

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL
ACADEMY TRUST

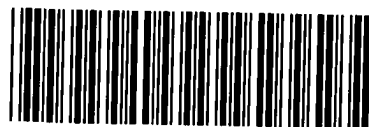
SUPPORTING ACHIEVEMENT

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Company Registration Number: 07729412 (England and Wales)
Registered office: Ashley Downs, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 4EU

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THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

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THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	Mr S Oxenham	(Chair)
	Mrs K Hester	
	Mrs C Edwards	
	Mrs T Ellis	(Appointed 12.07.2022)
Trustees	Mr D G Gowen*	(Chairman)
	Mr M H Lott*	(Vice Chairman)
	Ms S Garrett*	(Headteacher and Accounting Officer)
	Mrs L Burton	(Staff Trustee)
	Mr G Evans	
	Ms H Horton	(Appointed 21.03.2022)
	Miss A Howlett	(Resigned 21.03.2022)
	Mrs S Lofthouse*	
	Mr P Marshall	(Appointed 21.03.2022)
	Mr T McKie*	(Parent Trustee, Nominated Trustee)
	Mr D Payne	(Parent Trustee, resigned 21.03.2022)
	Mrs D Sibbald	(Staff Trustee, resigned as staff on 10.09.2021 and Trustee on 21.03.2022)

* members of the Leadership and Management Committee

Company Secretary and Governance professional	Ms D L Petty	
Senior Leadership Team	Ms S Garrett	(Headteacher)
	Mr A Wright	(Deputy Headteacher – Teaching and Learning)
	Mr T Ward	(Deputy Headteacher – Behaviour 4 Learning)
	Mr P Collins	(Strategic Business Manager)
Company name	The Ashley School Academy Trust	
Principal and Registered Office	Ashley Downs Lowestoft Suffolk, NR32 4EU	
Company registration number	07729412 (England and Wales)	
Independent Auditor	Lovewell Blake LLP Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor Bankside 300 Peachman Way Broadland Business Park Norwich, NR7 0LB	
Bankers	Lloyds TSB Bank plc 16 Gentleman's Walk Norwich Norfolk, NR2 1LZ	

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)

Solicitors

Browne, Jacobson LLP
Mowbray House
Castle Meadow Road
Nottingham, NG2 1BJ

Directors of Ashley School Trading Ltd – dissolved 1 March 2022

Mr L Chapman	(Director)
Ms S Garrett	(Director)
Mr D G Gowen	(Director)
Mr M H Lott	(Director, Chair)

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (including Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 August 2022

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's reports of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, a directors' report and strategic report under company law.

The Ashley School Academy Trust operates an academy, a day and residential special school that provides for pupils aged 7 to 16 years (National Curriculum years 3 to 11) serving a catchment area in Suffolk. Its core service is to provide high quality specialist education to pupils with complex, moderate learning difficulties many with associated disabilities such as speech and language, autism, social, emotional and mental health. All pupils have an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP). It has a pupil capacity of 164 and had a roll of 155 in school census in May 2022 (Summer Term).

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Ashley School 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 The Ashley School Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company operates as The Ashley School Academy Trust.

Details of the Trustees who served throughout the year and to the date these accounts are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative information on page 3.

Members' Liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while they are a member, 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 trust has opted into the Department for Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme membership.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The Board has a range of expertise, knowledge and skills and when recruiting Trustees, looks at different skills and knowledge across the board. Vacancies are advertised in the Academy's newsletter and through parents responses at annual reviews, approaching any parents who might express an interest in becoming a Trustee, asking any outgoing Trustee for recommended nominations in order to retain the high quality of skills and expertise, and contactable websites where databases of skilled volunteers are held, including SGOSS (Governors for Schools), Academy Ambassadors and Inspiring Governance.

The term of office for any Trustee shall be four years. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee may be reappointed or re-elected, again for a term of four years.

The Board and Headteacher believe that it is essential for all new Trustees to receive a comprehensive induction pack covering a broad range of issues, topics and policies. There is a commitment to ensure that the new Trustees are given the necessary information and support to fulfil their role with confidence. The process is seen as an investment, leading to more effective governance and retention of members.

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Including Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 August 2022

Structure, Governance and Management (continued)

The Trustees visit the school to participate in planned Learning Walks, Safeguarding and Standard 3 visits, Ofsted framework, MATs (Multi-Academy Trusts), Assessment Framework and our Induction Programme through Governor Services, Governor Hub and/or The Key Online.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

All new Trustees will be provided with an Induction Pack and invited to visit the academy trust to meet staff and pupils and to discuss the ethos and working practices of the Trust.

At the beginning of the Academic Year, all Trustees are given access to online training and relevant training, courses are booked by trustees or by the Governance Professional. Trustees are informed of training by the Governance Professional on a termly basis. A record of all training is kept by the Governance Professional.

We have recently updated our skills audit which indicated a great level of skills, knowledge and understanding of Trustees. In January 2022 the Board restructured the Committee meetings by amalgamating two smaller committees into one new Quality of Education Committee (Pupil Achievement/Outcomes and Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare Committee). Throughout the year, Trustees are invited to attend Committee Meetings, other than their own Committee to gain more knowledge and expertise across the whole Academy Trust.

Organisational Structure

At The Ashley School Academy Trust the organisational structure consists of the Trustees including the Headteacher, the two Deputy Headteachers, Strategic Business Manager and the wider Extended Leadership Team (XLT).

The Members' role is to approve the strategic direction of the Academy. The Board's role is to ensure financial management and objectives of the Academy Trust are met and regularly monitor the progress towards these objectives and monitor the budget. In order for this to be carried out effectively, the Trust have appointed its Trustees to certain Committees.

The Board now consists of three Committees: The Executive Committee (Chairs of both Committees); The Leadership and Management Committee (which carries out Audit Function, Pay policies and reviews, health and safety); The Quality of Education Committee (which incorporates the old Pupil Achievement/Outcomes Committee and Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare Committee).

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (including Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 August 2022

Structure, Governance and Management (continued)

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

The Academy Trust has no direct links or related party relationships to other, external organisations.

However, the nature of our work does result in our close working with many other schools through our East Coast Hub (Challenge Partners); SSAT and also through our designation as a National Support School (NSS). Wider collaboration is undertaken through wider school partnerships at all levels with local schools, and as part of Teaching School Alliance.

We will also:

- Continue to explore further opportunities for more effective multi-agency partnership working resulting in informed, focused outcomes;
- Explore opportunities for greater involvement in local Teaching School Hub(s);
- Continue to develop our collaborative and enhanced partnership with East Coast College improving transition and outcomes for SEND pupils at TASAT and beyond.

Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The rules for determining the pay of Senior Leadership Team (for the purposes of this definition this includes the Headteacher, Deputy Headteachers and Strategic Business Manager who sit on SLT) are set out in the Schools Pay Policy, which is reviewed annually in line with the School Teacher's Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD).

For September 2021, the Trustees changed the leadership range (in line with the STPCD) in recognition of growth and additional responsibilities. The Trustees authorised a different TLR pay range to accommodate an Assistant Key Stage Lead and this was approved by the Union Representatives. The Pay Policy reflects the changes made and this has been approved by the Leadership and Management Committee Team and ratified by the Board of Trustees.

Trade Union Facility Time

Information, as it applies to the academy trust, is included below to satisfy requirements of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017 for the period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (the relevant period).

The Trust provided no time in respect of trade union facilities time during the period.
However, a contribution of £270 was made to Suffolk County Council Trade Union Facilities Time "central pot".

Relevant union officials

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

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (including Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 August 2022

Structure, Governance and Management (continued)

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

First Column	Figures
Provide the total cost of facility time	£270 (Contribution to Suffolk County Council "Central pot")
Provide the total pay bill	£2,628,835
Provide the percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (total cost of facility time ÷ total pay bill) x 100	0.01%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours calculated as: (total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period ÷ total paid facility time hours) x 100	NIL
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Objectives and Activities

Objects and Aims

The object and aims of The Ashley School Academy Trust is to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a school specially organised to make special educational provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs.

The Ashley School Academy Trust main objectives are summarised as follows:

- to provide value for money for the funds expended,
- to ensure that the Academy is suitably staffed,
- to comply with statutory and curriculum requirements.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

During 2021/2022 the Academy Trust focused on the following:

- Leadership and Management continued to promote and embed 'OUTSTANDING' Leadership and Management including:
 - Implementing, maintaining and embedding the TASAT 'Recovery Curriculum'
 - Communicate success to build upon on-going challenges and areas for development to all staff;
 - Ensure the development to practices set out in all of the SD & IP action plans are embedded effectively across the school and lead to the intended outcomes for learners;
 - Further develop the information provided to the Board, emphasising the outcomes for learners in the key areas of the SD & IP (Key Reporting Indicators);
 - Safeguarding Self-Review Audit and Action Plan;
 - Continuing to maintain Outstanding Quality of Education;
 - Fully embedding Behaviour 4 Learning;
 - Further develop robust electronic management systems to improve the access to and informed use of data at all levels;
 - Review the questionnaires used annually to gather the views of pupils, parents/carers and staff from partner agencies;

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Including Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 August 2022

Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)

- Leadership and Management continued to promote and embed 'OUTSTANDING' Leadership and Management including (continued):
 - Review the SLAs with the LA including the future budget model re. Residential provision;
 - Continue to be an active World Class School;
 - Further develop at all levels of leadership, including Trustees, the effective use of good and accurate self-review which informs priorities for development and the rigorous implementation of focused improvement plans. In addition, taking account of the new Ofsted framework;
 - Deliver, in line with the Code of Practice, 0-25 EHC assessments, plans and reviews (Pupil centred), Local Offer and Personal Budgets.
- Personal Development, Behaviour & Welfare:
 - Analyse behaviour data to continue to improve systems;
 - Embedded and further develop a common language (scripts) with learners regarding behaviour and choices;
 - Embed behaviour 4 learning policy and practice;
 - Review and further develop the de-escalation responses with learners;
 - Further develop our anti-bullying practice in line with the outcomes of the supported self-review;
 - Further develop Online-Safety understanding, knowledge and policy for staff, pupils and working with parents/carers;
 - Further safer recruitment training for leaders;
 - Review information for parents/carers to ensure understanding of safeguarding etc;
 - Embed and review both the effective use of the Collaborative Problem-Solving Approach (CPSA) and APP for SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning);
 - Train and develop staff therapeutic skills to support complex pupil needs.
 - Embed and maintain Trauma Informed Approaches and continued to work towards becoming an accredited Trauma Informed School
 - Explore effective 'supervision models' for all staff and work towards the 'Supervision in Education Award'
- Residence:
 - Provision is externally evaluated against the National Minimum Standards and Ofsted (last inspection November 2021) graded Outstanding. We have not had an Ofsted inspection this academic year but we are expecting one any time.
 - Priorities in Residence remain focused on attendance, engagement, SEAL, independence and reading (Residence Impact Data);
 - Further developing work through Elklan, Trauma Informed Schools, Attention Autism, Duke of Edinburgh Award and through volunteering accreditation;
 - Continued work with SCC LA regarding both the funding and commissioning of Residence;
 - Continued focus on both maintaining and developing the buildings/facilities.
- Pupil Achievement and Outcomes:
 - We continue to challenge ourselves to provide Outstanding outcomes for pupils;
 - Embedding and maintaining TASAT 'Recovery Curriculum'
 - We have had annual Quality Assurance Reviews through Challenge Partners and/or accessed alternative programmes e.g. Growing the Top.
 - Continued to be an active World Class School;
 - Continued CPD to ensure staff have the skills to meet our pupils' needs and use of SLCN models;
 - Embed a phonics led reading skills programme;
 - Centre of Excellence Social Skills (Alex Kelly Ltd);
 - Parental engagement developed further with more parents attending reviews, meetings and social events;
 - Building on the achievement of our Families First accreditation;
 - Further develop teaching strategies/skills that provide inspiring opportunities that challenge pupils consistently across the school.

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Including Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 August 2022

Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)

Pupil Achievement and Outcomes (continued)

- Continued to further develop 'Quality of Education' for all our pupils, using 'Deep Dive' methodology
- Embedded use of data to inform planning and interventions;
- Embedded informed marking policy;
- Embedded Ofsted outcomes – creative writing and phonics; impact of extended learning/homework;

Public Benefit

The key public benefit delivered by The Ashley School Academy Trust is to advance, for the public benefit, education in particular by establishing, maintaining, managing and developing an Academy Trust specially organised to make special educational provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) and to hire out to the public the swimming pool and gym and also collaborative, partnership working with other schools.

The Trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Including Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 August 2022

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance (Including Key Performance Indicators)

Outcomes for Pupils 2022:

Results Summary

Entry Level	U/X	E1	E2	E3	Total	% E1+
OCR English	0	6	10	7	23	100.00%
OCR Maths	0	1	14	8	23	100.00%
AQA Science	0	0	5	18	23	100.00%
OCR Art (OPTION entry)	0	1	0	4	5	100.00%
OCR DT & Living Skills	0	0	0	13	13	100.00%

City and Guilds	U/X	Units	E2	E3	Total	% E2+
UIG Skills for working life	0		7	5	22	100.00%
C&G Employability	0		0	21	21	100.00%

OCR Functional Skills (Totals)	U/X	No. E1	No. E2	No. E3	Total entries
OCR Functional Skills	0	21	15	8	46

OCR Functional Skills	U/X	No. E1	No. E2	No. E3	Total	E1+
OCR Functional Skills	1	6	7	9	23	95.65%

	Decorative four jointed box	Wiring 3 pin plug	Bike maintenance puncture repair	Designing and making an electric lamp	Total	Avg. No. of UAS per pupil
DT Unit Awards	22	22	22	23	89	4

GCSE	U/X	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total	% 9-1
AQA English	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	100.00%
AQA Biology	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	100.00%

GCSE Equivalencies (Level 1 & Level 2)	U/X	L1	L2	Total	% L1+
Sports Leaders UK Sports leadership	0	0	4	4	100.00%
Trinity Arts Award	0	1	0	1	100.00%
BM Accident Repair	0	6	0	6	100.00%

Cohort Size	23
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Qualification Overview	No.	%
At least 1+ ELQ	23	100.00%
At least 5+ ELQ with En & Ma	22	95.65%
At least 1+ Level 1 qualification	16	69.57%
At least 2+ level 1 qualifications	7	30.43%
At least 3+ level 1 qualifications	1	4.35%
At least 4 level 1 qualifications or above	1	4.35%
At least 2 level 2 qualifications	0	0.00%

Results Analysis - Headlines

- 100% of pupils achieved at least one Entry Level Qualification.
- 95.65% of pupils achieved at least 5+ Entry Level Qualifications including English and Maths.
- 100% of pupils entered achieved GCSE English and GCSE Biology.
- 69.5% of pupils achieved at least 1 Level 1 qualification.

The "Ashley Gold Standard" based upon the established mainstream model of 5 Good Passes in GCSE including English and maths and have been modified to include entry level and vocational qualifications. We are aware of the longer-term implications of Entry level qualifications but we still feel that they add value to pupil achievement and progress. As a result, we expect all pupils to have the opportunity to achieve 5 ELQs. Our TASAT Bacc looks at pupils achieving English, Mathematics, Science, ICT, Vocational and their 'Option'.

Covid-19

The Ashley School Academy Trust remained fully open throughout 2021/2022. Both pupils and staff attendance continue to be impacted by Covid-19.

The school opened fully to all pupils on 3rd September 2021, attendance remained high over the year compared with other special schools nationally. Pupils are accessing the full TASAT curriculum with Recovery Priorities woven through to support attendance, self-regulation, literacy, numeracy and wider opportunities.

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Including Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 August 2022

Achievements and Performance (Including Key Performance Indicators) (continued)

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.

Financial review

Most of the Academy's income is obtained from the Department of Education via the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. These grants received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) during the year ended 31 August 2022 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

During the period ended 31 August 2022, total expenditure of £4,105,652 (2021: £3,582,763) was covered by recurrent grant funding together with other income.

During the period ended 31 August 2022 the Trust achieved a surplus of £141,899 being the change in the balance in restricted general funds (excluding pension reserve) plus unrestricted funds. The academy trust also received an actuarial assessment of pension scheme surplus on the Suffolk County Council Pension Scheme, which is not included within the balance sheet as at 31 August 2022 in accordance with the trust's accounting policy.

Reserves Policy

This policy has been drawn-up considering guidance from the Charity Commission's *Charities and Reserves* and was approved by Trustees in March 2016 and reviewed and updated on 29 March 2022. The policy is due to be reviewed again in March 2025. It details:

Definitions and goals

Restricted Reserves
Unrestricted Funds
Designated Funds

Use of reserves

Identification of appropriate use of reserve funds
Authorisation of use of reserves
Reporting and monitoring

Purpose

The purpose of the reserve policy for The Ashley School Academy Trust is to ensure the stability of the Academy's organisational operations, to protect it so that it has the ability to adjust quickly to financial circumstances, such as large unbudgeted expenditure, cyclical maintenance and working capital.

Future Planned Expenditure for built up reserves

To continue to develop capital programmes for both building and IT infrastructure services, as annually agreed by The Board of Trustees during the budget setting process. At the same time to seek to supplement the reserves of the Trust with external funding, wherever possible, including the annual Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) bidding process undertaken by the DfE.

- Outdoor Classroom and Outdoor Education Wooded Area
- Flat roof replacements

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Including Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 August 2022

Future Planned Expenditure for built up reserves (continued)

Longer term aspirations include:

- CIF bid to upgrade the fire alarm system across the site - contribution to be agreed
- CIF Bid to replace all pitched roofs across the site - contribution to be agreed
- A review of the mechanical and engineering aspects of the swimming pool and roof covering and we are looking at ways of fundraising.
- Amendment to VRS Block to enable car access for detailing and safety for children in cold weather
- The Hub – developing the Hub extension on main school for breakout therapy spaces.

Within the Academy Reserves Policy Trustees aim to have a minimum of £250,000 held in reserves. For cashflow purposes, there is a need for a minimum of £450,000 to be liquid to cover potential late payment of income.

Actual

As at 31 August 2022, free reserves (represented by unrestricted net current assets) amounted to £829,570. The restricted general fund balances (excluding the pension reserve) amounted to £121,077, together with restricted fixed asset funds of £4,018,654. Total net assets of the Trust amounted to £4,969,301.

Investment Policy

In addition to cash held for the day to day operation of the Academy Trust, the Academy Trust held a 30-day notice account.

The Academy Trust seeks to maximise returns from its investments, minimise risk and maintain flexibility and access to funds. The level of investment will depend on resources available at the time the investment is considered and will consider the current financial situation as well as consideration of the finances during the period the investment is being considered for. Equally the Trustees will take a view of prevailing national economic circumstances and the credit ratings of those who are offering investment opportunities. Finally, the period of the investment will be judged on the rates available and other Academy Trust priorities at the time.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

In September 2015 the Trustees approved a revised Risk Management Policy and a significantly more comprehensive Risk Register which had been prepared during the summer of 2015. This is discussed by Trustees half-termly and risks identified are RAG rated.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed and ensure that steps are taken to mitigate risks. Risks are identified, documented and reviewed on a half-termly basis and procedures are in place to manage such risks.

This is done through the Committees and includes educational risks such as the Academy Trust not achieving the planned educational outcomes and maintenance and improvement on previous examination results, whole or partial building loss, financial and operational risks, including budget risks and health and safety reviews and safeguarding students. In this way steps are taken to mitigate risk. The Risk Register is managed through the Leadership and Management Committee.

Trustees have introduced systems, including operational procedures and internal financial controls in order to minimise risk. The Academy has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in this report.

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Including Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 August 2022

The Leadership and Management Committee have identified the top five risks faced by the Academy Trust as:

- Loss of key person/succession risk which is currently being managed;
- Energy increases and costs recently identified as a risk;
- Over-reliance on one form of income;
- Risk that legislative requirements are not known or complied with;
- Academy receives unfavourable Ofsted report;
- Data protection risk.

Some significant risks such as public and employee liability are covered by the Academy's insurance policy. In September 2015 the Academy switched from conventional insurance policy to the Risk Protection Arrangements (RPA) provided by the Department for Education through its delivery arm the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

Fundraising

The Academy Trust has now sought ways of fundraising and are part of the community fund raising "easy fundraising". We have been successful and are thankful for the support of the Nineveh Trust (£2,500) in helping to fund part of our new Outdoor Learning Area and the Tesco Community Grants Scheme (£1,500) which has been approved on 1 November 2022.

Learning Through Landscapes also provided outdoor wear for children and adults and training in outdoor learning. In addition, we were successful in obtaining support for our Library through the Foyle Foundation (£6,000) 75% of which has been spent on new books.

We do continue to raise for specific projects but otherwise accepts general donations to school funds.

We continue to fundraise for nationally recognised charitable causes, BBC Children in Need, Red Nose Day, Macmillan Coffee Morning, Guide dogs for the Blind and all funds collected were passed through the school accounts before being paid to the identified causes.

The Academy Trust does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the Trustees. No complaints were received from the Fundraising Commission.

Plans for Future Periods

This year, Trustees have continued to actively investigate Academy growth having been awarded sponsorship for a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). The Trustees and SLT continue to work together with the local authority around growth provision in North Suffolk, the Local Authority had already commissioned 24 places at the top end of KS2 and the lower end of KS3 in 2021/2022. This brought the capacity to 164 pupils and we currently have 156 pupils on roll. The local authority have further increased the numbers to 168 from September 2023.

During 2022/2023 the Academy Trust will focus on:

Quality of Education: Curriculum Development

- To ensure that all pupils continue to maintain outstanding progress from their starting points.
- Continue to ensure that there is effective and appropriate challenge at all levels, especially for our "most able".
- Further develop and embed our effective progress monitoring through Annual Reviews, Next Steps and "settling in" review; IPI (Individual Pupil Information) updates; EHCPs.
- Maintain TASDA across all subjects and as a result demonstrate outstanding progress.
- Develop strategies to share effective pedagogy/practice to support all pupils SEND.
- Maintain consistent use of effective feedback (Austin's Butterfly – Ron Berger).

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Including Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 August 2022

Quality of Education: Curriculum Development (continued)

- Continue to ensure staff confidently and competently use assessment information to inform teaching and learning.
- Further develop our knowledge, skills and understanding within the classroom/curriculum to support sensory regulation and learning behaviours.
- Develop 'Teaching & Learning Quartets' that share effective practice, evaluate and use research and apply learning to improve outcomes for all our pupils.
- Continue to develop use of resources, including other adults, to acutely match learning activities to all pupils SEND.
- Ensure our broad, relevant, accredited curriculum continues to meet need and prepares all pupils for their next stages (Intent, Implementation, Impact).
- Further develop our effective use of 21st Century Technologies, including exploration of 'assistive technologies'.
- Maintain our effective subject focus groups communicating with both support staff and 'Link Trustees'.
- Maintain our 'Total Communication' ethos and build on our 'Centre of Excellence' re teaching social communication skills.
- Further develop our 'Love of Reading' and our 'Early Reading Experts'.
- Develop our Recovery Curriculum to ensure pupils build resilience against loss of routine; structure; friendships; opportunities; freedoms and which focuses on relationships; community and skills for learning.

Effective Leadership & Management including Governance

- Further develop our work sharing impact and effective practice(s) cross areas/teams and leaders, thus ensuring sustainability/succession alongside excellent pupil outcomes.
- Through robust, layered and effective PM and CPD, including online, all staff have the relevant knowledge, skills and understanding to meet our pupils' needs.
- Further develop the effectiveness of our Trustees and Members harnessing their knowledge, skills and understanding. Trustees access Governor Hub and The Key online CPD.
- Continue to ensure that all staff are fully up to date with safeguarding legislation and responsibilities.
- Explore potential opportunities for growth; SCC SEND proposals including House 1 @ TASAT.
- Explore opportunities for developing Free School(s), as part of TASAT, for C&I/SEMH pupils.
- Ofsted 2017 AFI. Ensure rigorous checks are in place to ensure an effective website and safeguarding checks are routinely carried out.

Residence:

Ofsted November 2021 Residential Inspection graded the provision Outstanding. We will continue to:

- Maintain development of residential facilities measured by improvements, renovations, upgrades and modernisations of facility.
- Maintain high quality and comprehensive training programme for all staff including learning from other "outstanding" provisions.
- Maintain highly effective induction and CPD for new staff and ensure appropriate career opportunities and CPD for experienced staff.
- Maintain volunteering and leadership opportunities for pupils in which they can achieve recognised accreditation including DofE.
- Maintain full use of impact data to improve residence outcomes (Earwig/RIDAS).
- Review commissioning with LA including securing future sustainable budget models (Bed night process and commissioning).

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (including Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 August 2022

Plans for Future Periods (continued)

Professional Services

- Maintain efficient and effective ICT systems and processes that are sustained by both CPD and technical support including FDR and externally commissioned DPO.
- Ensure annual budget preparation and approval includes accurate forecasting and regular monitoring to ensure ongoing financial health.
- Ensure financial systems are used to secure high quality education in short, medium and long term working with our School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA).
- Maintain effective staff induction and 'wellbeing opportunities'.
- Ensure TASAT MIS is effective in supporting pupil progress, this may include exploring changing MIS and a clear plan for future implementation.
- Ensure robust plans are in place to secure Building Projects, improving Climate for Learning via CiF and other sources.
- Ensure recommendations and actions from statutory risk assessments are effectively completed and monitored.

Community and Partnership

- Maintain effective "Families First" style practices, our parental engagement.
- Maintain school to school impact through Challenge Partners, East Coast Hub and as a NSS.
- Maintain Food Standards through 'Food for Life' accreditation.
- Maintain professional networks and 'influencing' opportunities.
- To explore further opportunities for more effective multi-agency partnership working resulting in informed, focussed outcomes.
- Explore and develop support opportunities for families to enhance consistent home/school including Residence approach.
- Within TASAT Recovery Plan prioritise Mental Health and Wellbeing for all (staff and pupils).

Auditor

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps 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.

Lovewell Blake LLP are deemed to be re-appointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a Strategic Report, was approved by order of the board of Trustees, as the company directors on 8 December 2022 and signed on the board's behalf by:

Mr D G Gowen
Chair of Trustees



THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of Responsibility

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

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day to day responsibility to the Headteacher, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform to 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 The Ashley School Academy Trust 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 3 times during the year. The Academy maintained effective oversight of funds throughout the year through regular budget monitoring reports, through their 3 full Trust Board meetings, 6 Leadership and Management Committee meetings and 3 Executive Committee meetings. Alongside 2 Quality of Education Committee meetings and 6 half-termly Risk Register meetings where Trustees discuss and RAG rate the risks of the Trust. Attendance during the year at the Board of Trustees meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr D G Gowen (Chair)	3	3
Mr M H Lott	0	3
Ms S Garrett (Headteacher and accounting officer)	3	3
Mrs L Burton (Staff trustee)	1	3
Mr G Evans	3	3
Miss A Howlett (resigned 21.03.2022)	1	1
Mrs S Lofthouse	2	3
Mr T McKie	3	3
Mr D Payne (resigned 21.03.2022)	0	1
Mrs D Sibbald (Staff Trustee, resigned as staff on 10.09.2021 and Trustee on 21.03.2022)	0	1
Mr P Marshall (appointed 21.03.2022)	2	2
Ms H Horton (appointed 21.03.2022)	2	2

The main challenges that have arisen for the Board this year are:

- Ensure that TASAT offers all pupils the Quality of Education, through our Recovery Curriculum;
- Effective leadership of TASAT ensuring appropriate appointments, succession planning and induction
- Securing 'equivalence funding' through new National Fair Funding especially with regards to High Needs 'Top Up' and Residence following a delay;
- Embedding Personnel/HR procedures and policies;
- Monitoring SD&IP (School Development & Improvement Plan) and its impact;
- Monitoring staff well-being indicators;
- Ensuring provision of high-quality Professional Development;
- Oversight of major premises contracts/improvements;
- Determining priority of improvements within budget constraints;

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)

Governance (continued)

- Implementing and embedding the new ICT strategy;
- Securing external capital/grant funding;
- The Outreach service moved to the LA in September 2021;
- Securing SEND Strategy, further exploring Free School, MATs, growth provision under Suffolk SEND Growth;
- Ensuring the effective function of the school in a pandemic for vulnerable and at-risk pupils, whilst ensuring that all pupils had continued access to education in some form and regular contact with their key staff member;
- Securing an additional 4 places for September 2023.

Conflicts of interest

The Trust maintains and manages an up-to-date and complete register of interests. This is reviewed each term by Trustees. Senior Leadership are aware of the contents and ensure that any transactions are checked against the register.

Governance Reviews

The Trustees have undertaken the following reviews during the year:

- Participated in Challenge Partners 'QAR' Programme, January 2022;
- Residential Ofsted Inspection with Outstanding outcomes;
- Safeguarding self-evaluation identifying further training/updates;
- Chair of Trustees meets regularly with the Headteacher;
- Continue to explore opportunities around MATs/Free Schools, concluding in being successfully accepted as an 'empty MAT';
- Trustees Audit Skills Matrix undertaken identifying gaps in the Board;
- Having identified gaps in skills, new Trustees with specific skills were recruited to the Board;
- Trustees Self-Challenge (The Key);
- Link Trustees have met virtually with Senior and Middle leaders through subject focus.

The Leadership and Management Committee

The Leadership and Management Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees and acts as the audit committee. Its purpose is to:

- Act in accordance with the School Governance Regulations and other legislation affecting the conduct and responsibilities of School Governing Bodies. To have regard, in carrying out delegated functions, to the School Improvement Plan approved by the Board of Directors. To act in accordance with the DfE and ESFA for the delegation of funds to schools.
- Assist the decision making of the Board, by enabling more detailed consideration to be given to the best means of fulfilling the Board's responsibility to ensure sound management of the Academy's personnel, finances and resources, including proper planning, monitoring and probity.
- To make appropriate comments and recommendations on such matters to the Board of Trustees on a regular basis. Major issues will be referred to the full Board for ratification.

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)

The Leadership and Management Committee (continued)

The Leadership and Management Committee has formally met six times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the committee was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr D G Gowen	6	6
Mr M H Lott	4	6
Ms S Garrett (Headteacher and accounting officer)	6	6
Mr T McKie (Chair)	6	6
Ms S Lofthouse	5	6

Trading Subsidiary

As Oulton Broad Water Sports Centre has ceased trading, there were no meetings called throughout the year. Ashley School Trading Limited was dissolved on 01.03.2022.

Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer, the Headteacher has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes 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 had delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Operating an effective tendering process enabling the best value for money to be obtained for all purchasing, either from recognised local, national and government consortia or through a competitive tendering process, where required by our Finance policies.
- Regularly reviewing the deployment of our staff resources to ensure that they are allocated to support Teaching and Learning in the most effective way.
- Monitoring the use of budgets and resources regularly with regular reports to the Governing Body (termly), individual departmental budget holders (bi-monthly) and the Headteacher (monthly) on top of the day to day monitoring by the Professional Services Team.
- Continuing to maximise income from the income streams available to the Academy Trust.

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 The Ashley School Academy Trust for the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed, together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 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 Leadership and Management 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;
 - Delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
 - Identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint Schools' Choice as internal auditor. As an independent organisation, with significant financial and controls experience, they are able to provide the Trustees with independent review of the day to day performance of the Trusts financial systems, risk management and internal controls.

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

- Purchase system process
- Income controls
- Governance

During the year the internal auditor has completed two remote visits and found no material control issues. To maintain independence, the reports arising from the Internal Audit visits are forwarded directly and separately to both the Nominated Trustee and the Headteacher.

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)

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 work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 8 December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr D G Gowen

Ms S Garrett

Chair


Accounting Officer


THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As Accounting Officer of The Ashley School Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the Academy Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2021.

I confirm that I and the Academy Trust Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Academy Trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2021.

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the Board of Trustees and ESFA.



Ms S Garrett

Accounting Officer

8/12/2022

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

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 then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 8/12/2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr D G Gowen
Chair of Trustees

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Ashley School Academy Trust (the 'academy trust') for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the academy trust's affairs as at 31 August 2022, 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, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST (continued)

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 23, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

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 ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST (continued)

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

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance;
- Enquiry of entity staff compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of activities and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk 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 FRC's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditors/audit-assurance/auditor-s-responsibilities-for-the-audit-of-the-ii/description-of-the-auditor%E2%80%99s-responsibilities-for>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

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

Lovewell Blake LLP

MARK PROCTOR FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of LOVEWELL BLAKE LLP, Statutory Auditor

19/12/2022

Bankside 300
Peachman Way
Broadland Business Park
Norwich
NR7 0LB

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 7 September 2021 and further to the requirements of the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Ashley School Academy Trust Academy Trust during the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 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 The Ashley School Academy Trust Academy Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to The Ashley School Academy Trust Academy Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than The Ashley School Academy Trust Academy Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of The Ashley School Academy Trust Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Ashley School Academy Trust Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 10 August 2011 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2021, 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 2021 to 2022. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 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 our conclusions includes:

Delegated authorities: Carrying out the suggested procedures detailed in the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts Part 4 section 4.60-65 in order to obtain evidence that the academy trust has followed its own internal processes and complied with the Academies Trust Handbook 2021 regarding write-offs, property transactions, leases, novel and contentious payments, special payments to staff, borrowings, and if the terms of a FNI have been complied with;

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

Approach (continued)

Transactions with connected parties: Carrying out the suggested procedures in the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts Part 4 section 4.66 in order to obtain evidence that the academy trust has followed its own internal processes and complied with the Academies Trust Handbook 2021 regarding declarations of interest and contracts with connected parties, including governors, and employees providing external consultancy;

Governance: Carrying out the suggested procedures in the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts Part 4 section 4.67 in considering whether the academy trust has followed its own internal processes and complied with the Academies Trust Handbook 2021 regarding its governance arrangements;

Internal controls: Identifying the policies, reviewing their effectiveness and testing the operation of controls, through carrying out the suggested procedures in the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts Part 4 section 4.68 in order to consider whether the academy trust has followed its own internal processes and complied with the Academies Trust Handbook 2021 regarding its internal controls;

Procurement: Identifying the policies, reviewing their effectiveness and testing their operation, through carrying out the suggested procedures in the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts Part 4 section 4.69 in order to obtain evidence that the academy trust has followed its own internal processes and complied with the Academies Trust Handbook 2021 regarding its procurement procedures; and

Income: Considering the conditions associated with specialist grant income and whether it has been spent as the purposes intended.

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Lovewell Blake LLP

MARK PROCTOR FCA DChA (Reporting Accountant)
For and on behalf of LOVEWELL BLAKE LLP

19/12/2022

Bankside 300
Peachman Way
Broadland Business Park
Norwich
NR7 0LB

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

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	Total 2022	Total 2021
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	24,780	15,267	262,790	302,837	1,374,508
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the Academy	3		3,669,411	-	3,669,411	3,275,688
Trust's educational operations						
Other trading activities	4	59,056			59,056	54,077
Investments	5	1,085			1,085	91
Other income	6	8,676			8,676	31,120
Total income		93,597	3,684,678	262,790	4,041,065	4,735,484
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
Academy's educational operations	7		(3,960,611)	(145,041)	(4,105,652)	(3,582,763)
Total expenditure	7		(3,960,611)	(145,041)	(4,105,652)	(3,582,763)
Net (expenditure)/income before transfers		93,597	(275,933)	117,749	(64,587)	1,152,721
Transfers between funds	17	(67,275)	11,510	55,765		
Net (expenditure)/income after transfers and before gains/(losses)		26,322	(264,423)	173,514	(64,587)	1,152,721
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	17/27		2,658,000		2,658,000	(599,000)
Net movement in funds		26,322	2,393,577	173,514	2,593,413	553,721
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	17	803,248	(2,272,500)	3,845,140	2,375,888	1,822,167
Funds carried forward	17	829,570	121,077	4,018,654	4,969,301	2,375,888

All of the Academy's activities derive from continuing operations during the financial period.

The notes on pages 32 to 52 form part of these financial statements.

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

Company No: 07729412

BALANCE SHEET at 31 August 2022

	Note	£	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	12		3,866,974	3,010,564
Current assets				
Stock	13	3,354		5,282
Debtors	14	249,902		343,059
Cash at bank and in hand		1,305,966		1,777,872
		1,559,222		2,126,213
Current liabilities				
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(373,519)		(372,753)
Net current assets			1,185,703	1,753,460
Total assets less current liabilities			5,052,677	4,764,024
Long term liabilities				
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year	16		(83,376)	(110,136)
Net assets excluding pension liability			4,969,301	4,653,888
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	27			(2,278,000)
Total net assets			4,969,301	2,375,888
Funds of the academy trust:				
Restricted funds				
Restricted income fund	17		121,077	5,500
Fixed asset fund	17		4,018,654	3,845,140
Pension reserve	17			(2,278,000)
Total restricted funds			4,139,731	1,572,640
Unrestricted income funds	17		829,570	803,248
Total funds			4,969,301	2,375,888

The financial statements on pages 32 to 52 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 8/12/2022 and are signed on their behalf by:

D G Gowen
Chairman of Trustees

The notes on pages 32 to 52 form part of these financial statements.

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

CASH FLOW STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	21	271,377	153,289
Cash flows from investing activities	22	(737,576)	606,315
Cash flows from financing activities	23	(5,707)	(24,847)
Change in cash and cash equivalent in the reporting period		<u>(471,906)</u>	<u>734,757</u>
 Cash and cash equivalent at 1 September 2021	24	<u>1,777,872</u>	<u>1,043,115</u>
Cash and cash equivalent at 31 August 2022	24	<u>1,305,966</u>	<u>1,777,872</u>

The notes on pages 32 to 52 form part of these financial statements.

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022

1. Statement of accounting policies and general information

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The academy trust is registered in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is The Ashley School Academy Trust, Ashley Downs, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 4EU.

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.

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The Ashley School Academy Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

b) 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.

c) Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

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.

Interest receivable

Interest receivable is included within the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis.

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022

1. Statement of accounting policies (continued)

Donated fixed assets (excluding Transfers on conversion/into trust)

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

Other trading activities

Other trading activities is included within the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis.

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.

d) 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.

Charitable activities

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

e) 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.

f) Depreciation

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, as follows:

Long leasehold land and buildings	2%
Improvements to long leasehold buildings	2%
Furniture and equipment	20%
Computer equipment and software	33%

Assets under 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.

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022

1. Statement of accounting policies (continued)

f) Depreciation (continued)

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

g) 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 of the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

h) Leased assets

The Academy has recognised the value of the property occupied by it, under a lease of 125 years, as prepared by DTZ on behalf of Education and Skills Funding Agency as at 31 August 2012.

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

i) Investments

The academy's shareholding was in the wholly owned subsidiary Ashley School Trading Limited which was dissolved 1 March 2022. It was included in the balance sheet at the cost of the share capital owned less any impairment.

j) 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 14. 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 note 15 and 16. 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.

k) Concessionary loans

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

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022

1. Statement of accounting policies (continued)

l) Stock

Unsold uniform and oil stock are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

m) Taxation

The Academy is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

Accordingly, the Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by part 11, chapter 3 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

n) Pensions benefits

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

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.

Where a pension scheme is in surplus, the resulting defined benefit plan asset is only recognised to the extent that the academy trust is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan, in accordance with FRS102 28.22.

The scheme is in surplus by £189k, however this surplus has not been recognised as an asset in these accounts in accordance with the academy trust's accounting policy, as the academy trust is unable to recover the surplus through reduced contributions in the future, or through refunds from the plan.

o) 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.

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022

1. Statement of accounting policies (continued)

p) Fund accounting (continued)

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

q) Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 27, will impact the carrying amount of the pension asset. 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 2022. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

The Trust has recognised the value of the property it occupies at a valuation prepared on behalf of the Education and Skills Funding Agency, for all academies joining the Trust. The property is then depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Trust's accounting policies.

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022

2. DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Capital grants		262,790	262,790	1,348,403
Donated fixed assets				15,600
Other donations	24,780	15,267	40,047	10,505
	<u>24,780</u>	<u>278,057</u>	<u>302,837</u>	<u>1,374,508</u>

Income from donations and capital grants was £302,837 (2021: £1,374,508) of which £24,780 was unrestricted (2021: £10,505), £15,267 restricted (2021: £Nil) and £262,790 restricted fixed assets (2021: £1,364,003).

Government grants of £260,290 (2021: £1,348,403) were received from the ESFA (2021: ESFA, Salix Finance Ltd and Suffolk County Council).

3. FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
DfE/ESFA revenue grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)		1,640,000	1,640,000	1,399,790
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
High needs top up funding		1,702,420	1,702,420	1,522,169
Pupil premium		105,708	105,708	87,847
Teachers' pay grant		28,698	28,698	24,499
Teachers' pension grant		79,532	79,532	67,893
School Led Tutoring Grant		32,783	32,783	-
Recovery premium		23,635	23,635	-
Other		42,220	42,220	16,370
		<u>3,654,996</u>	<u>3,654,996</u>	<u>3,118,568</u>
Other government grants				
Outreach Commissioned Service				82,070
Local authority		14,415	14,415	14,360
		<u>14,415</u>	<u>14,415</u>	<u>96,430</u>
Covid-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)				
Catch-up premium				33,600
Covid-19 exceptional support				27,090
				<u>60,690</u>
		<u>3,669,411</u>	<u>3,669,411</u>	<u>3,275,688</u>

Income from the academy's educational operations was £3,669,411 (2021: £3,275,688) of which £Nil was unrestricted (2021: £Nil), £Nil was restricted fixed assets (2021: £Nil) and £3,669,411 was restricted (2021: £3,275,688).

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Hire of facilities	5,144	-	5,144	480
Items sold	3,561	-	3,561	4,296
Income from services provided	19,610	-	19,610	25,094
Academy trips	15,905	-	15,905	8,177
Catering income	14,226	-	14,226	14,251
Staff training contribution	610	-	610	1,779
	<u>59,056</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,056</u>	<u>54,077</u>

Income from other trading activities was £59,056 (2021: £54,077) of which £59,056 was unrestricted (2021: £54,077), £Nil was restricted (2021: £Nil) and £Nil was restricted fixed assets (2021: £Nil).

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Bank Interest	<u>1,085</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,085</u>	<u>91</u>

Investment income was £1,085 (2021: £91) of which £1,085 was unrestricted (2021: £91), £Nil was restricted (2021: £Nil) and £Nil was restricted fixed assets (2021: £Nil).

6. OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Insurance claims	<u>8,676</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,676</u>	<u>31,120</u>

Other income was £8,676 (2021: £31,120) of which £8,676 was unrestricted (2021: £31,120), £Nil was restricted (2021: £Nil) and £Nil was restricted fixed assets (2021: £Nil).

7. EXPENDITURE

	Staff costs	Non Pay Expenditure Premises	Other costs	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Academy's educational operations:					
• Direct costs	2,380,748	-	418,613	2,799,361	2,306,450
• Allocated support costs	733,276	280,220	292,795	1,306,291	1,276,313
	<u>3,114,024</u>	<u>280,220</u>	<u>711,408</u>	<u>4,105,652</u>	<u>3,582,763</u>

Expenditure was £4,105,652 (2021: £3,582,763) of which £Nil was unrestricted (2021: £11,581), £3,960,611 was restricted (2021: £3,456,664) and £145,041 (2021: £114,518) was restricted fixed assets.

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022

7 EXPENDITURE (continued)

Net (expenditure)/income for the year includes:

	2022 £	2021 £
Depreciation	1,45,041	114,518
Operating lease rentals	2,491	2,491
Fees payable to auditor for:		
Audit services	9,735	5,760
Other services	3,105	5,690

8 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Direct Costs – educational operations	2,799,361	2,306,450
Support costs – educational operations	1,306,291	1,276,313
	<u>4,105,652</u>	<u>3,582,763</u>

Expenditure was £4,105,652 (2021: £3,582,763) of which £Nil was unrestricted (2021: £11,581), £3,960,611 was restricted (2021: £3,456,664) and £145,041 (2021: £114,518) was restricted fixed assets.

	2022 £	2021 £
Allocated support costs		
Support staff costs	733,276	741,949
Technology costs	69,661	56,513
Premises costs	280,220	260,336
Other support costs	209,494	205,320
Legal costs - other		220
Governance costs	13,640	11,975
Support costs	<u>1,306,291</u>	<u>1,276,313</u>

Support costs totalled £1,309,291 (2021: £1,276,313) of which £Nil (2021: £Nil) was unrestricted and £1,306,291 (2021: £1,276,313) was restricted, and £Nil (2021: £Nil) was restricted fixed assets.

Analysis of Governance costs

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Audit fees		12,840	12,840	11,450
Professional fees		800	800	525
Total		<u>13,640</u>	<u>13,640</u>	<u>11,975</u>

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022

9. STAFF

a. Staff costs	2022	2021
Staff costs during the period were:	£	£
Wages and salaries	2,042,172	1,825,907
Social security costs	186,334	167,620
Operating costs – Teachers Pension Scheme	262,080	243,533
Operating costs – Defined Benefit Pension Scheme	541,000	397,000
	<u>3,031,586</u>	<u>2,634,060</u>
Supply staff costs	76,053	96,932
Staff restructuring costs		9,060
Indirect employee expenses	<u>6,385</u>	<u>10,109</u>
	<u>3,114,024</u>	<u>2,750,161</u>
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Severance payments		<u>9,060</u>

b. Non statutory/non-contractual staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £Nil (2021: £9,060 in total. Individually, there was one payment of £9,060).

c. Staff numbers

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

	2022	2021
	No	No
Teachers	18	20
Administration and support	60	47
Management	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
	<u>82</u>	<u>71</u>

d. Higher paid staff

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension cost) exceeded £60,000 was:

Emolument amount	2022	2021
	No	No
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1
£90,001 - £100,000	-	-
£100,001 - £110,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022

9. STAFF (continued)

e. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the Trustees and the senior leadership team as listed on page 3. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £403,414 (2021: £376,862).

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS - TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

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

Ms S J Garrett (Headteacher and Trustee)

Remuneration £105,000 – £110,000 (2021: £100,000 – £105,000)

Employers pension contributions £20,000 - £25,000 (2021: £20,000 - £25,000)

Mrs L Burton (Staff Trustee)

Remuneration £50,000 - £55,000 (2021: £50,000 - £55,000)

Employer pension contributions £10,000 - £15,000 (2021: £10,000 - £15,000)

Mrs D Sibbald (Staff Trustee up until 10 September 2021 (when resigned as staff member))

Remuneration £0 - £5,000 (2021: £15,000 - £20,000)

Employer pension contributions £0 - £5,000 (2021: £0 - £5,000)

Other related party transactions involving the Trustee are set out in note 29.

During the year ended 31 August 2022, expenses totalling £Nil (2021: £Nil) were reimbursed to no (2021: none) Trustees.

11. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the period ended 31 August 2022 was £3,116 (2021: £2,520). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Cost	Leasehold land & buildings £	Assets Under Construction £	Furniture & equipment £	Computer equipment & software £	Total £
At 1 September 2021	3,039,802	274,234	212,694	433,780	3,960,510
Additions	958,441	-	34,710	8,300	1,001,451
Transfer into use	274,234	(274,234)			
At 31 August 2022	4,272,477		247,404	442,080	4,961,961
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2021	443,235		138,226	368,485	949,946
Charged in year	73,552		32,447	39,042	145,041
At 31 August 2022	516,787		170,673	407,527	1,094,987
Net book values At 31 August 2022	3,755,690		76,731	34,553	3,866,974
At 1 September 2021	2,596,567	274,234	74,468	65,295	3,010,564

All assets are used for educational purposes.

No assets were held by the subsidiary trading company.

Included within Leasehold Land and Buildings is the valuation prepared by DTZ on behalf of the Education and Skills Funding Agency on conversion to an academy of £2,142,025 (Land £244,011 and Buildings £1,898,014). All other additions post conversion are included at cost.

The Academy trust holds a long term lease of 125 years for the Land and Buildings owned by Suffolk County Council for nil consideration.

13. STOCK

	2022 £	2021 £
Clothing and oil	3,354	5,282
	3,354	5,282

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022

14. DEBTORS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	1,376	3,993
Other debtors	450	19,140
Prepayments and accrued income	225,194	250,125
VAT recoverable	22,882	69,801
	<u>249,902</u>	<u>343,059</u>

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other creditors	94,362	90,188
Loans	26,760	24,847
Accruals and deferred income	252,397	257,718
	<u>373,519</u>	<u>372,753</u>

Included in loans is £26,760 (2021: £24,847) from ESFA regarding CIF advance and Salix loan, which is provided interest free and repayable over a period of seven and eight years.

Deferred Income

	2022	2021
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 September 2021		6,435
Resources deferred in the year	15,944	
Amounts released from previous year		(6,435)
	<u>15,944</u>	<u></u>

Deferred income in 2022 represented funds received from Suffolk County Council employer's national insurance contribution.

16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Loans	83,376	110,136
	<u>83,376</u>	<u>110,136</u>

Included in loans is £83,376 (2021: £110,136) from ESFA regarding CIF advance and Salix loan, which is provided interest free and repayable over a period of seven and eight years. Of the £83,376, £9,570 (2021: £13,121) was due after 5 years.

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022

17. FUNDS

	Balance at 1 September 2021	Income	Expenditure	Gains, losses and transfers	Balance at 31 August 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)		1,640,000	(1,563,817)	11,510	87,693
Other DfE/ESFA Grants		1,808,128	(1,808,128)		
Other Restricted funds	5,500	148,198	(147,172)		6,526
Other DfE/ESFA Covid-19 funding		73,085	(46,227)		26,858
Kickstart grant		15,267	(15,267)		
Pension reserve	(2,278,000)		(380,000)	2,658,000	
	<u>(2,272,500)</u>	<u>3,684,678</u>	<u>(3,960,611)</u>	<u>2,669,510</u>	<u>121,077</u>
Restricted fixed asset Funds					
DfE/ESFA capital grants	39,990	260,290	(103,521)		196,759
Other capital grants	1,336,625	2,500			1,339,125
Capital expenditure from GAG and Unrestricted Funds	1,216,425		(6,036)	55,765	1,266,154
Donated assets	1,224,852		(35,484)	-	1,189,368
Restricted funds	<u>27,248</u>				<u>27,248</u>
	<u>3,845,140</u>	<u>262,790</u>	<u>(145,041)</u>	<u>55,765</u>	<u>4,018,654</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>1,572,640</u>	<u>3,947,468</u>	<u>(4,105,652)</u>	<u>2,725,275</u>	<u>4,139,731</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	803,248	93,597		(67,275)	829,570
Total unrestricted funds	<u>803,248</u>	<u>93,597</u>		<u>(67,275)</u>	<u>829,570</u>
Total funds	<u>2,375,888</u>	<u>4,041,065</u>	<u>(4,105,652)</u>	<u>2,658,000</u>	<u>4,969,301</u>

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

General Annual Grant: funds received from the ESFA for the running of The Ashley School Academy Trust.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward as at 31 August 2022.

Other DfE/ESFA Grants: Pupil Premium funds received from the ESFA for the provision of education.

Other Restricted Funds: funds received for specific revenue projects and activities undertaken by the Academy.

Catch up premium: funds received from the ESFA to support children and young people to catch up on missed learning caused by coronavirus.

Other DfE/ESFA Covid-19 funding: funds received from the ESFA for mass testing.

Pension Reserve: represents the School's liability relating to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022

17. FUNDS (continued)

DfE/ESFA Capital Grants: funds provided by the government towards specific capital projects.

Other capital grants: Funds received from Suffolk County Council for the school expansion, funds received from Salix Finance Limited for the public sector decarbonisation scheme and a CIF award for window replacements.

Capital expenditure from GAG and other funds: represents the transfer of capital expenditure from restricted funds.

Donated assets: relates to assets donated to the academy trust.

Restricted fixed asset Funds: restricted funds relates to funding for specific capital projects.

Comparative Information in respect on the preceding period is as follows:

	Balance at 1 September 2020	Income	Expenditure	Gains, losses and transfers	Balance at 31 August 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	47,663	1,399,790	(1,348,766)	(98,687)	
Other DfE/ESFA Grants		1,624,376	(1,624,376)		
Other Restricted funds	5,500	190,832	(190,832)		5,500
Catch up premium		33,600	(33,600)		
Other DfE/ESFA Covid-19 funding		27,090	(27,090)		
Pension reserve	(1,447,000)		(232,000)	(599,000)	(2,278,000)
	<u>(1,393,837)</u>	<u>3,275,688</u>	<u>(3,456,664)</u>	<u>(697,687)</u>	<u>(2,272,500)</u>
Restricted fixed asset Funds					
DfE/ESFA capital grants	105,514	10,961	(76,485)		39,990
Other capital grants		1,337,442	(817)		1,336,625
Capital expenditure from GAG and Unrestricted Funds	992,837		(4,764)	228,352	1,216,425
Donated assets	1,241,704	15,600	(32,452)		1,224,852
Restricted funds	27,248				27,248
	<u>2,367,303</u>	<u>1,364,003</u>	<u>(114,518)</u>	<u>228,352</u>	<u>3,845,140</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>973,466</u>	<u>4,639,691</u>	<u>(3,571,182)</u>	<u>(469,335)</u>	<u>1,572,640</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	848,701	95,793	(11,581)	(129,665)	803,248
Ashley School Trading Limited					
Total unrestricted funds	<u>848,701</u>	<u>95,793</u>	<u>(11,581)</u>	<u>(129,665)</u>	<u>803,248</u>
Total funds	<u>1,822,167</u>	<u>4,735,484</u>	<u>(3,582,763)</u>	<u>(599,000)</u>	<u>2,375,888</u>

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted general funds	Restricted fixed asset funds	Total funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	3,886,974	3,886,974
Net current assets	829,570	121,077	235,056	1,185,703
Long term liabilities	-	-	(83,376)	(83,376)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	-
Total net assets	829,570	121,077	4,018,654	4,969,301

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

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted general funds	Restricted fixed asset funds	Total funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	3,010,564	3,010,564
Net current assets	803,248	5,500	944,712	1,753,460
Long term liabilities	-	-	(110,136)	(110,136)
Pension scheme liability	-	(2,278,000)	-	(2,278,000)
Total net assets	803,248	(2,272,500)	3,845,140	2,375,888

19. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	155,981	853,716

20. COMMITMENTS UNDER OPERATING LEASES

At 31 August 2022 the total of the Academy Trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2022 £	2021 £
Amounts due within one year	589	2,491
Amounts due between 1 year and 5 years	2,354	206
	2,943	2,697

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022

21. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH OUTFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2022 £	2021 £
Net (expenditure)/income	(64,587)	1,152,721
Depreciation (note 12)	145,041	114,518
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(262,790)	(1,348,403)
Interest receivable (note 5)	(1,085)	(91)
Fixed assets donated (note 2)	-	(15,600)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contribution payable	340,000	206,000
Defined benefit pension finance cost	40,000	26,000
Decrease in stock	1,928	268
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	74,017	(225,339)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(1,147)	243,215
Net cash provided by operating activities	271,377	153,289

22. CASHFLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

	2022 £	2021 £
Interest received	1,085	91
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,001,451)	(742,179)
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	262,790	1,348,403
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities	(737,576)	606,315

23. CASHFLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES

	2022 £	2021 £
Repayments of borrowing	(24,847)	(24,847)
Cash inflows from new borrowing	19,140	-
Net cash (used in) by financing activities	(5,707)	(24,847)

24. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	At 31 August 2022 £	At 1 September 2021 £
Cash in hand and at bank	1,305,966	1,777,872

25. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 September 2021 £	Cash Flows £	At 31 August 2022 £
Cash	1,777,872	(471,906)	1,305,966
Loans falling due within one year	(24,847)	(1,913)	(26,760)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(110,136)	26,760	(83,376)
Total	1,642,889	(447,059)	1,195,830

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022

26. MEMBERS' LIABILITY

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

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022

27. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS

The Academy'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 Suffolk County Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2019.

Included in other creditors at the year end was outstanding pension contributions amounting to £49,132 (2021: £49,197).

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 5 March 2019. 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 employers pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £262,080 (2021: £243,533).

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

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022

27. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)

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 2022 was £213,000 (2021: £213,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £161,000 (2021: £165,000) and employees' contributions totalled £52,000 (2021: £48,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 19.5% for employers and 5.5% - 10.5% for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme Liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

Principal Actuarial Assumptions

	At 31 August 2022 % P.A.	At 31 August 2021 % P.A.
Pension increase rate	3.0	2.9
Salary increase rate	3.8	3.6
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.3	1.7
Inflation assumption (CPI)	3.0	2.9
Commutation of pensions to lumps sums	25% and 63%	25% and 63%

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

	At 31 August 2022	At 31 August 2021
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.9	22.1
Females	24.3	24.5
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.9	23.2
Females	26.1	26.4

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

	Fair value at 31 August 2022 £	Fair value at 31 August 2021 £
Equities	2,187,000	2,014,000
Bonds	707,000	763,000
Property	322,000	214,000
Cash		61,000
Total market value of assets	3,216,000	3,052,000

The actual return on the scheme assets for the year was (£26,000) (2021: £426,000).

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022

27. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (CONTINUED)

Amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	2022	2021
	£	£
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	(501,000)	(371,000)
Interest cost	(92,000)	(69,000)
Interest income	52,000	43,000
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	<u>(541,000)</u>	<u>(397,000)</u>

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

	2022	2021
	£	£
At 1 September 2021	5,330,000	3,881,000
Current service cost	501,000	371,000
Interest cost	92,000	69,000
Employee contribution	52,000	48,000
Actuarial gains	(2,925,000)	982,000
Estimated benefits paid	<u>(23,000)</u>	<u>(21,000)</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>3,027,000</u>	<u>5,330,000</u>

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

	2022	2021
	£	£
At 1 September 2021	3,052,000	2,434,000
Interest income	52,000	43,000
Employer contributions	161,000	165,000
Employee contributions	52,000	48,000
Actuarial (loss)/gains	(78,000)	383,000
Estimated benefits paid	<u>(23,000)</u>	<u>(21,000)</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>3,216,000</u>	<u>3,052,000</u>

Sensitivity analysis

	Approximate % Increase in Defined Benefit Obligation	Approximate monetary amount £
0.1% decrease in the Real Discount Rate	3%	82,000
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	121,000
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	5,000
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	3%	78,000

THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2022

28. 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

Mr L C Chapman, director of Ashley School Trading Limited until 1 March 2022 when the company was dissolved, is a Director at SENDAT and Headteacher of Priory School, Bury St Edmunds. During the year purchases from SENDAT and Priory School were made for a educational trip amounting to £3,416 (2021: £Nil). At the year end £Nil (2021: £Nil) was owed to Priory School from the Trust.

R Jones, daughter of D Sibbald (trustee resigned 10/09/2021), is employed by the academy trust as a teaching assistant. R Jones's appointment was made in open competition and D Sibbald was not involved in the decision-making process regarding appointment. R Jones is paid within the normal pay scale for her role and receives no special treatment as a result of her relationship with a trustee.

K Hester, trustee is a Director of Adnams PLC. During the year purchases from Adnams were made for £100 for vouchers for staff retirement and leaving gifts (2021: £Nil). At the year end £Nil (2021: £Nil) was owed to Adnams.

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

Income Related Party Transactions

Mr L C Chapman, director of Ashley School Trading Limited until 1 March 2022 when the company was dissolved, is a Director at SENDAT and Headteacher of Priory School, Bury St Edmunds. During the year training was provided to the school amounting to £460, £575 was also refunded for visits not carried out (2021: £75,000 for Outreach services). At the year end £Nil (2021: £Nil) was owed from Priory School to the trust.