
- 2 Ensure that students who enter the school below expected levels in literacy and numeracy catch up quickly:
Full programme completed for KS4 and KS3. Intensive KS3 days in English and Maths, delivered through PET-Xi (Tutoring company), aimed at our lower attainers. Year 5 and Year 6 masterclasses took place in June.
Next steps: Analyse data and write impact report.
- 3 Ensure that assessment is effectively used to check and monitor progress:
New system agreed and implemented from September. All staff train and communicate with all key stakeholders.
Next Steps: Implementation of new system regularly reviewed and communication continued
- 4 Ensure students with SEND are make strong progress across KS3:
SEND Deep Dive completed during Spring term – detailed report
Inclusion Champions for each subject communicate with the Assistant Headteacher - Pupil Premium for support with resources/ trips to help disadvantaged students access the curriculum/ support the learning/ provide cultural capital such as History trip to Black Country Museum.
Inclusion Champions remind departments of "PP Promise" regularly in faculty meetings- e.g. marking PP books first. PP- reader pens/ visualisers have been purchased for staff to support the teaching of all students.
Literacy trips (Arden aim higher) and interventions (PET-Xi/ reading with mentors/ Lexonics) aimed at supporting PP students in KS3 to develop literacy skills - Calculators provided for Science/ Maths PP students so that they are not disadvantaged in numeracy.
Outcomes for SEND were positive in GCSEs but a gap still remains between disadvantaged students and all others.
Next Steps: Continue to implement recommended SEND changes, with focus on interventions in key areas and consistency of practice to support SEND K students across the school.

Key Stage 4:

- 1 Identify gaps in skills and knowledge which will impact on the next steps of learning and address these:
Second mock completed in February with data analysed and further interventions implemented. Mock results day.
Monday Night Study club introduced for targeted students.
Progress evening for parents
Easter Masterclasses in most subject areas.
MADE (Training) study skills.
Additional progress evening well attended in-person.
Students at risk of not achieving English and/or Maths identified and intervention plans established.
Weekly wellbeing session provided by Tri-Wellness
- 2 Ensure staff are trained well so that a 2-year Key Stage 4 curriculum can be effectively planned and implemented:
Computing: Year 11 have designated periods during Life Ready Day to ensure curriculum covered for all
Further development work planned for current Yr 9 and Yr 10

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

MFL: School visits carried out and action plan implemented from Sept 2023

Next Steps: Support Curriculum Leaders to plan Year 9 Scheme of Work and discuss 'learning journey'

- 3 Establish a catch-up programme specifically tailored to our disadvantaged students:
Inclusion Champions monitor interventions for KS4 at department level. Year 11 Mock data has been used to see what students need additional support and textbooks/ resources have been purchased
KS4 trips are 100% funded for PP students - Revision resources and stationery have been purchased for PP students - 'Thank Goodness It's Monday'- run for Year 11 students (high proportion are PP)
GCSE resources provided for Pupil Support Centre to support students Next steps- Breakfast/ revision room for Yr 11 PP students during exam period

Key Stage 5:

- 1 Devise and implement a range of strategies to ensure all students, particularly the most disadvantaged, succeed:
Tutoring Programme (external company LGL)
Masterclasses May Half term (Recovery Funding)
Sessions run for all Yr 13 students on study skills and revision techniques
MADE Revision Workshops
- 2 Ensure assessment is effectively used to check and monitor progress:
Year 13 mocks completed with data analysed and interventions implemented.
Year 13 Final Progress Evening
- 3 Ensure new subjects are well-taught to enable students to achieve strong outcomes:
Head of Social Sciences – leading Enrichment Intervention
Criminology and BTEC Sport, controlled assessments positive

Personal Development:

- 1 Ensure our most vulnerable students, including those with SEN and disadvantaged students, are benefitting from our personal development offer and curriculum offer:
PP student voice showed clubs that students wanted. Regular boxing session offered to Year 9 and 10 students.
Funding from PP to support new extra curricular clubs such as Warhammer
Peri Music offered to PP students
Next steps- Peri music "try an instrument" workshops to be offered to PP students
- 2 Further develop and embed our PSHE curriculum across all key stages:
Wellbeing workshops (Shine Youth) offered to 36 students from Year 7-10 (mostly PP). Yoga class offered to Yr 11 students to support in exams
- 3 Further enhance our careers offer to ensure all students make informed choices about their next stages of education, employment or training:
Year 11 & 7 students have accessed UniFrog in PSHE lessons to carry out interests and skills audits and search for Post 16 options
Year 11 Careers Lessons have been delivered in PSHE lessons on Post 18 options and Careers paths
Careers Leader has shared strategic plans with SLT
Year 11 students have had 1 to 1 or group interviews
Skills for Success team have worked with 4 Year 11 students supporting applications
Initial discussions around Careers Link with Gymshark
Next Steps: Review Year 11 and 10 Careers Lessons sequencing, both in terms of use of Unifrog lesson plans and optimum term for delivery
- 4 Review our approach to equality and diversity to ensure we effectively address issues such as sexual harassment and racism:
Equality and Diversity Work – All staff trained by Equaliteach at January INSET on dealing with prejudice-based behaviour and bullying
Follow up session arranged to develop strategies
Core team feedback to trustees in December 2022- outlining work to date with staff and students.
Agents for Change – Anti-bullying ambassadors trained across years 9-13
Next Steps: Continue to develop work with staff and students and assess impact through KPIs/pupil and staff voice.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Behaviour and Attitudes**

- 1 Implement changes to behaviour procedures following review in 2022, to ensure immediate, logical consequences and positive relationships:
Monitoring of the new behaviour procedure is continuing- regular meetings with Pastoral Managers and Heads of Year to analyse behaviour

Whole staff meeting in Term 2 to look at ideas and solutions – new uniform strategy has been implemented from feedback from staff. Adaptions have also been made to detentions and truancy following this meeting

TFTF – working with 40+ students from Year 7-10 in bespoke workshops around reflecting on their behaviour - Additional assemblies and form times address "behaviour trends" timely e.g. social media – Year 7

Reward systems reviewed with Heads of Year
- 2 Effective use of interventions through the Pupil Support Centre to ensure students make positive transition back into lessons.
- 3 Attendance above 95% in all year groups:
Attendance continues to be above national average with slight increase in attendance for vulnerable AHT appointed for September 23 who will lead development work on Attendance.
Next Steps: Review all attendance procedures with implementation of updates from September

Leadership and Management:

- 1 Develop collaborative opportunities with local schools to enhance provision and explore options for possible MAT:
Further development of work with Heads of Year with Headteachers and trustees meeting to plan next steps. Continued collaboration work between departments at both schools.
'Cradle to Career' partnership project initiated with 10 local primary schools from Sept 2023
Next Steps: Planning for Cradle to Career partnership to be developed with leaders assigned from each school for the 5 strands
- 2 Develop autonomy and professional accountability for all staff through leadership training, line management and development opportunities:
South Solihull Single Academy Trust Alliance (SSSATA) established from Sept 2023 with collaborative meetings set up across 5 schools in most subject areas.
- 3 Continue to strike the right balance so that we retain our staff – lead ethically, high challenge, low threat. Ensure staff wellbeing is considered in every decision we make:
Wellbeing group established and key areas of focus identified
January 2023 – Presentation to staff on strategies to develop resilience post-pandemic
Detailed wellbeing survey carried out in July 2023

Public Benefit

In drafting the above statements, the Trustees have taken the Charity Commission's specific guidance on public benefit (contained within the guidance document "The Advancement of Education for the Public Benefit") into consideration in preparing their statements on public benefit within this Trustees' annual report.

Benefits and Beneficiaries – In accordance with its charitable objectives, the charitable company strives to advance the education of the pupils attending the school. The charitable company's primary beneficiaries are therefore the pupils, and benefits to pupils are provided through continuing to maintain a high standard of education throughout the school.

Trustees' Assessment of Public Benefit – In order to determine whether or not the charitable School Company has fulfilled its charitable objectives for public benefit, the Trustees gather evidence of the success of Alderbrook's activities.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Going Concern**

Following review of the detailed assumptions concerning pupil numbers, staffing and non-staffing expenditure for both the short and medium term included in the budget for 2023/24 and the subsequent three-year financial forecast, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Academy Trust had £2.0m liquid assets and reserves of at the end of 2022/23 (2021/22: £1.8m), and, and these are forecast to remain positive over the three years to 31 August 2026.

For this reason, the Academy Trust continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

Strategic Report**Financial Review**

Most of the Academy's income is obtained from the Department for Education (DFE) via the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of General Annual Grant (GAG), the use of which is restricted to specific purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Academy also receives grants such as Pupil Premium and for fixed assets from the ESFA. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2019), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, total expenditure of £19,207,000 (2022: £10,221,000), which included depreciation of £433,000 (2022: £568,000) and impairments of £8,466,000 (2022: £Nil), was covered by incoming resources of £11,610,000 (2022: £10,656,000). The surplus of income over expenditure for the year (excluding restricted fixed asset funds and before actuarial gains or losses) was £451,000 (2022: £160,000).

At 31 August 2023, the net book value of fixed assets was £16,156,000 (2022: £23,936,000) and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 12 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the students of the Academy.

The school received DfE Recovery Premium grant of £102k and School Led Tutoring grant of £42k in 2022/23. (2021/22: DfE Recovery Premium grant of £36k and School Led Tutoring grant of £39k). A total of £144k (2022: £107k) was spent in year on tutoring and coaching to support those pupils identified as having had their education impacted by Covid-19.

Principal Risks, uncertainties and risk management

As set out below:

- Meeting appropriate standards of education for students in core subjects
- Complying with legislative requirements regarding employment law, data protection, equal opportunities, Companies House and HMRC, Child Protection, the Charity Commission and the National Curriculum
- Financial Risk - not operating within budget and creating a deficit, changes in funding, the possibility of further post 16 developments and associated costs of building, staffing and operating, inappropriate or insufficient financial controls and systems, fraudulent activity and or financial commitments made without adequate authorisation.
- At each termly Audit and Risk Committee meeting consideration is given to those risks impacting on trustees' responsibilities to ensure the trust's estate is safe, well maintained and complies with relevant regulations, as set out in the Risk Register.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Principal Risks, uncertainties and risk management (cont'd)**

The key controls used by the academy include:

- Detailed terms of reference for committees
- Formal agendas for the academy board and committees - to include a forward plan connected to each set of minutes
- Schemes of delegation and formal financial regulations
- Formal written policies
- Clear authorisation and approval levels
- Policies and procedures required by law to protect the vulnerable

Reserves policy

The Trustees review the reserves levels of the academy annually. This review will encompass the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Trustees have previously determined that an appropriate level of free reserves should be a minimum of £350,000. 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 £794,000 (2022 : £695,000).

Investment Policy

The Trustees' policy is to invest any surplus funds in low risk short term bank deposits using the advice of our bankers – Lloyds.

School Improvement Plan for 2023 – 2024

Schools are inspected under Education Inspection Framework, as updated in July 2023.

The school is in a strong position regarding breadth and depth of curriculum. The new framework is embedded into each Faculty Improvement Plan (FIP) and also aligned with our own School Priorities. Each FIP will be uploaded and shared with Trustees along with Subject Key Stage Analysis Documentation in November 2022. The FIP is pre-populated with the School Priorities so that relevant steps are taken that support individual subject development needs as well as whole school priorities. In addition, a summarised exceptions report will be provided termly to ensure all risks to the school are covered by appropriate members of SLT. New framework summary guiding school improvement is below.

The School Improvement Plan for 2023 – 2024 is as follows:

Whole School Overview of General Success Measures 2023/24 and Beyond

- 1 Our strategies will ensure that all students will leave Alderbrook with excellent outcomes.
- 2 We will relentlessly focus on our most vulnerable students, including Disadvantaged and SEND students, to ensure they receive an outstanding quality of education and make good progress.
- 3 We will develop and maintain instructional coaching to further improve the quality of teaching at Alderbrook.
- 4 Our T&L team will further improve standards of teaching & learning: all teachers will use research-informed practice to develop their own teaching and improve student progress and attainment. We will use both existing expertise at Alderbrook and study the inquiry of external practitioners to improve the education of our students.
- 5 Our students will be literate and develop a healthy attitude to reading. They will have opportunities for frequent extended writing across the curriculum. Their vocabulary will develop in breadth and sophistication.
- 6 We will work systematically to raise students' numeracy skills, regardless of their starting point.
- 7 We will develop, adapt and embed our ambitious curriculum carefully and successfully in KS3-5, ensuring appropriate pathways for all students.
- 8 We will develop students' sense of belonging and pride in their school community, focusing on ensuring that students attend school every day and are actively involved in school life beyond the classroom.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Whole School Overview of General Success Measures 2023/24 and Beyond (cont'd)**

- 9 The whole school community will be active in ensuring a school environment free of racism, sexual harassment and other areas of prejudice and we will ensure equality and diversity is central to our decision-making in all aspects of school life.
- 10 We will ensure that we sustain a balanced workload for all and train the next generation of leaders coming through at every level.
- 11 We will actively collaborate with local schools to explore future opportunities for Alderbrook to form formal partnerships to enhance the education of all of our students. From 2023, will partner 10 schools in the Cradle-to-Career Partnership, focusing on ensuring young people in our community receive a coherent education from 0-18.
- 12 We will have a school where our values of ambition, bravery and kindness permeate everything we do and we will maintain an unrelenting focus on supporting the mental health of all students and staff.

Key Priorities for 2023/24:

- 1 Teaching to focus on developing "challenge for all" across all areas of the curriculum.
- 2 Develop students' sense of belonging with a focus on attendance and pride in the school.
- 3 Develop leadership and structures that support and empower staff to flourish.

Key Stage 3

- 1 Effectively implement new assessment system across Key Stage 3
- 2 Ensure new curriculum in Year 9 is successfully implemented.
- 3 Ensure disadvantaged students and students with SEND make strong progress across KS3

Key Stage 4

- 1 Reduce in-school variation between subjects.
- 2 Further develop a catch-up programme specifically tailored to our disadvantaged students.
- 3 Increase the number of students picking an MFL option subject.

Key Stage 5

- 1 Focus on increasing attendance of all students who dip below 95%.
- 2 Ensure new subjects are well-taught to enable students to achieve strong outcomes.
- 3 Set a culture of high standards with focused and purposeful study during students' independent study sessions.

Personal Development

- 1 Ensure our most vulnerable students, including those with SEN and disadvantaged students, are benefitting from our personal development offer.
- 2 Connect PSHE curriculum across Yrs 7-13 to ensure coherence.
- 3 Develop approach to equality and diversity to ensure we effectively address issues such as sexual harassment and racism.
- 4 Implementation of Year 9 options process.

Behaviour and Attitudes

- 1 Further develop changes to behaviour procedures following review in 2022, to ensure immediate, logical consequences and positive relationships.
- 2 Improve attendance for all students.
- 3 Develop house system at KS3 with focus on competition and reward.

Leadership and Management

- 1 Develop collaborative opportunities with local schools through Cradle to Career and SSSATA.
- 2 Develop autonomy and professional accountability for all staff through leadership training, line management and development opportunities.
- 3 Continue to strike the right balance so that we retain our staff – lead ethically, high challenge, low threat. Ensure staff wellbeing is considered in every decision we make.

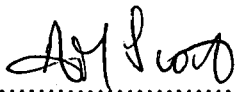
TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Auditors**

UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP, have been appointed to audit the accounts for the academic year 2022/23.

Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors

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

The Trustees' Annual Report is approved by order of the board of Trustees and the Strategic Report (included therein) is approved by the board of Trustees in their capacity as the directors at a meeting on 7 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
A Scott - Chair

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**Scope of Responsibility**

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

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

The Trust Board has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Headteacher, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the Funding Agreement between Alderbrook School and the Secretary of State for Education. He is also responsible for reporting to the Trust Board 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 Trust Board has formally met 5 times during the year although Trustee participation in the school is more involved than this with several other visits made and attendance at informal meetings and school events. The formal meetings were well attended and were all quorate. Reasons for non-attendance were tabled and accepted. The Trustees maintained financial oversight over the trust by convening sub-committee meetings in the form of the Business Management Committee, Audit and Risk Committee and the Curriculum & Staffing Committee. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Trust Board was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a Possible
T Beveridge	5	5
A Scott (Chair)	5	5
A M Quigley (Responsible Officer)	3	5
M Chauhan	-	1
K Cheung	2	2
S Donald	2	5
D Evans	5	5
A Khan	2	5
R Leitch	4	5
A Perks	4	5
K Pougher	4	5
O Shepherd	2	3
N Zolty	-	1
S Ahmad	2	3

The Business Management Committee has had 4 meetings over the year. Its purpose is to lead and manage for the Trustees the areas of finance and facilities. The expertise in this group within the Trustees is accountancy, education, health and safety, business marketing and promotion. Attendance at these meetings during the year is as follows:

	Meetings attended	Out of a Possible
R Leitch (Chair)	4	4
A Scott	4	4
T Beveridge	4	4
D Evans	4	4
K Pougher	1	4
O Shepherd	-	3
S Donald	2	4

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Governance (cont'd)**

The Curriculum & Staffing Committee has had 2 meetings over the year. Its purpose is to review the curriculum and staffing requirements of the academy trust. Attendance at these meetings during the year is as follows:

	Meetings attended	Out of a Possible
A Scott	2	2
T Beveridge	2	2
A M Quigley (Chair)	1	2
N Zolty	-	1
M Chauhan	-	1
A Perks	2	2
S Ahmad	1	1

The Risk and Audit Committee has had 3 meetings over the last year. Its purpose is to maintain an oversight of the Academy's financial, governance, risk management and internal controls and to report findings termly and annually to the Trust Board and the Accounting Officer as a critical element of the Academy's annual reporting requirements.

	Meetings attended	Out of a Possible
D Evans (Chair)	3	3
A Scott	3	3
T Beveridge	3	3
R Leitch	3	3

Conflict of Interest

The Academy Trust has processes in place to manage conflicts of interest, including the maintenance of an up to date and complete register of interests for all Trustees, senior leaders and those staff with budgetary and financial responsibilities. The information is used to inform all decisions relating to the day to day management and governance of the Trust. The Trust complies with the DfE requirements for reporting related party transactions.

Governance Reviews

The Academy Trust reviews governance arrangements annually, the Governance Structure and constitution of the Trust Board was amended as at 10 January 2023 under the terms of the new Funding Agreement. The Academies Trust Board for 2022-2023 comprises the Head Teacher, 9 Member appointed Trustees and 3 Parent Trustees.

- Trustees continue to access training through SMBC and use the Key and National Governance Association as a source for governance information.
- Skills of Trustees are reviewed annually.
- Trustees are given the opportunity to change the committee on which they sit at the beginning of the academic year.
- Formal tender procedures to be followed for all contracts with a value over £60,000, in line with the Academy's Rules for Contracts Policy, with Business Management Committee and Trust Board to approve the contract award.
- The structure of GovernorHub has been developed by the Chair and Governance Professional as a key central source of document management and control.
- Reviews and ratifications are published onto GovernorHub – this has resulted in a timely and efficient way to implement decisions between Trustee meetings.
- The level of challenge and scrutiny, with particular attention to the progress of pupils through all year groups, finance, including use of school reserves and scrutiny of capital contracts, the wellbeing of pupils and staff, work life balance, professional development, health and safety, was an element of the External Review of Governance completed in December 2022, and the recommendations of the Review have been accepted and will be implemented during 2023-2024.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Review of Value for Money**

As Accounting Officer, the Headteacher 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 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 will continue to deliver improved value for money by:

- Benchmarking all areas of budgeted expenditure using the ESFA's school resources management self-assessment tool.
- Ensuring that when dealing with external suppliers that at least three quotations are secured for projects in excess of £2,500.
- Ensuring that a fully managed tender exercise is undertaken for all contracts with a value above £60,000. The Trust's contract for cleaning is due for re-tendering in 2023-2024 and the tender process will begin in January 2024. The contract will be awarded to the supplier whose tender most closely matches the tender specification at the lowest price.
- The Accounting Officer has effectively used relevant funding to ensure the trust's estate is safe, well maintained, and complies with regulations, for example in the use of specific ESFA grant for Energy Efficiency. £56,870 funding was received, and three tenders were sought for the installation of LED lighting in the Sports Hall and Cartwright building. The contract for the works was awarded to the supplier who provided the lowest priced tender, whilst meeting the tender specification for fittings and guarantees.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of 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 Alderbrook School for the year ended 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

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

The Risk and Control Framework

The school uses the services of Solihull MBC Internal Audit to provide support and a report for the school's Responsible Officer (RO), Andrea Quigley. The RO's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial systems. Once a term the RO reports to the Business Management Committee and the Trust Board on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Trust Board's financial responsibilities.

Solihull MBC Internal Auditors made three recommendations in 2022/23, all of which have been accepted by the Trust and subsequently implemented.

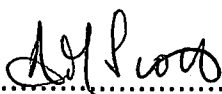
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Review of Effectiveness**

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

- the work of the responsible officer;
- the work of the external auditor;
- support of Solihull MBC Internal Audit;
- the school resource management self-assessment tool
- correspondence from the ESFA

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

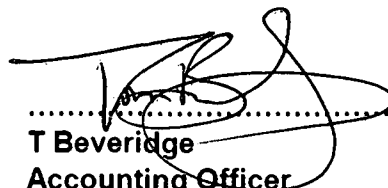
Approved by order of the members of the Trust Board on 7 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
A Scott

Chair

7 December 2023



.....
T Beveridge

Accounting Officer

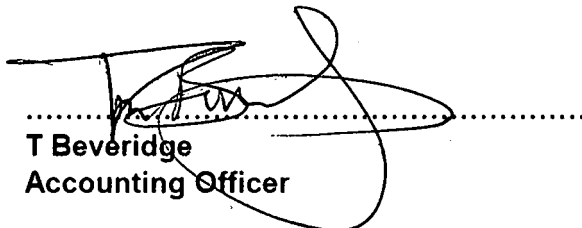
7 December 2023

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

As accounting officer of Alderbrook School I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust board of trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with ESFA terms and conditions of funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between the academy trust and the Secretary of State. 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 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 the ESFA.



.....
T Beveridge
Accounting Officer

7 December 2023

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The trustees (who act as trustees of Alderbrook School and 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 Annual Accounts Direction issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies' Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards FRS102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the academy will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 7 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
A Scott
Chair

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ALDERBROOK SCHOOL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**Opinion**

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

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 statement 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 Alderbrook School's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the financial statements. 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ALDERBROOK SCHOOL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the Strategic Report, and 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 where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 19, the trustees 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 Alderbrook School's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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:

Based on our understanding of the Alderbrook School and the industry in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the acts by the Alderbrook School, which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations including fraud, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, Charities SORP 2019 and Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to inflated revenue and the Alderbrook School's net income for the year.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ALDERBROOK SCHOOL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

Audit procedures performed included: review of the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation, review of correspondence with and reports to the regulators, including correspondence with the Education and Skills Funding Agency review of correspondence with legal advisors, enquiries of management and review of internal audit reports in so far as they related to the financial statements, and testing of journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

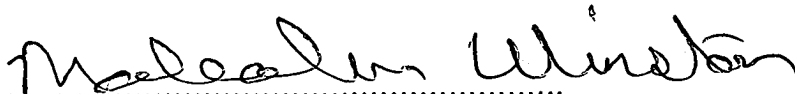
There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the academy trust's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the academy trust to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ALDERBROOK SCHOOL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the Alderbrook School'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 Alderbrook School'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 Alderbrook School's and the Alderbrook School's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Malcolm Winston

Senior Statutory Auditor

UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP, Statutory Auditor

9-11 Vittoria Street

Birmingham

B1 3ND

7 December 2023

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ALDERBROOK SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 5 July 2023 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether, the expenditure disbursed and income received by the 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 Alderbrook School and the ESFA in accordance with our engagement letter. Our review has been undertaken so that we might state to the governing body and the ESFA those matters we are required to state to it 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 Alderbrook School and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Alderbrook School's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Alderbrook School funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 9 December 2011, 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 and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 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's income and expenditure.

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ALDERBROOK SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

Approach (cont'd)

Summary of the work undertaken was as follows:

- Analytical review of the Academy's general activities are within the Academy Trusts framework of authorities;
- Consideration of the evidence supporting the accounting officers statement on regularity, propriety and compliance;
- Review of the general control environment for the Academy on financial statements and on regularity;
- Sample testing of expenditure transactions to ensure the activity is permissible within the Academy's framework of authority;
- Confirmation that a sample of expenditure has been appropriately authorised in accordance with the Academy's delegated authorities;
- Formal representations obtained from the board of trustees and the accounting officer acknowledging the responsibilities including disclosing all non compliance with laws and regulations specific to the authorising framework;
- Confirmation that any extra contractual payments such as severance and compensation payments have been appropriately authorised;
- Review of credit card expenditure for any indication of personal use by staff, Headteacher or trustees;
- Review of specific terms of grant funding within the funding agreement;
- Review of related party transactions for connections with the Headteacher/Finance Manager or trustees;
- Review of income received in accordance with the activities permitted within the Academy's charitable objectives.

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.

UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP

Reporting Accountant
UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP
9-11 Vittoria Street
Birmingham
B1 3ND

7 December 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

(Including Income and Expenditure Account)

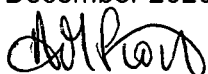
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Note	Funds	General	Fixed	2023	2022
		£'000	Funds	Asset	£'000	£'000
		£'000	£'000	Funds		
		£'000	£'000	£'000		
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	1	-	851	852	844
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations	4	-	10,624	-	10,624	9,681
Other trading activities	5	130	-	-	130	130
Investment income	6	4	-	-	4	1
Total		135	10,624	851	11,610	10,656
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	36	-	-	36	32
Charitable activities:						
- Academy Trust's educational operations	7	-	10,272	8,899	19,171	10,189
Other		-	-	-	-	-
Total		36	10,272	8,899	19,207	10,221
Net income/(expenditure)		99	352	(8,048)	(7,597)	435
Transfers between funds	16	-	(408)	408	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses						
Actuarial gain on defined benefit pension schemes	27	-	672	-	672	3,240
Net movement in funds		99	616	(7,640)	(6,925)	3,675
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	16	695	(177)	23,675	24,193	20,518
Total funds carried forward	16	794	439	16,035	17,268	24,193

All of the Academy Trust's activities derive from acquisitions and continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	<u>16,156</u>	<u>23,936</u>
		<u>16,156</u>	<u>23,936</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	13	512	261
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>2,701</u>	<u>2,729</u>
		<u>3,213</u>	<u>2,990</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(1,170)</u>	<u>(1,158)</u>
Net current assets		<u>2,043</u>	<u>1,832</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>18,199</u>	<u>25,768</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	15	(445)	(414)
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>17,754</u>	<u>25,354</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	27	(486)	(1,161)
Total Net Assets		<u><u>17,268</u></u>	<u><u>24,193</u></u>
Funds of the Academy:			
Restricted funds			
- Fixed asset fund	16	16,035	23,675
- Restricted income fund	16	925	984
- Pension reserve	16	(486)	(1,161)
Total restricted funds		<u>16,474</u>	<u>23,498</u>
Unrestricted income fund	16	<u>794</u>	<u>695</u>
Total unrestricted funds		<u>794</u>	<u>695</u>
Total Funds		<u><u>17,268</u></u>	<u><u>24,193</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 26 to 49 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 7 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



A Scott
Chair

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	20	199	975
Cash flows from investing activities	21	(264)	(140)
Cash flows from financing activities	22	37	96
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>(28)</u>	<u>931</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		2,729	1,798
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	23	<u>2,701</u>	<u>2,729</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**1 Statement of Accounting Policies**

A summary of 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.

Alderbrook School meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

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.

- **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 entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended. Unspent amounts of capital grant are reflected in the balance sheet in the restricted fixed asset fund.

- **Sponsorship income**

Sponsorship income provided to the Academy Trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is receivable, where receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

- **Donations**

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where there is certainty of receipt and the amount can be reliably measured.

- **Other income**

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

- **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 measure fair value of 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'.

- Where the donated good is a fixed asset it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Academy Trust's accounting policies.

- **Transfers of leasehold property**

Leasehold property transferred to the Academy from the local authority at little or no consideration will be revalued at fair value in accordance with FRS 102. This value will be recognised as incoming resources in the Statement of Financial Activities and will be included in the appropriate fixed assets category and depreciated over the life of the lease.

Expenditure

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

- **Expenditure on Raising Funds**

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

- **Charitable Activities**

These are costs incurred on the Academy Trust's educational operations, 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.

Tangible Fixed Assets

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

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Tangible Fixed Assets (cont'd)**

Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis on the cost of tangible fixed assets, to write them down to their estimated residual values over their expected useful lives. The annual rates used for assets are:

Leasehold land (life of the lease)	0.8%
Leasehold buildings - gifted from local authority	2%
Motor vehicles	20%
Furniture and equipment	20%
Computer equipment and software	25%

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use.

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.

Leased assets

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

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 as detailed in note 13. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 14. 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 Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Redundancy and termination payments

Redundancy and termination costs are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities and a liability on the Balance Sheet immediately at the point the Academy Trust is demonstrably committed to either: terminate the employment of an employee or group of employees to encourage voluntary redundancy. The Trust is considered to be demonstrably committed only when it has a detailed formal plan for the termination and is without realistic possibility of withdrawal from the plan.

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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Pensions Benefits (cont'd)**

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

The LGPS is a multi funded 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 operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of the scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments.

They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the Academy Trust at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 27, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement

The critical judgements that the Trustees have made in the process of applying the Academy Trust's accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the statutory financial statements are discussed below:

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Critical areas of judgement (cont'd)**

The critical areas of judgement are accounting for government grants, accounting for the write down of assets through depreciation and accounting for the pension liability. Government grants are accounted for as restricted funds. The pension liability is assessed by an independent actuarial valuation. Deprecation rates are based on the expected life of the asset.

In assessing whether there have been any indicators of impairment of assets, the Trustees have considered both external and internal sources of information such as market conditions, counterparty credit ratings and experience of recoverability. There has been an impairment to leasehold land & buildings identified during the current financial year, based on a desktop valuation of leasehold land and buildings by the ESFA. Details of this are contained in notes 7 and 12.

Agency arrangements

The Academy Trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from the ESFA. Payments received from the ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The trust cannot use any of the allocation towards its own administration costs. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 29.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

2 GENERAL ANNUAL GRANT (GAG)

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 (See note 16).

3 DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Devolved formula capital grant	-	88	88	30
CIF grant	-	753	753	793
Donations	1	-	1	1
Other capital grants	-	10	10	20
	<u>1</u>	<u>851</u>	<u>852</u>	<u>844</u>

The income from donations and capital grants was £852,000 (2022 : £844,000) of which £1,000 (2022 : £1,000) was unrestricted, £Nil (2022 : £Nil) restricted and £851,000 (2022 : £843,000) restricted fixed assets.

4 FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY TRUST'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG) (note 2)	-	7,633	7,633	7,277
Post 16-19 funding	-	1,065	1,065	945
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
Rates relief	-	28	28	26
Supplementary grant	-	231	231	96
Mainstream additional schools grant	-	118	118	-
Pupil premium grant	-	267	267	252
Teachers pay grant	-	-	-	14
Teachers pension grant	-	40	40	41
Early Careers Framework Mentor Backfill	-	22	22	5
Senior Mental Health Leads Grant	-	-	-	1
National tutoring programme	-	42	42	39
	<u>-</u>	<u>9,446</u>	<u>9,446</u>	<u>8,696</u>
Other Government grants				
Special educational needs grant	-	646	646	417
Looked after children pupil premium	-	11	11	68
Other Government Grants	-	2	2	13
	<u>-</u>	<u>659</u>	<u>659</u>	<u>498</u>
COVID-19 Non DfE/ESFA additional funding				
Other Government COVID-19 funding	-	-	-	6
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6</u>
COVID-19 DfE/ESFA additional funding				
Catch up premium	-	-	-	52
Covid recovery premium	-	102	102	21
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	-	-	30
	<u>-</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>103</u>
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations				
Pupil catering income	-	393	393	357
Other	-	24	24	21
	<u>-</u>	<u>417</u>	<u>417</u>	<u>378</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>10,624</u>	<u>10,624</u>	<u>9,681</u>

The income from educational operations was £10,624,000 (2022 : £9,681,000) of which £Nil (2022 : £21,000) was unrestricted and £10,624,000 (2022 : £9,660,000) restricted.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

5 OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Sundry lettings and hire of facilities	85	-	85	82
Other Income	45	-	45	48
	<u>130</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>130</u>

The income from the Academy Trusts's other trading activities was unrestricted for both 2023 and 2022.

6 INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Bank interest received	4	-	4	1
	<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>

The income from the Academy Trusts's investment income was unrestricted for both 2023 and 2022.

7 EXPENDITURE

	Non Pay Expenditure			Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
	Staff Costs £'000	Premises £'000	Other Costs £'000		
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	-	-	32	32	-
- Allocated support costs	-	-	4	4	32
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	7,201	-	605	7,806	7,022
- Allocated support costs	854	9,671	840	11,365	3,167
	<u>8,055</u>	<u>9,671</u>	<u>1,445</u>	<u>19,171</u>	<u>10,189</u>
	<u>8,055</u>	<u>9,671</u>	<u>1,481</u>	<u>19,207</u>	<u>10,221</u>

The expenditure was £19,207,000 (2022 : £10,221,000) of which £36,000 (2022 : £32,000) was unrestricted, £10,272,000 (2022 : £9,621,000) restricted and £8,899,000 (2022 : £568,000) restricted fixed assets.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

7 EXPENDITURE (cont'd)	2023	2022
Net (income)/expenditure for the year includes:	£'000	£'000
Operating lease rentals	21	30
Depreciation	433	568
Impairment (note 12)	8,466	-
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- audit	8	8
- other services	3	4

8 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Direct costs - educational operations	7,806	7,022
Support costs - educational operations	11,365	3,167
	19,171	10,189

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Analysis of Support Costs		
Support staff costs	854	1,310
Depreciation	433	568
Impairment	8,466	-
Technology costs	53	67
Premises costs	772	613
Other support costs	602	485
Legal costs	3	-
Governance	182	124
	11,365	3,167

9 STAFF COSTS	2023	2022
a Staff costs during the year were:	£'000	£'000
Wages and salaries	6,024	5,385
Social security costs	565	554
Pension costs	1,354	1,787
	7,943	7,726
Agency staff costs	112	130
Staff restructuring costs	-	30
	8,055	7,886

Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Redundancy payments	-	11
Other restructuring costs	-	19
	-	30

b Staff severance contractual and non contractual payments

The academy trust paid no (2022 : 2) severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following band

	2023	2022
0 - £25,000	-	2

c Special staff severance non contractual payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £Nil (2022 : £11,281).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

9 STAFF COSTS (cont'd)

d Staff numbers

The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the academy during the year ended 31 August 2023 expressed as whole persons was as follows:

	2023	2022
<i>Charitable Activities</i>	No	No
Teachers	105	100
Administration and support - including Teaching Assistants	67	67
Management	8	8
	<u>180</u>	<u>175</u>

e Higher paid staff

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

	No	No
£60,001 - £70,000	6	2
£70,001 - £80,000	1	-
£90,001 - £100,000	-	1
£100,001 - £110,000	1	-

f Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 3. 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 £759,545 (2022 : £761,454).

10 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS - TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

One or more trustee has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Academy Trust. The headteacher and other staff trustees receive remuneration in respect of their contracts of employment as headteacher and staff and not in respect of their services as trustees. Other trustees did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the Academy Trust in respect of their role as trustees. The value of trustees' remuneration and other remuneration was as follows:

	2023	2022
R Hall (resigned 31 August 2022)		
Remuneration	£Nil	£40,000 - £45,000
Employers pension contributions	£Nil	£10,000 - £15,000
T Beveridge (Accounting Officer)		
Remuneration	£100,000 - £105,000	£90,000 - £95,000
Employers pension contributions	£20,000 - £25,000	£20,000 - £25,000

During the years ended 31 August 2023 there were £480 of travel and subsistence expenses reimbursed to the trustees in their role as trustees (2022: £Nil)

Other related party transactions including trustees are set out in note 28.

11 TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £500,000 on any one claim. The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost and cannot be separately identified.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

12 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Leasehold Land & Buildings £'000	Furniture & Equipment £'000	Computer Equipment £'000	Motor Vehicles £'000	Assets under Construction £'000	Total £'000
Cost						
At 1 September 2022	26,776	803	555	49	739	28,922
Additions	29	123	96	-	871	1,119
Reclassifications	1,241	-	-	-	(1,241)	-
Impairment	(12,520)	-	-	-	-	(12,520)
At 31 August 2023	<u>15,526</u>	<u>926</u>	<u>651</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>369</u>	<u>17,521</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2022	4,054	492	391	49	-	4,986
Charged in year	258	96	79	-	-	433
Impairment	(4,054)	-	-	-	-	(4,054)
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2023	<u>258</u>	<u>588</u>	<u>470</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,365</u>
Net book value						
At 31 August 2023	<u>15,268</u>	<u>338</u>	<u>181</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>369</u>	<u>16,156</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>22,722</u>	<u>311</u>	<u>164</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>739</u>	<u>23,936</u>

The leasehold land and buildings inherited by the charitable company upon conversion were valued at £22,984,990 on a depreciated replacement costs basis by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council. The land element of this valuation was £9,808,490.

On 1 September 2022 based on a desktop valuation from the ESFA the land and buildings of Alderbrook School was valued at £7,180,000 and £7,075,000 respectively, resulting in impairment charges of £8,466,000 being recognised.

Depreciation includes £257,000 (2022: £418,000) charged on leased assets and £175,000 (2022: £150,000) charged on owned assets.

13 DEBTORS

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Trade Debtors	28	22
VAT recoverable	104	97
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>380</u>	<u>142</u>
	<u>512</u>	<u>261</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

14 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Trade creditors	468	512
Taxation and social security	149	125
Other creditors	241	253
Accruals	260	210
Deferred income	14	26
CIF Loan (note 15)	16	10
Salix/SEEF Loan (note 15)	22	22
	<u>1,170</u>	<u>1,158</u>

Deferred Income

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Deferred income at 1 September	26	107
Resources deferred in the year	14	26
Amounts released from previous years	(26)	(107)
Deferred income at 31 August	<u>14</u>	<u>26</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy was holding funds received in advance for 2023/24 for Covid-19 recovery premium £Nil (2022: £15,204), music fees £7,399 (2022: £10,825) and lettings income £7,713 (2022: £Nil).

For details of CIF and Salix loans see note 15.

15 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE IN GREATER THAN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Loan	251	252
CIF Loan	126	74
Salix/SEEF Loan	68	88
	<u>445</u>	<u>414</u>

Loan

In 2002, the Solihull Society of Arts (SSA) provided £270,000 to the Academy (formerly Alderbrook School) for the development of 'the Edge' meaning the Gantry Theatre and Box Office, the Dance Studio, the Link Gallery and other amenities. A new agreement was signed on the 15 April 2020 and under the terms of the agreement the Academy has to pay a percentage of lettings income (net of costs) to the SSA on an annual basis and this reduces the balance of capital owed. If any of the terms and conditions of the contract are broken then the loan is repayable in full on demand. In addition, the residual £251,000 is repayable on the 6 December 2025 unless the agreement is renewed for a further period. There is no interest accruing on the loan.

CIF Loan

The CIF loan of £44,750 (2022: £51,143) taken out on 20 December 2019 is provided at an interest rate 2.29% with a maturity date of August 2030. A further CIF loan was taken out on 18 December 2020 of £15,938 (2022: £17,930) and is repayable over 10 years at an interest rate of 1.95% with a maturity date of August 2031. A further CIF loan was taken out on 18 March 2022 of £15,000 (2022: £15,000) and is repayable over 10 years at an interest rate of 2.07% with a maturity date of August 2032. A further CIF loan was taken out on 20 January 2023 of £42,600 (2022: £Nil) and is repayable over 10 years at an interest rate of 2.07% with a maturity date of December 2033. A further CIF loan was taken out on 01 November 2023 of £21,750 (2022: £Nil) and is repayable over 10 years at an interest rate of 2.07% with a maturity date of October 2033.

Salix/SEEF Loan

The Salix loan of £5,532 (2022: £6,915) is provided at an interest free rate with a maturity date of March 2027 and is repayable over 8 years. A further interest free Salix loan of £7,398 (2022: £8,631) was taken out on 18 December 2020 and is also repayable over 8 years, with a maturity date of March 2029. A further interest free Salix loan of £61,448 (2022: £79,005) was taken out on 19 November 2021 and is also repayable over 4 years, with a maturity date of September 2026. A further interest free Salix loan of £15,624 (2022: £15,624) was taken out on 18 March 2022 and is also repayable over 8 years, with a maturity date of March 2030.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

16 FUNDS

The income funds of the academy comprise the following balances of grants to be applied for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £'000	Incoming Resources £'000	Resources Expended £'000	Gains, Losses & Transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General annual grant (GAG) (note i)	888	7,633	(7,188)	(408)	925
Post 16-19 core funding	-	1,065	(1,065)	-	-
Pupil premium grant (note ii)	-	267	(267)	-	-
Supplementary grant (note iii)	96	231	(327)	-	-
Mainstream schools additional grant	-	118	(118)	-	-
Teacher pension grant (note v)	-	40	(40)	-	-
Rates relief (note vi)	-	28	(28)	-	-
Early Careers Framework Mentor Backfill (note vii)	-	22	(22)	-	-
Special needs grant - SMBC (note ix)	-	646	(646)	-	-
Looked after children pupil premium (note x)	-	11	(11)	-	-
Other government grants (note xi)	-	2	(2)	-	-
Recovery premium (note xv)	-	102	(102)	-	-
National tutoring programme (note xiv)	-	42	(42)	-	-
Other income for the Trust's educational operations	-	417	(417)	-	-
	984	10,624	(10,275)	(408)	925
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Devolved formula capital grant (note xvii)	83	88	(48)	-	123
Condition Improvement Funding (note xviii)	3,354	753	(2,572)	16	1,551
Fixed assets donation (note xix)	19,195	-	(5,191)	-	14,004
Capital expenditure from GAG (note xx)	593	-	(328)	379	644
DfE/ESFA capital grants (note xxi)	206	-	(206)	-	-
Private sector sponsorship donation (note xxii)	(252)	-	-	1	(251)
Donated fixed assets	29	-	(14)	-	15
Capital grants from LA	443	-	(443)	-	-
CIF Loans	10	-	(90)	(5)	(85)
Salix Energy Efficiency Fund Loans	(4)	-	(2)	17	11
Other capital grants	18	10	(5)	-	23
	23,675	851	(8,899)	408	16,035
Restricted pension scheme liability					
Pension reserve (note xxiv)	(1,161)	-	3	672	(486)
	(1,161)	-	3	672	(486)
Total restricted funds	23,498	11,475	(19,171)	672	16,474
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted funds (note xxiii)	695	135	(36)	-	794
Total unrestricted funds	695	135	(36)	-	794
Total funds	24,193	11,610	(19,207)	672	17,268

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**16 FUNDS (cont'd)****Notes**

- i) General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the School. 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 would carry forward at 31 August 2023. (see note 2)
- ii) Pupil Premium grant has been used to support children from low income families placed at the School.
- iii) The Supplementary Grant represents funding from the ESFA to provide support for the costs of the Health and Social Care Levy and wider costs.
- iv) The Teachers Pay Grant provides funding for schools to support teachers' pay awards.
- v) The Teachers Pension Grant represents funding from the ESFA to support the school with the cost of the increase in employer contributions to the teachers' pension scheme.
- vi) The Rates Relief grant represents funding received from the ESFA to assist the academy in meeting the costs of their National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR).
- vii) The Early Careers Framework Mentor Backfill Grant represents funding to support mentor time off timetable for training.
- viii) The Senior Mental Health Leads Grant represents funding from the ESFA to train a senior mental health lead to develop and implement a whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing.
- ix) Special needs grant from SMBC has been used to support pupils with learning or behavioural issues by providing teaching and teaching assistant support.
- x) Looked after children pupil premium represents funding from Local Authorities to provide educational and developmental support to all eligible children and young persons.
- xi) Other government grants represents other government funding to support the school's educational operations.
- xii) Other government COVID-19 funding represents other funding from Local Authorities to support the school with the costs of COVID-19.
- xiii) The Catch Up Premium represents funding to support children and young people to catch up on missed learning caused by coronavirus (COVID19).
- xiv) The National Tutoring Programme grant provides subsidised tutoring to help primary and secondary school pupils catch up on missed learning due to the pandemic.
- xv) The recovery premium grant is part of the government's package of funding to support pupils whose education has been impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19).
- xvi) Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding represents other funding from the ESFA to support the school with the costs of COVID-19.
- xvii) Devolved formula capital funding has been received and ring fenced for capital additions in the 2022/23 financial year.
- xviii) Condition improvement funding has been utilised for windows and the replacement of boilers.
- xix) Restricted fixed assets were funded by SMBC donating Academy land and buildings on a 125 year lease at a pepper corn rent.
- xx) The gross transfer from the restricted general fund and unrestricted fund to the restricted fixed asset fund of £408,000 (2022: £230,000) represents the total capital expenditure from GAG during the year and reduction in the SSA, CIF and Salix loans.
- xxi) DfE/ESFA capital grants have been utilised to purchase capital assets for the academy including computer equipment, furniture and equipment and motor vehicles.
- xxii) A private sector sponsorship unrestricted loan was received from the Solihull Society of Arts for the development of 'the Edge'. See note 15.
- xxiii) An unrestricted funds transfer of £Nil has been used to contribute to the fixed assets fund at 31 August 2023.
- xxiv) The pension reserve represents the deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme (see note 27).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

16 FUNDS (cont'd)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £'000	Incoming Resources £'000	Resources Expended £'000	Gains, Losses & Transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General annual grant (GAG) (note i)	690	8,222	(7,794)	(230)	888
Pupil premium grant (note ii)	-	252	(252)	-	-
Supplementary grant (note iii)	-	96	-	-	96
Teacher pay grant (note iv)	-	14	(14)	-	-
Teacher pension grant (note v)	-	41	(41)	-	-
Rates relief (note vi)	-	26	(26)	-	-
Early Careers Framework Mentor Backfill (note vii)	-	5	(5)	-	-
Senior Mental Health Leads Grant (note viii)	-	1	(1)	-	-
Special needs grant - SMBC (note ix)	-	417	(417)	-	-
Looked after children pupil premium (note x)	-	68	(68)	-	-
Other government grants (note xi)	-	13	(13)	-	-
Other government COVID-19 funding (note xii)	-	6	(6)	-	-
Catch up premium (note xiii)	-	52	(52)	-	-
National tutoring programme (note xiv)	-	39	(39)	-	-
Recovery premium (note xv)	-	21	(21)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding (note xvi)	-	30	(30)	-	-
Pupil catering income	-	357	(357)	-	-
	690	9,660	(9,136)	(230)	984
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Devolved formula capital grant (note xvii)	101	30	(48)	-	83
Condition Improvement Funding (note xviii)	2,611	793	(54)	4	3,354
Fixed assets donation (note xix)	19,537	-	(342)	-	19,195
Capital expenditure from GAG (note xx)	493	-	(63)	163	593
DfE/ESFA capital grants (note xxi)	178	-	(19)	47	206
Private sector sponsorship donation (note xxii)	(254)	-	-	2	(252)
Donated fixed assets	43	-	(14)	-	29
Capital grants from LA	461	-	(10)	(8)	443
CIF Loans	-	-	(3)	13	10
Salix Energy Efficiency Fund Loans	-	-	(13)	9	(4)
Other capital grants	-	20	(2)	-	18
	23,170	843	(568)	230	23,675
Restricted pension scheme liability					
Pension reserve (note xxiv)	(3,916)	-	(485)	3,240	(1,161)
	(3,916)	-	(485)	3,240	(1,161)
Total restricted funds	19,944	10,503	(10,189)	3,240	23,498
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted funds (note xxiii)	574	153	(32)	-	695
Total unrestricted funds	574	153	(32)	-	695
Total funds	20,518	10,656	(10,221)	3,240	24,193

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

17 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted	Pension Restricted	General Restricted	Fixed Assets Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	16,156	16,156
Current assets	794	-	2,057	362	3,213
Current liabilities	-	-	(1,132)	(38)	(1,170)
Non current liabilities	-	-	-	(445)	(445)
Pension scheme liability	-	(486)	-	-	(486)
	<u>794</u>	<u>(486)</u>	<u>925</u>	<u>16,035</u>	<u>17,268</u>

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

Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:

	Unrestricted	Pension Restricted	General Restricted	Fixed Assets Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	23,936	23,936
Current assets	695	-	2,109	186	2,990
Current liabilities	-	-	(1,125)	(33)	(1,158)
Non current liabilities	-	-	-	(414)	(414)
Pension scheme liability	-	(1,161)	-	-	(1,161)
	<u>695</u>	<u>(1,161)</u>	<u>984</u>	<u>23,675</u>	<u>24,193</u>

18 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements

Authorised by trustees, but not yet contracted

2023	2022
£'000	£'000
717	104
-	1,414

19 COMMITMENTS UNDER OPERATING LEASES

Operating leases

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

	2023	2022
	Other	Other
	£'000	£'000
• Within one year;	19	3
• Between two to five years;	54	6
	<u>73</u>	<u>9</u>

20 RECONCILIATION OF NET (DEFICIT)/INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Net (deficit)/income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(7,597)	435
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation (note 12)	433	568
Impairment charges (note 12)	8,466	-
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(841)	(823)
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	(10)	(20)
Interest receivable	(4)	(1)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 27)	(51)	417
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 27)	48	68
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(251)	198
(Decrease)/increase in creditors excl. loans	6	133
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>199</u>	<u>975</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

21 CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Interest received	4	1
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,119)	(984)
Donated assets	-	-
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	841	823
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	10	20
Receipts from sale of tangible fixed assets	-	-
Net cash used in investing activities	(264)	(140)

22 CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Repayments of borrowing	(27)	(23)
Cash inflows from new borrowing	64	119
Net cash provided by financing activities	37	96

23 ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	At 31 Aug 2023 £'000	At 31 Aug 2022 £'000
Cash in hand and at bank	2,701	2,729
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,701	2,729

24 ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 September 2022 £'000	Cash Flows £'000	At 31 Aug 2023 £'000
Cash at bank	2,729	(28)	2,701
Overdraft	-	-	-
	2,729	(28)	2,701
Loans within one year	(32)	(6)	(38)
Loans within more than one year	(414)	(31)	(445)
	2,283	(65)	2,218

25 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

During the period of the Funding Agreement, in the event of the sale or disposal by other means of any asset for which a Government capital grant was received, the academy is required either to re-invest the proceeds or to repay to the Secretary of State for Education the same proportion of the proceeds of the sale or disposal as equates with the proportion of the original cost met by the Secretary of State.

Upon termination of the Funding Agreement, whether as a result of the Secretary of State or the academy serving notice, the academy shall repay to the Secretary of State sums determined by reference to :

- the value at that time of the academy's site and premises and other assets held for the purpose of the academy; and
- the extent to which expenditure incurred in providing those assets was met by payments by the Secretary of State under the Funding Agreement.

26 MEMBERS' LIABILITY

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while he/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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

27 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 Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council Pension Fund. Both are defined multi employer benefit schemes.

The total pension cost to the Academy during the year ended 31 August 2023 was £1,354,000 (2022: £1,787,000) of which £859,000 (2022 : £1,027,000) relates to the TPS and £495,000 (2022: £760,000) relates to LGPS.

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

Contributions amounting to £155,627 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022: £137,719) and are included within other creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme**Introduction**

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

The employers pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £859,000 (2022 : £1,027,000).

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 a multi-employer pension scheme. The trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (cont'd)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit scheme, with the assets held in a separate trustee administered funds. The total contributions made for the year ended 31 August 2023 were £587,000 (2022 : £346,000) of which employers' contributions totalled £498,000 (2022 : £275,000) and employees' contributions totalled £89,000 (2022 : £71,000). The agreed contributions for future years are 22.3% (2022: 22.3%) for employers and 5.5% to 11.4% (2022 : 5.5% to 11.4%) for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding local government pension 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

The major assumptions used by the actuary were:

	At 31 August 2023 % per	At 31 August 2022 % per
Discount rate	5.2%	4.3%
Salary increases	4.0%	4.2%
Pension increase	3.0%	3.2%

Sensitivity analysis for the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities were as follows:

	At 31 August 2023 Approx % Increase to Employers Liability	At 31 August 2023 Approx £'000	At 31 August 2022 Approx % Increase to Employers Liability	At 31 August 2022 Approx £'000
Discount rate reduced by 0.1% per annum	2.0%	109	2.0%	117
Assumed pension increased by 0.1% per annum	2.0%	105	2.0%	106
Salary growth increased by 0.1% per annum	0.0%	6	0.0%	12

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

	2023 years	2022 years
Longevity at age 65 retiring today		
- Men	19.0	21.2
- Women	25.0	23.6
Longevity at age 65 retiring in 20 years		
- Men	21.3	22.9
- Women	25.7	25.4

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (cont'd)

Local Government Pension Scheme (cont'd)

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

	Fair value at 31 August 2023 £'000	Fair value at 31 August 2022 £'000
Equity instruments	3,560	3,352
Debt instruments	1,099	1,050
Property	366	400
Cash	209	200
Total market value of assets	5,234	5,002
Present value of scheme liabilities		
- Funded	5,234	5,002
- Unfunded	486	1,161
Total liabilities	5,720	6,163
Deficit in the scheme	(486)	(1,161)

The actual return on the scheme assets in the year was a deficit of £61,000 (2022: £154,000 deficit).

Amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Current service cost	447	692
Interest income	(222)	(83)
Interest cost	270	151
Total amount recognised in the SoFA	495	760

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (cont'd)

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Movement in deficit during the period		
Deficit in the scheme at 1 September 2022	1,161	3,916
Movement in year:		
- Employer service cost (net of employee contributions)	447	692
- Employer contributions	(498)	(275)
- Expected return on scheme assets	(222)	(83)
- Interest cost	270	151
- Past service cost	-	-
- Actuarial gain	(672)	(3,240)
Deficit in the scheme at 31 August 2023	486	1,161

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

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Scheme liabilities at 1 September 2022	6,163	8,827
Current service cost	447	692
Past service cost	-	-
Interest cost	270	151
Contributions by scheme participants	89	71
Benefits paid	(119)	(101)
Actuarial gain	(1,130)	(3,477)
Scheme liabilities at 31 August 2023	5,720	6,163

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

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Fair value of scheme assets at 1 September 2022	5,002	4,911
Expected return on scheme assets	222	83
Actuarial loss	(458)	(237)
Contributions by employer	498	275
Benefits paid	(119)	(101)
Contributions by scheme participants	89	71
Fair value of scheme assets at 31 August 2023	5,234	5,002

The estimated value of employers contributions for the year ended 31 August 2024 is £385,000 (2023 : £359,000).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**28 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

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

In entering into the transactions the trust has complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

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

29 AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2023 the trust received £12,398 (2022 : £9,655) and disbursed £5,041 (2022: £6,152) from the fund. A repayment was made to the ESFA for £8,331 (2022: £11,908) to reduce the surplus funds retained. An amount of £17,012 (2022 : £17,986), is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds repayable to the ESFA.

30 EVENTS AFTER THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD

There are no material adjusting or non adjusting events arising after the balance sheet date.