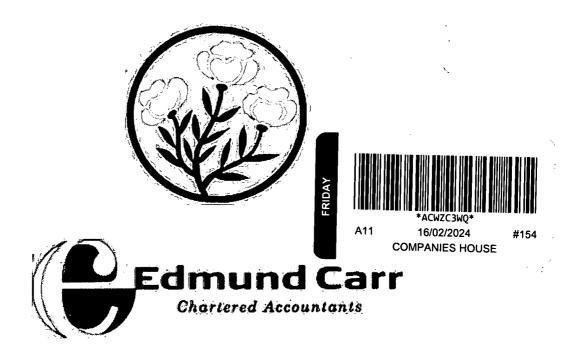
Registration number: 07715667

## **Summercroft Primary School**

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2023



Edmund Carr LLP
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

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#### Reference and administrative details

Members

Mr M Kirby

Mr K Goodeve Mr S Parry Mr C Adams

Mrs T Davey

Trustees (Directors)

Mr I Playle, Chair of Governors (from 1 September 2022), Parent Governor

Mrs S Dar, Vice Chair, Coopted Governor

Mr S Jess, Principal and Accounting Officer (accounting officer) Mrs C Abbiss, Coopted Governor (appointed 1 September 2022) Mrs A Burns, Coopted Governor (resigned 30 August 2023) Mrs S Coleman, Parent Governor (resigned 28 June 2023)

Mr S Cuthbertson, Coopted Governor (appointed 5 October 2022 and resigned 3

November 2023)

Mrs G Hayes, Community Governor (resigned 21 July 2023)

Mr T Hyams, Parent Governor

Mr M Kirby, Chair of Governors (resigned 1 September 2022), Community Governor

(resigned 5 October 2022)

Ms S Laing, Parent Governor

Mrs S Patel, Coopted Governor (appointed 5 October 2022)

**Company Secretary** 

Mrs J Andrews

Senior Management

Team

Mr S Jess, Principal

Mrs E Richardson, Deputy Principal

Mrs C Bugg, Assistant Principal

Mrs J Andrews, School Business Manager

Principal and

**Registered Office** 

Mr S Jess

Plaw Hatch Close

Bishop's Stortford Hertfordshire CM23 5BJ

Company Registration 07715667

Number

**Auditors** 

**Edmund Carr LLP** 

Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor

146 New London Road

Chelmsford Essex CM2 0AW

#### Reference and administrative details (continued)

Bankers NatWest

7 North Street Bishop's Stortford Hertfordshire CM23 2JT

**Solicitors** 

Herts for Learning Ltd trading as HFL Education

Robertson House Six Hills Way Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 2FQ



### **Trustees' Report (continued)**

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year/period 01 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report and strategic report under company law.

The Trust operates an academy school for pupils aged 3 to 11 having a catchment area in Bishop's Stortford East. It has a pupil capacity of 450 (which includes nursery places) and had a roll of 447 (411 plus 36 nursery) as indicated in the School census in Summer 2023.

#### Structure, governance and management

#### Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. The trustees of Summercroft Primary Academy are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as Summercroft Primary.

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

#### Members' liability

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

#### Trustees' indemnities \_

The Academy has opted into the Department for Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK Government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects Trustees and Officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the Trustees and Officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

#### Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

This is set out in the Charitable Company's Articles of Association. The Members of the Charitable Company may appoint up to 6 Trustees. The Local Authority may appoint a Trustee. A minimum of 2 Parent Trustees each of whom must be a parent of a pupil at the School at the time of election shall be elected by parents of registered pupils at the School in accordance with arrangements made by the Trustees. The Trustees may appoint co- opted Trustees. The Headteacher is an ex officio Trustee.

Trustees are appointed for a fixed term of 4 years but, subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, may be reappointed or re-elected. The time limit does not apply to the Headteacher. Parent Trustees are elected to office or appointed by the Trustees if there are insufficient candidates offering themselves for election. The Articles of Association make provision for not less than 3 Trustees but no maximum number and the total number of Trustees including the Headteacher who are employees of the Charitable Company must not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees.



#### **Trustees' Report (continued)**

#### Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

New Trustees are invited to take a tour of the school and meet some of the pupils and staff. There is a Governor Information Pack which includes a Code of Conduct and the Governor Visit Policy. They have an induction meeting with the Chair of Trustees and attend all day induction training by an external provider.

The Charitable Company is committed to providing adequate opportunities for Trustees to undertake and receive suitable ongoing training so as to enable them to perform their role effectively. To this end the Trust subscribes to an annual training package given by an external provider to a network of local primary schools covering a variety of topics.

All new Trustees are entitled to further induction to the role, according to their need, which may include mentoring and further formal courses

#### Organisational structure

The governance of the Academy is defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association together with the Funding Agreement with the Department for Education.

The Board of Trustees is led by the Chair of Trustees who is assisted and supported by a Vice Chair or Vice Chairs. There are two Committees which have their own terms of reference, one for Finance and Resources which includes Audit and has some delegated financial powers which met on three occasions during the year and one for Learning and Pupil Progress which met on four occasions during the year. Each Trustee apart from the Headteacher is the link governor for an area such as safeguarding, special educational needs and disabilities, health and safety, pupil premium, PE and sport premium and data protection or for a curriculum subject or for a priority in the school improvement plan and reports to the Board of Trustees on it.

The Board of Trustees, which met on six occasions during the year, is responsible for the strategic direction of the Academy and for ensuring accountability of the Headteacher for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and for effective performance management of staff and for financial probity. The Board approves the School Improvement Plan, reviews progress towards and the impact of educational and other objectives and results, approves major expenditure requests, sets and monitors the budget and forward financial forecasts, approves the organisational staffing structure, agrees the performance objectives of and performance manages the Headteacher with the School Improvement Partner, seeks the views of pupils, parents and staff and agrees plans for improvement, decides the School's admission arrangements and approves policies.

The Headteacher is the designated Accounting Officer and has overall responsibility for the day-to-day financial management of the Charitable Company. The Headteacher delegates responsibility for low values of expenditure to specific budget holders who are responsible for managing their own departments within their allocated budgets. A system of financial controls is in place to manage this process.

The Headteacher manages the Academy on a day-to-day basis supported by a Leadership Team of senior and middle leaders (LT). The LT meets frequently to discuss emerging matters and to help to develop strategies for future development to be put to the Board of Trustees, as required, for approval. Each member of the LT has specific responsibilities to assist the Headteacher to manage certain aspects of the Academy.

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

Key management personnel means the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher to whom the Trustees have delegated significant authority and responsibility for the day-to-day running of the Academy.

Pay and remuneration of key management personnel is decided by a variety of contributory factors such as the school group size, the pay scale for the role, the level of experience and progress towards performance management objectives, benchmarking and the National Standards of Excellence for Headteachers. In addition, pay levels may be affected by nationally agreed pay awards and the ability to recruit and retain in post. All of these factors are in accordance with the Academy's appointment and pay policies.



# Summercroft Primary Academy Trustees' Report (continued)

#### Trade union facility time

We have not had more than 49 FTE during the reporting period.

#### Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The Academy is a Single Academy Trust as opposed to part of a Multi Academy Trust and is not part of a federation. Owing to the nature of the Academy's operations and the composition of the Board of Trustees, being drawn from the local community, staff and parents, it is possible that from time-to-time transactions may take place with organisations in which Trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Academy's financial regulations and normal procedures. Any transaction where the Trustee may have a pecuniary interest is only undertaken in accordance with the 'at cost' principle described in the Academies Financial Handbook.

The Academy does not have a formal sponsor.

The Academy and some other local primary schools have formed a group to carry out peer reviews to support school improvement but this has no impact on the Academy's operating policies

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The Academy does not have more than 250 employees

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

The Academy is not classified as a large company.



# Summercroft Primary Academy Trustees' Report (continued)

#### Objectives and activities

#### **Objects and aims**

The principal object and aim of the Charitable Company is the operation of the School to provide free education and care for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 3 and 11. Its Vision is to develop confident, compassionate and resilient children who have the skills and knowledge to thrive in a rapidly changing world and are able to embrace change, love learning and seize new opportunities to enhance their understanding of self, community and social responsibility.

#### Objectives, strategies and activities

The key priorities in the School Development Plan for the year were to: -

- 1. To embed our bespoke curriculum
- 2. Improve the quality of teaching of writing and reading across the school
- 3. Behaviour and Mental Health

During the year the school has worked towards these aims through:

- A comprehensive written plan (School Improvement Plan) of actions, responsibilities for them, success criteria and specific monitoring including termly by the Trustees.
- Setting challenging appraisal and performance management objectives for the Headteacher and teaching staff that
  also meet career grade expectations and addressing underperformance.
- Engaging with external specialist support e.g. Herts for Learning provide termly challenge through a Hertfordshire Improvement Partner and becoming an associate school for the Centre of Literacy for Primary Education.
- Providing professional development opportunities for staff to develop their skills and knowledge
- Allocating specific time at staff meetings, using time at phase team meetings and supplying resources and training and subject leader release time.
- Ensuring all staff were supported to fulfil their roles effectively using coaching and mentoring skills.
- Trustee link roles for all subjects in the curriculum, Safeguarding, Pupil Premium, Sports Premium, Health and Safety and Wellbeing
- Supplying the Trustees with comprehensive reports from the Headteacher so that they can ask challenging questions and ensure accountability.

#### **Public benefit**

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

The Trustees believe that, by working towards the objects and aims of the School as detailed above, they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

#### Strategic report

#### Achievements and performance

The Academy continued to pursue its objectives, seeking to ensure that pupils achieve their potential through a broad and balanced curriculum, encouraging a wide range of enrichment activities and seeking to recruit, develop and retain good and outstanding staff.

As a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, the government suspended national assessments and therefore there are no figures for 2019/20 or for 2020/21.



## Trustees' Report (continued)

#### **EYFS**

EXFSP	2019@10				2022GLD			2023GLD		
<b>Syear trend</b>	<b>3000</b> 0	(leis	Nat	South	linis .	Nat	SOUTH	linis	Net	
% attaining good level of development	75%	74%	72%	65%	65%	65%	71%	68%	67%	

#### Year 1 Phonics

Chonics Screening	2019				2022			2023		
Check	<b>3000</b> 0	ويواا	Neo	3000B	Heris	Mag	S@roii	Heris	Net .	
% Y1 reaching expected standard	89%	84%	82%	75%	76%	76%	88%	79%	79%	

#### End of KS1

		% Rupil[at]Expected Standard[or]Above EXSĐ										
		2019		2022			2023					
	SCroft	leis	National	SCIOIL	leris	National	SCroft	Cieis	National			
Reading	85%	77%	75%	62%	68%	67%	78%	70%	68%			
Writing	73%	71%	69%	52%	58%	58%	63%	61%	60%			
Maths	78%	76%	76%	64%	68%	68%	75%	71%	70%			
Science	83%	84%	82%	67%	78%	77%	80%	79%	79%			

	% Rupil at Greater Depth GDS								
		2019	_	2022			2023		
	SCIO	eris	National	SCOOL	Heris	National	S'Croft	Herts	National
Reading	34%	31%	25%	26%	23%	18%	27%	23%	19%
Writing	8%	19%	15%	5%	10%	8%	7%	11%	8%
Maths	29%	26%	22%	22%	18%	15%	23%	19%	16%

#### End of KS2

		%(Rupil/at)Expected Standard (07/Above)									
		2019		2022			2023				
	SCroft	eris	National	Servi	Herts	National	SCIOIL	Leas	National		
Reading	95%	76%	73%	88%	78%	74%	87%	76%	73%		
Writing	87%	79%	78%	73%	69%	69%	78%	70%	72%		
Maths	92%	80%	79%	88%	73%	71%	85%	75%	73%		
R/W/M	83%	67%	65%	70%	60%	59%	73%	61%	60%		

		%PupilatGreaterDepth GDS								
		2019		2022			2023			
	SCIO	Heris	National	SCIOIL	Herts	National	SCIOIL	Heris	National	
Reading	43%	31%	27%	61%	33%	28%	53%	34%	29%	
Writing	37%	25%	20%	19%	17%	13%	22%	16%	13%	
Maths	58%	29%	27%	56%	26%	22%	50%	28%	24%	
R/W/M	25%	13%	11%		10%	7%	13%	10%	8%	

#### **Trustees' Report (continued)**

#### **Key Performance Indicators**

- Improved outcomes in EYFS with children achieving Good Level of Development rising from 65% in 21/22 to 71% in 22/23
- Improved outcomes in Year 1 with the phonics screening test rising from 76% in 21/22 to 88% in 22/23. This was following a significant investment in a new systematic synthetic phonics scheme.
- Improved outcomes in Key Stage 1 in reading, writing, maths and science at expected standard and greater depth compared to 21/22
- Outcomes at the end of Key Stage 2 remained well above national and Hertfordshire averages at the expected standard.
- Greater depth outcomes in Key Stage 2 are significantly above national and Hertfordshire averages in reading and maths
- Ofsted inspection in December 2022 stated that Summercroft continues to be a good school Link to full report can be found <u>here</u>.

'Pupils at Summercroft Primary are curious and enthusiastic learners. They benefit from a rich curriculum that extends their interests and deepens their understanding of a broad range of subjects. Pupils develop detailed subject knowledge. This builds their confidence and enables them to make connections in their learning. Pupils enjoy sharing their ideas. Older pupils are happy to challenge each other's thinking and make sure that all relevant points are considered. Pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their education.'

The Trustees receive regular information at Board and Committee meetings to enable them to monitor the performance of the School compared to aims, strategies, priorities, success criteria and financial budgets.

As funding is based on pupil numbers this is a key performance indicator. Pupil numbers for 2022/23 were 441 against a forecast of 451.

Another key financial performance indicator is staffing costs as a percentage of total income. For 2022/23 these were just over 75.5% against set parameters of 80%. The Board of Trustees is confident that staffing levels are closely monitored to agreed Full Time Equivalent and staffing structures are approved by the Board.

The Finance and Resources Committee also monitor premises costs to General Annual Grant (GAG) income, capitation spend for curriculum departments to GAG income, total income less grants and cash flow on a regular basis to ensure that the budget is set and managed appropriately. All of the above KPIs were within the parameters set by the Board.

Pupil attendance is an indicator of the success of the objects and aims of the School. The average attendance for 2022/2023 was 95%.

#### **Going concern**

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

### **Trustees' Report (continued)**

#### Promoting the success of the company

With due consideration to section 172(1)(a) to (f) of the Companies Act 2006, Trustees of the academy act in a way most likely to promote the success of the company, and in doing have regard to:

- the likely consequences of any decision in the long term
- the interests of the company's employees
- the need to foster the company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others
- the impact of the company's operations on the community and the environment
- the desirability of the company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct
- the need to act fairly as between members of the company.

#### Financial review

The principal source of funding for the Trust is the GAG and other grants that it receives from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). For the year ended 31 August 2023 the Trust received £1,985,573 of GAG and other funding. A high percentage of this income is spent on wages and salaries and support costs to deliver the Academy's primary objective of the provision of education. The Academy brought forward from 2021/2022 £357,764 of free reserves. The carry forward for free reserves for 2022/2023 is £349,300.

Due to the accounting rules for the Local Government Pension Scheme under FRS102, the Academy is recognising a significant pension fund deficit of £71,000. This does not mean that an immediate liability for this amount crystallises and such a deficit generally results in a cash flow effect in the form of increased employer contributions over a number of years.

#### Reserves policy

The Trustees are aware of the requirement to balance current and future needs and always aim to set a balanced budget with annual expenditure not exceeding annual income. The Trustees monitor estimated year- end carry forward figures via monthly reports from the School Business Manager. The budget plan identifies how any carry forward will be allocated in the plan for the following academic year, including the identification of any funds earmarked for a specific project or purpose.

The Trustees consider that it is prudent to maintain a reasonable amount of reserves in view of uncertainties as to the future level of government funding and of the Trust's contributions to staff pensions and necessary unforeseen expenditure.

The Academy's current level of free reserves (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds) is £349,300. This has been built up from a mixture of locally raised income and balances transferred from the previous year.

The Trust's balance on restricted general funds (excluding pension reserve) plus the balance on unrestricted funds at 31 August 2023 was £nil.

The cash balance of the Academy has been good all year, ending the year with a balance of £720,588.61. The Trustees monitor cash flow as part of the School Business Manager's monthly reports.

Details of how the trust intends to utilise these reserves in the coming year can be found in the 'Plans for future periods' section.

#### **Investment policy**

The Trust does not hold any investments.

# Summercroft Primary Academy Trustees' Report (continued)



#### **Principal risks and uncertainties**

The Trustees maintain a Risk Register identifying the major risks to which the Academy is exposed and identifying actions and procedures to mitigate those risks. A formal review of the Risk Register is undertaken on an annual basis and the internal control systems and the exposure to those risks are monitored on behalf of the Trustees by the Finance and Resources Committee. The principal risks facing the Academy are outlined below; those facing the School at an operational level are addressed by its systems and by internal financial and other controls.

The Trustees report that the Academy's financial and internal controls conform to guidelines issued by the ESFA and that improvements to the wider framework of systems dealing with business risk and risk management strategy continue to be made and formally documented.

It is recognised that systems can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks have been adequately managed.

As an academy school, the level of financial risk is low. Cash flows can be reliably forecast, monitored and reported. Staff costs make up the majority of expenditure and are relatively stable with contingencies in place to cover such items as sickness and maternity.

The Trustees assess the principal risks and uncertainties facing the Trust as follows:

- the Academy has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA and there is no
  assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same
  levels or on the same terms;
- failures in governance and/or management the risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage
  the Academy's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns, etc. The
  Trustees continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks;
- reputational the success of the Academy is dependent on continuing to attract applicants in sufficient numbers by
  maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk the Trustees ensure that pupil progress and
  attainment and staff performance are closely monitored and reviewed;
- safeguarding and child protection the Trustees monitor that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and management of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety and discipline;
- staffing the success of the Academy is reliant on the quality of its staff and the Trustees monitor the quality of teaching and performance review and the continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning and a focus on wellbeing;
- fraud and mismanagement of funds The Academy has appointed an Internal Auditor to carry out checks on
  financial systems and records as required by the Academies Financial Handbook. All finance staff receive training to
  keep up to date with financial practice requirements and develop their skills in this area;
- Financial instruments the Academy only deals with bank balances, cash and trade creditors with limited trade (and other) debtors. The risk in this area is considered to be low;
- defined benefit pension liability as the Government has agreed to meet the defined benefit pension liability of any school ceasing to exist the main risk to the Academy is an annual cash flow funding of part of the deficit. The Trustees take these payments into account when setting the annual budget plan; and
- failure of IT systems the academy has a funded rolling plan of upgrade and replacement and staff training on cyber risk.

The Academy has continued to strengthen its risk management process by raising the profile of risk management and ensuring that the Risk Register is reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

#### **Fundraising**

The Academy does not use any external fundraisers.

# Summercroft Primary Academy Trustees' Report (continued)

#### Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

As the academy trust is not a large company, as defined in sections 465 and 466 of the Companies Act 2006, it is not required to report on its emissions, energy consumption or energy efficiency activities.

#### Plans for future periods

- Continual improvement in fulfilling Summercroft's vision and in the progress and attainment of all its pupils.
- Use HfL audit and feedback from Ofsted to ensure website is compliant and provides most recent information for:
  - Policies
  - Data
  - · Curriculum information
  - School information
  - Accreditations
  - · Photos reflect school community
- Raise pupils' attainment in writing with focus on greater depth.
- Embed the school's agreed approach to early reading including the new systematic synthetic phonics programme.
- Continue to work with local schools through the Envision Partnership to improve outcomes for children at Summercroft and across Bishop's Stortford through peer reviews and school-led improvement systems.
- Continuing to work with other local schools and organisations to provide pupils with a wide range of opportunities for their learning.
- Ensuring that the buildings and learning environment are safe, fit for purpose, well maintained and comparable to other schools in the local area.
- Ensure consistency in approach to behaviour management strategies to maintain the high expectations of behaviour in school through STEPs therapeutic thinking.
- Ensure Safeguarding processes are robust and provide early help for families as well as intensive family support where required
- Deploy support staff effectively within budget constraints
- Research and implement appropriate social media presence for school

The Trust plans to use some of the unrestricted funds taken forward on the further development of the school premises and planned maintenance and improvements.

#### Examples include:

- Estimated £100,000 towards portacabin ground works to extend the hiring options and develop further income
- Estimated £80.378 contribution towards essential Boiler replacement and heating works
- Estimated £24,961 to offset deficit budget set for 2023-24
- Estimated £15,000 towards remedial and improvement works to various aesthetic and functional aspects of the school

#### Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

No funds are held as Custodian Truste

# Summercroft Primary Academy Trustees' Report (continued)



#### **Auditor**

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and signed on the board's behalf by:

Signed

Date 6th December 2023

lain Playle Trustee

#### Governance statement

#### Scope of responsibility

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

As trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's <u>Governance Handbook</u> and <u>competency</u> <u>framework for governance</u>.

The board of trustees 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 Summercroft Primary Academy and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

#### Governance

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Cheryl Abbiss	·. 7	7
Annette Burns (term ended 30 August 2023)	6	7
Sarah Coleman (resigned 28 June 2023)	4	6
Sam Cuthbertson	3	6
Sana Dar	7	7
Gaynor Hayes (resigned 31 August 2023)	5	7
Tim Hyams	6	7
Sophie Laing	5	7
Stella Patel	6	6
lain Playle (Chair)	7	7

In the year ending 31 August 2023 Cheryl Abbis, Sam Cuthbertson and Stella Patel all joined the Board as Co-opted Governors. Sarah Coleman and Gaynor Hayes resigned on 28 June 2023 and 21 July 2023 respectively. Annette Burns' term ended on 30 August 2023.

In addition to the matters mentioned under 'Scope of Work' above, the work carried out by the Board of Trustees included:

- Receipt of and Challenging information from the Head Teacher is his Termly Reports including:
  - Data from Subjective and Formative assessments
  - o Attendance
  - Safeguarding
  - o Behaviour

The Trustees have completed a skills audit, reflecting on their own knowledge and experience and on the overall effectiveness of the Board of Trustees and identifying their own areas for development. They consider that collectively the Trustees possess the right knowledge and experience to carry out their functions effectively. The Chair and attended termly meetings of a network of Chairs and Vice Chairs of local schools. The Trustees intend to carry out self-evaluation on an annual basis.

#### **Conflicts of interest**

The trust manages any conflict of interests both annually by an up-to-date register of interests along with a Page 13

declaration of interests at the commencement of each board meeting.



#### **Finance and Resources Committee**

The Finance and Resources Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to undertake the detailed scrutiny and oversight of the financial performance of the school, ensure that its money is well spent, undertake the functions of an audit committee and to report to the main Board of Trustees.

As well as considering monthly management accounts containing actual and forecasted income and expenditure against the budgeted figures, balance sheet and cashflow, the work carried out by the committee included the following:

- Reviewing the Asset Management Plan the Business Continuity Plan and the Risk Register.
- Considering the level of lettings, staff pay points and insurance cover.
- Reviewing the Finance Regulations
- Approving the School Resource Management Assessment
- Benchmarking finances against other local primary academies.
- Approving some expenditure out of reserves.
- Considering the Health and Safety and GDPR updates from the designated Trustees.

Attendance at Finance and Resources meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	<b>Meetings attended</b>	Out of a possible
Tim Hyams (Chair)	6	6
lain Playle	6	6
Cheryl Abiss	4	·6
Stella Patel	6	6
Sam Cuthbertson	6	6

#### 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 educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

- Procuring costs for new blinds, classroom furniture, carpets 3 quotes obtained to ensure best value for money
- Review Photocopy contract secured the same price for another year and installation of 2 new machines at no additional cost
- Review the cleaning contract- went out to tender 3 quotes changed company staff TUPE'd saving in costs improved service :

#### The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Summercroft Primary Academy for the period 01 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

#### Capacity to handle risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed, together with the operating,

financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 01 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

#### The risk and control framework

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

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

The board of trustees has decided to employ Herts for Learning Ltd trading as HFL as internal auditor. This option has been chosen because it provides the school with this internal scrutiny whilst also providing value for money.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial and other systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

- · A review of the Single Central Record
- Risk Management and Business Continuity Audit
- Purchase to pay

#### **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 internal auditor
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management selfassessment tool
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework
- the work of the external auditor

Marifalli.

• correspondence from ESFA e.g. financial notice to improve/notice to improve (FNtI/NtI) and 'minded to' letters.

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance and Resources Committee and a plan to address areas for focus and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 6th December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Iain Playle
Trustee

**Stephen Jess**Accounting Officer

#### Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance

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

I confirm that I and the academy trust Governing Body 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 Governing Body and ESFA.

2 Jess

Mr S Jess, Trustee

Date:06/12/2023

#### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board on 6th December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr I Playle

Minjorgan

Trustee

## Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Summercroft Primary School

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Summercroft Primary School (the 'Academy') for the year ended 31 August 2023, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Academy trust's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year 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; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023

#### Basis for opinion

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

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

## Other information (covers the Reference and administrative details, the Trustees' report and Strategic Report and the Governance statement)

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

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

## Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Summercroft Primary School (continued)

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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

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

- the information given in the Strategic Report and Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and Trustees' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

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

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

#### Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities [set out on page 17], 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 Academy'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 Academy or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

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

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

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows;

- The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations
- We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the academies sector
- We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations for the company, including the Companies Act 2006, tax legislation and data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation

## Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Summercroft Primary School (continued)

• Identified laws and regulations were communicated with the audit team regularly and the team remained alert of instances of non-compliance throughout the audit

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur by;

- Making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud
- Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate the risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations
- Understanding the design of the Academy's remuneration policies

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we;

- · Performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships
- Tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions
- Assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias

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

- · Agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation
- · Reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance
- Enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims

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

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

#### Use of our report,

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

Thomas York (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Edmund Carr LLP, Statutory Auditor

146 New London Road Chelmsford Essex CM2 0AW

Date: 15/12/13

## Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Summercroft Primary School and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 12 April 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Summercroft Primary School 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 Summercroft Primary School and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we may state to Summercroft Primary School and the ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Summercroft Primary School and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

#### Respective responsibilities of the Governing Body's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of the Governing Body's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 September 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 year from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

#### Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- reviewing the minutes of meetings of the Governing Body and other evidence made available to us, relevant to our consideration of regularity
- · testing a sample of payments and receipts to documentation
- evaluating the internal control procedures and reporting lines, and testing as appropriate and making appropriate enquiries of the Accounting Officer

## Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Summercroft Primary School and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (continued)

#### Conclusion

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

Thomas York

For and on behalf of Edmund Carr LLP, Chartered Accountants

146 New London Road Chelmsford Essex CM2 0AW

Edmund Law WP

Date: 15/12/23

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

	<b>N</b> .	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General Funds	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	2022/23 Total
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from	m:				
Donations and capital grants	2	50	6,258	800,047	806,355
Other trading activities	4	202,887	-	-	202,887
Investments	5	7,282	-	-	7,282
Charitable activities: Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	-	2,210,474	_	2,210,474
Total		210,219	2,216,732	800,047	3,226,998
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities: Academy trust educational operations	7	67,839	2,381,662	851,066	3,300,567
operations	,	07,837	2,381,002	831,000	3,300,307
Net income/(expenditure)		142,380	(164,930)	(51,019)	(73,569)
Transfers between funds		(150,844)	108,856	41,988	-
Other recognised gains and losses Actuarial gains on defined					
benefit pension schemes	23	-	216,000	-	216,000
Net movement in (deficit)/funds		(8,464)	159,926	(9,031)	142,431
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2022		357,764	(230,926)	2,471,243	2,598,081
Total funds/(deficit) carried forward at 31 August 2023		349,300	(71,000)	2,462,212	2,740,512

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

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2021/22 Total £
		*	I.	T.	T.
Income and endowments from					
Donations and capital grants	2	-	3,410	919,952	923,362
Other trading activities	4	172,375	-	-	172,375
Investments	5	257	-	-	257
Charitable activities: Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	1,118	2,147,057	-	2,148,175
•					
Total		173,750	2,150,467	919,952	3,244,169
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities: Academy trust educational					
operations	7	53,376	2,406,890	234,270	2,694,536
Net income/(expenditure)		120,374	(256,423)	685,682	549,633
Transfers between funds		(50,122)	18,569	31,553	-
Other recognised gains and losses Actuarial gains on defined					
benefit pension schemes	23		1,265,000		1,265,000
Net movement in funds		70,252	1,027,146	717,235	1,814,633
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2021		287,512	(1,258,072)	1,754,008	783,448
Total funds/(deficit) carried forward at 31 August 2022	•	357,764	(230,926)	2,471,243	2,598,081

#### (Registration number: 07715667) Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	1,879,564	1,729,368
Current assets			
Stocks	12	938	1,351
Debtors	13	510,621	821,053
Cash at bank and in hand		720,589	640,145
		1,232,148	1,462,549
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		(300,200)	(359,836)
Net current assets		931,948	1,102,713
Total assets less current liabilities		2,811,512	2,832,081
Net assets excluding pension liability		2,811,512	2,832,081
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	23	(71,000)	(234,000)
Total net assets		2,740,512	2,598,081
Funds of the Academy:			
Restricted funds			
Restricted general fund	15	-	3,074
Restricted fixed asset fund	15	2,462,212	2,471,243
Pension reserve	15	(71,000)	(234,000)
		2,391,212	2,240,317
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted general fund	15	349,300	357,764
Total funds		2,740,512	<u>2,598,081</u>

The financial statements on pages 23 to 49 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on  $6^{th}$  December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Mr I Playle

Trustee

### Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash used in operating activities	18	(461,563)	(598,906)
Cash flows from investing activities	19	542,007	814,917
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		80,444	216,011
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		640,145	424,134
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	20	720,589	640,145

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

#### 1 Accounting policies

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

#### **Basis of preparation**

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable inthe 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.

#### 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 notunconditional entitlement to the income and its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income until the performance-related conditions are met. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

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

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

#### Donations

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

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

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### Other income

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

#### Donated goods, facilities and services

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

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.

#### Donated fixed assets

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 is used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the academy trust's accounting policies.

#### Expenditure

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

#### Expenditure on raising funds

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

#### Charitable activities

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

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

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### Tangible fixed assets

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

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, per the table below. Where an asset comprises of two or more components which have substantially different useful lives, each component is depreciated separately over its useful economic life.

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

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

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Leasehold land	125 years straight line
Leasehold property	22 years straight line
Leasehold improvements	22 years straight line
Furniture and equipment	10 years straight line
Computer equipment	10 years straight line

#### Liabilities

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

#### Provisions

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

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

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

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### 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. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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. Amounts due to charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

#### Stock

Unsold uniforms and catering stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

#### **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.

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

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### Pension benefits

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

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

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

#### **Fund accounting**

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

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

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

#### Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

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

#### 1 · Accounting policies (continued)

#### Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 34, will impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

#### 2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Capital grants	-	-	800,047	800,047	906,662
Donations	50	6,258	-	6,308	13,410
Donated fixed assets	-	_	<u> </u>		3,290
	50	6,258	800,047	806,355	923,362

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

#### 3 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Restricted General Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Educational operations			
DfE/ESFA revenue grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,740,120	1,740,120	1,747,240
UIFSM	70,517	70,517	67,522
Pupil Premium	63,270	63,270	55,080
Other	111,666	111,666	60,457
	1,985,573	1,985,573	1,930,299
Other government grants			
SEN	110,135	110,135	116,247
Early Years Funding	111,166	111,166	100,511
Other LA Funding	3,600	3,600	
•	224,901	224,901	216,758
Non-government grants and other income	·		
Other			1,118
Total grants	2,210,474	2,210,474	2,148,175

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

#### 4 Other trading activities

			Unrestricted Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total
Hire of facilities			34,403	34,403	28,723
Catering income			74,573	74,573	70,385
Income from other cha	aritable activities		93,911	93,911	73,267
	•		202,887	202,887	172,375
5 Investment income	•				
5 investment income	t				
			Unrestricted	2022/23	2021/22
			Funds £	Total £	Total £
Short term deposits			7,282	7,282	<u> 257</u>
·					
6 Expenditure					
•		Non Pay Expenditure		2022/23	2021/22
	Staff costs	Premises	Other costs	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Academy's educational operations					
Direct costs	1,147,641	-	146,984	1,294,625	1,252,495
Allocated support	•		•	•	
costs	737,022	1,008,405	260,515	2,005,942	1,442,041
•	1,884,663	1,008,405	407,499	3,300,567	2,694,536

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

# 6 Expenditure (continued)

Net income	e/(exi	nenditure'	for the	vear	includes:
1 ACC INCOME.	V ( CA	penunui e	, 101 1110	year	menucs.

Net meome/(expenditure) for the year mediates.		2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Depreciation		115,126	100,537
Fees payable to auditor - audit		8,500	7,010
- other audit services		1,500	1,690
7 Charitable activities			
		2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Direct costs - educational operations		1,294,625	1,252,495
Support costs - educational operations		2,005,942	1,442,041
		3,300,567	2,694,536
	Educational	2022/23	2021/22
	operations	Total	Total
	£	£	£
Analysis of support costs			
Support staff costs	737,022	737,022	868,625
Depreciation	115,126	115,126	100,537
Technology costs	29,451	29,451	25,349
Premises costs	893,279	893,279	252,206
Other support costs	204,899	204,899	172,736
Governance costs	26,165	26,165	22,588
Total support costs	2,005,942	2,005,942	1,442,041

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

### 8 Staff

Staff costs		e
	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	1,395,608	1,334,009
Social security costs	117,110	107,580
Pension costs	366,610	507,024
	1,879,328	1,948,613
Supply staff costs	5,335	11,455
	<u>1,884,663</u>	1,960,068

#### Staff numbers

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

	2022/23 No	2021/22 No
Tonchors		
Teachers	19	19
Administration and support	45	50
Management	2	2
	<u>66</u>	<u>71</u>

## Higher paid staff

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	No	No
£60,001 - £70,000	. 1	-
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1

### Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £324,873 (2022: £297,438).

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

#### 9 Related party transactions - trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from employment with the academy trust. The principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their role as trustees. The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

Mr S Jess (Principal and Trustee ):

Remuneration: £75,000 - £80,000 (2022 - £70,000 - £75,000) Employer's pension contributions: £15,000 - £20,000 (2022 - £15,000 - £20,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2023, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £Nil (2022 - £Nil) were reimbursed or paid directly to 0 trustees (2022 - 0).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 24.

#### 10 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

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

# 11 Tangible fixed assets

<b>.</b>	Leasehold land and buildings £	Leasehold improvements £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment	2022/23 Total £
Cost					
At 1 September					
2022	2,563,555	-	117,863	137,200	2,818,618
Additions	-	241,277	29,174		270,451
Disposals	-		(9,890)	(27,076)	(36,966)
At 31 August 2023	2,563,555	241,277	137,147	110,124	3,052,103
Depreciation			-		
At 1 September					
2022	997,216	-	48,645	43,389	1,089,250
Charge for the year	90,572	-	12,231	12,323	115,126
Eliminated on	•		(B. 55.1)	(	/·
disposals		-	(9,621)	(22,216)	(31,837)
At 31 August 2023	1,087,788		51,255	33,496	1,172,539
Net book value					
At 31 August 2023	1,475,767	<u>241,277</u>	<u>85,892</u>	76,628	1,879,564
At 31 August 2022	1,566,339		69,218	93,811	1,729,368
12 Stock					
				2023	2022
				£	£
Uniform				938	1,351
13 Debtors					
				2023	2022
		•		£	£
Trade debtors				8,191	1,821
VAT recoverable				52,642	23,099
Prepayments and accrue	ed income			449,788	796,133
				510,621	821,053

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

## 14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	1,773	124,430
Other taxation and social security	57,728	55,439
Accruals	182,736	134,037
Deferred income	57,963	45,930
	300,200	359,836
	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income		~
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	45,930	56,568
Resources deferred in the period	57,963	45,930
Amounts released from previous periods	(45,930)	(56,568)
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	57,963	45,930

At the balance sheet date the Academy was holding £43,184 (2022: £40,067) UIFSM funding for the period beginning September 2023, £nil (2022: £2,160) school dinner money paid in advance, £4,262 (2022: £3,703) rates relief and £10,517 (2022: £nil) for trips and after school clubs relating to the 2023/24 year.

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

### 15 Funds

·	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted general funds					
GAG	3,074	1,740,120	(1,852,050)	108,856	-
UIFSM	-	70,517	(70,517)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	63,270	(63,270)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA	-	111,666	(111,666)	-	-
Other LA Grants	-	224,901	(224,901)	-	-
Donations	-	6,258	(6,258)	-	-
Pension reserve	(234,000)		(53,000)	216,000	(71,000)
	(230,926)	2,216,732	(2,381,662)	324,856	(71,000)
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Restricted fixed assets	1,729,368	-	(120,255)	270,451	1,879,564
DFC	17,918	8,840	-	(17,918)	8,840
CIF	723,957	304,006	(730,811)	(168,702)	128,450
UCS	-	468,419	-	(41,843)	426,576
Other DfE capital grants		18,782			18,782
	2,471,243	800,047	(851,066)	41,988	2,462,212
Total restricted funds	2,240,317	3,016,779	(3,232,728)	366,844	2,391,212
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted general funds	357,764	210,219	(67,839)	(150,844)	349,300
Total funds	2,598,081	3,226,998	(3,300,567)	216,000	2,740,512

A transfer of £41,988 has been made from restricted general funds to restricted fixed asset funds. This transfer represents £12,814 fixed asset additions purchased from restricted funds and £29,174 for the school contribution towards CIF projects.

A transfer of £72,233 has been made from unrestricted funds to restricted funds to cover catering costs and a further transfer of £78,609 has been made to cover the restricted general funds deficit.

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

#### 15 Funds (continued)

The academy trust is not subject to GAG carried forward limits.

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

#### General Annual Grant (GAG)

This represents funding from the ESFA to cover the costs of recurrent expenditure.

#### Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)

This represents funding to offer free school melas to pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2.

### **Pupil Premium**

This represents funding used to help raise achievement and improve outcomes for pupils from low income families who are eligible for free school meals.

### Other DfE/ESFA Grants

This represents funds received from the ESFA which is not GAG funding.

#### Other Government Grants

This represents funds received from the Local Authority for the provision of specific services associated with the furtherance of the Academy's charitable objectives.

#### **Donations**

This represents donations received for a specific purpose.

#### Pension Reserve

This fund represents the Academy's share of the deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) transferred to the Academy on conversion from a State Maintained School.

## Restricted Fixed Asset Fund

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

### Devolved Formula Capital (DFC)

The Academy is to use the DFC allocation to maintain and improve its IT facilities.

#### Condition Improvement Fund (CIF)

The Academy is to use CIF to address significant condition needs - that is, keeping education providers' buildings sage and in good working order.

### Urgent Capital Support (UCS)

The Academy is to use UCS specifically for urgent condition issues that pose the threat of immediate school closure.

### Other DfE Capital Grants

The Academy is to use the additional DfE capital grant towards improving energy efficiency.

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

# 15 Funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2021	Incoming resources	Resources Expended	Gains, losses and transfers	Balance at 31 August 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted general funds					
GAG	21,624	1,747,240	(1,784,359)	18,569	3,074
UIFSM	-	67,522	(67,522)	-	-
Pupil Premium	(1,230)	55,080	(53,850)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA	3,556	60,458	(64,014)	-	-
Other LA Grants	3,978	216,757	(220,735)	-	-
Donations	-	3,410	(3,410)	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,286,000)		(213,000)	1,265,000	(234,000)
	(1,258,072)	2,150,467	(2,406,890)	1,283,569	(230,926)
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Restricted fixed assets	1,745,015	54,615	(101,815)	31,553	1,729,368
DFC	8,993	8,925	-	-	17,918
CIF	-	855,852	(131,895)	-	723,957
Donations		560	(560)		
	1,754,008	919,952	(234,270)	31,553	2,471,243
Total restricted funds	495,936	3,070,419	(2,641,160)	1,315,122	2,240,317
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted general funds	287,512	173,750	(53,376)	(50,122)	357,764
Total funds	<u>783,448</u>	<u>3,244,169</u>	(2,694,536)	<u>1,265,000</u>	2,598,081

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

## 16 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted . Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	1,879,564	1,879,564
Current assets	349,300	300,200	582,648	1,232,148
Current liabilities	-	(300,200)	-	(300,200)
Pension scheme liability	<u>-</u>	(71,000)		(71,000)
Total net assets	349,300	(71,000)	2,462,212	2,740,512

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

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds
Tangible fixed assets	<b>-</b>	··	1,729,368	1,729,368
Current assets	357,764	362,910	741,875	1,462,549
Current liabilities	-	(359,836)	-	(359,836)
Pension scheme liability	<u> </u>	(234,000)		(234,000)
Total net assets	357,764	(230,926)	2,471,243	2,598,081

## 17 Capital commitments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	680,544	820,028

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

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Net (expenditure)/income	(73,569)	549,633
Depreciation	115,126	110,379
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(800,047)	(909,392)
Interest receivable	(7,282)	(257)
Defined benefit pension scheme obligation inherited	53,000	213,000
Decrease in stocks	413	22
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	310,432	(713,130)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(59,636)	150,839
Net cash used in Operating Activities	(461,563)	(598,906)
19 Cash flows from investing activities		
	2023 £	2022 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	7,282	257
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(270,451)	(88,823)
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets	5,129	(3,179)
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	800,047	906,662
Net cash provided by investing activities	542,007	814,917
20 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	720,589	640,145
Total cash and cash equivalents	720,589	640,145

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

#### 21 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash	640,145	80,444	720,589
Total	640,145	80,444	720,589

### 22 Member liability

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

#### 23 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 Hertfordshire County Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £32,818 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2021/22: £31,148) and are included within creditors.

#### **Teachers' Pension Scheme**

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

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

## Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £182,531 (2022: £171,002).

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

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

### Local government pension scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £164,000 (2022 - £154,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £131,000 (2022 - £123,000) and employees' contributions totalled £33,000 (2022 - £31,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 25 per cent for employers and 5.5 to 12.5 per cent for employees.

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

### Principal actuarial assumptions

	2023	2022
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.50	3.60
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.00	3.20
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.20	4.30
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	45.00	50.00

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

## 23 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

	2023	2022
Retiring today		
Males retiring today	20.90	21.90
Females retiring today	25.20	24.40
Retiring in 20 years		
Males retiring in 20 years	21.70	22.90
Females retiring in 20 years	25.90	26.00
Sensitivity analysis		
•	2023	2022
	£	£
Discount rate +0.1%	2,357,000	2,407,000
Discount rate -0.1%	2,267,000	2,311,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	2,404,000	2,453,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	2,220,000	2,265,000
CPI rate +0.1%	2,356,000	2,405,000
CPI rate -0.1%	2,268,000	2,313,000
The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme were:		
	2023	2022
·	£	£
Equities	1,142,910	1,062,500
Other bonds	537,840	488,750
Property	313,740	318,750
Cash and other liquid assets	246,510	255,000
Total market value of assets	2,241,000	2,125,000

The actual return on scheme assets was (£63,000) (2022 - (£142,000)).

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

## 23 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities		
•	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Current service cost	174,000	314,000
Interest income	(93,000)	(37,000)
Interest cost	103,000	59,000
Total amount recognized in the SOFA	184,000	336,000
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as	follows:	
	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
At start of period	2,359,000	3,454,000
Current service cost	174,000	314,000
Interest cost	103,000	59,000
Employee contributions	33,000	31,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(305,000)	(1,444,000)
Benefits paid	(52,000)	(55,000)
At 31 August	2,312,000	2,359,000
Changes in the fair value of academy's share of scheme assets:		
	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
At start of period	2,125,000	2,168,000
Interest income	93,000	37,000
Actuarial gain/(loss)	(89,000)	(179,000)
Employer contributions	131,000	123,000
Employee contributions	33,000	31,000
Benefits paid	(52,000)	(55,000)
At 31 August	2,241,000	2,125,000

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

### 24 Related party transactions

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

### Expenditure related party transactions

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

## Chris Andrews Security Services (CASS)

(Mrs J Andrews' (SBM) husband was used for the labour element of installation of CCTV, access control doors and servicing / maintenance of these)

- The Academy purchased the labour element of installing CCTV totalling £3,715 (2022: £750) during the period. There were no amounts outstanding at 31 August 2023 (2022: £nil).
- The 2022/23 costs include £150 for CCTV servicing, £300 for servicing of the access control doors and £3,205 works to the access control system following CIF projects works which the Academy have now been reimbursed for. This work was commissioned by Carter Group, but as the Academy uses this contractor to maintain the access control doors, PO's were raised for the works and the invoices were paid. Carter Group wentdirect to CASS for the quote. The Governors were informed of this and it was minuted before any works took place
- The Academy made the purchase at arms' length following a competitive tendering exercise in accordance with its financial regulations, which Mrs J Andrews neither participated in, nor influenced.
- In entering into the transaction, the academy trust has complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook.
- The element above £2,500 has been provided 'at no more than cost' and the business has provided a statement of assurance confirming this.

All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions (2022: the ESFA was not notified ofthe transaction as the Academy encountered issues when reporting the transaction on the ESFA website. This issue was reported to the ESFA. The transaction was officially logged on 19/01/2023 following calls with the DfE).