

Company registration number 07890590 (England and Wales)

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023



BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

Bishop R Byrne (resigned December 2022)
Bishop S Wright (appointed from June 2023)
Mrs D Fox
Rev S Lerche
Rev Canon Peter Leighton

Trustees

Mr C Coxon (Vice Chair)
Mr P Cantwell (Resigned 30 June 2023)
Mr M Gannon
Mrs M Harrison (Resigned 30 June 2023)
Mr I Mearns MP
Mrs C Reid (Resigned 15 May 2023)
Mrs A Boyle (Interim Chair)
Rev C M Hayden
Mr D Hicks
Mr S Horne (Resigned 27 June 2023)
Mr A Egdell

Senior management team

- CEO/Accounting Officer	Mr N Hurn OBE
- Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Mr J Parkinson (resigned Dec 22)
- Chief Operating Officer	Mrs L Levy
- Chief Technology Officer	Mr U Chughtai
- Senior Director of Performance & Standards	Mrs C Brown (appointed November 2022)
- Director of Commercial	Mrs J Collins
- Director of Teaching & Learning	Miss M Murphy
- Director of Safeguarding and Welfare	Mrs A Riley
- Director of Ethos	Mrs B Reilly-O'Donnell
- Director of Estates	Miss L A Hall
- Director of Governance	Mrs J Ridley
- Chief Financial Officer	Mrs L Smith
- Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Mrs L Stephenson
- Director of Operations	Mrs C Barclay
- Director of HR	Mrs P Mee (appointed January 2023)
- Director of ICT Strategy & Operations	Mr A Freeman (appointed March 2023)

Company secretary

Ms L Levy

Company registration number

07890590 (England and Wales)

Registered office

Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Hq
Barmston Court, Nissan Way
Turbine Business Park
Washington, Sunderland
Tyne & Wear
SR5 3NY
England

Academies operated

St Michael's Catholic Primary School (Sunderland)
St Bede's Catholic Primary School (Sunderland)

Location

Sunderland
Sunderland

Executive Headteacher

Mr N Reeson
Mr J Anderson

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Primary SchoolSunderland (Sunderland)	Mrs C Garbutt
St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and SixthSunderland Form College (Sunderland)	Mr D Juric
St John Boste Catholic Primary SchoolSunderland (Sunderland)	Mrs D Cushlow
St Bede's Catholic Comprehensive School andCounty Durham Sixth Form College (County Durham)	Mrs C Hamill
St Leonard's Catholic School (County Durham) County Durham	Mr C Hammill
St Thomas More Catholic School (Gateshead) Gateshead	Mrs J Turner
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School (Gateshead) Gateshead	Mr S Woods
St Matthew's Catholic Primary SchoolNorthumberland (Northumberland)	Mr M Gray
St Bede's Catholic Primary School (CountyCounty Durham Durham)	Mrs S Clarke
St Godric's Catholic Primary School (CountyCounty Durham Durham)	Mrs E Bridon
Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Primary SchoolCounty Durham (County Durham)	Mrs L Keenan
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (CountyCounty Durham Durham - Ushaw Moor)	Mrs L Keenan
St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School (CountyCounty Durham Durham)	Mrs A Garrity
St Joseph's Catholic Middle SchoolNorthumberland (Northumberland)	Mr N Wood
St Mary's Catholic First School (Northumberland) Northumberland	Mrs S Oakes
St Alban's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead) Gateshead	Mrs M Robinson
St Mary's Catholic Primary School (County Durham)County Durham	Mrs M Ross
St Michael's Catholic Primary School (CountyCounty Durham Durham)	Mrs C Parker
St Benet's Catholic Primary School (CountyCounty Durham Durham)	Mrs C Young
St Oswald's Catholic Primary (Gateshead) Gateshead	Mrs T Musgrove
St Joseph's Catholic Primary (County Durham -County Durham Stanley)	Mrs J Burgess
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School (CountyCounty Durham Durham)	Mrs J Burgess
St Augustine's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead)Gateshead	Mrs G Lynch
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead) Gateshead	Mrs S Fraser
Cardinal Hume Catholic School (Gateshead) Gateshead	Mr B Robson
St Anne's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead) Gateshead	Mrs L Stokoe
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Sunderland) Sunderland	Mrs E Maher
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (CountyCounty Durham Durham - Gilesgate)	Mr D Miller
St Thomas More Primary School (County Durham -County Durham Belmont)	Mr T Hunt
St Mary's Catholic Primary School (County DurhamCounty Durham - South Moor)	Mrs J Gill
St Pius Xth Catholic Primary School (CountyCounty Durham Durham - Consett)	Mrs J Cruise
St Philip Neri Catholic Primary School (Gateshead -Gateshead Dunston)	Mrs S Williams
Our Lady and St Joseph Brooms Catholic PrimaryCounty Durham School (County Durham - Leadgate)	Mrs J Cruise
St Joseph's Catholic Junior School (County DurhamCounty Durham - Birtley)	Mrs K Swaddle

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

St Joseph's Catholic Infant School (County DurhamCounty Durham - Birtley)	Mrs K Swaddle
St Peter's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead -Gateshead Low Fell)	Mrs P McArthur
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School (CountyCounty Durham Durham - Consett)	Mrs J Gill
Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School (Gateshead)Gateshead	Mrs C Maxwell
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead -Gateshead Blaydon)	Mr P Naughton
St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead -Gateshead Whickham)	Mr J Wheatley
St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead) Gateshead	Mr J Philips
St Mary' & St Thomas Aquinas Catholic PrimaryGateshead School (Gateshead - Blaydon)	Mr J Craig
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School (CountyCounty Durham Durham - Langley Moor)	Mr D Miller
All Saints' Catholic Primary School (County DurhamCounty Durham - Lanchester)	Mrs F Stephenson
St Agnes' Catholic Primary School (Gateshead -Gateshead Crawcrook)	Mrs J Woods

Independent auditor

Azets Audit Services
Wynyard Park House
Wynyard Avenue
Wynyard
TS22 5TB
United Kingdom

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
PO Box 100
Andover
BX1 1LT
United Kingdom

Solicitors

WBD (UK) LLP
The Spark
Draymans Way
Newcastle Helix
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 5DE

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

The trust operates 47 academies (5 Secondary academies, 1 Middle School, 1 First School and 40 Primary academies) for over 16,000 pupils aged 3 to 18 serving a catchment area across 4 different Local Authorities – Gateshead, Sunderland, Durham and Northumberland.

The Trust has almost 2,000 staff employed in Teaching and Support staff roles.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The multi 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 Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust. Prior to converting to a Multi Academy Trust during 2016, the company was previously known as Cardinal Hume Catholic School.

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

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

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.

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

The trust has a set of rules and procedures setting out how it is run and how it conducts its business and meetings. These are known as the Articles of Association and sets out the trusts charitable objects.

The Diocesan Bishop and Board of Education formally consider and appoint all Members of the Trust Board, whether they are Foundation Board Members or other applicants.

Application forms are submitted by the candidates and reviewed by the Diocesan Board of Education prior to appointment. All Foundation Members of the Board must be practising Catholics and will be interviewed by Diocesan representatives prior to appointment.

Each of the individual Catholic academies have their own Local Governing Committees. The Chair of each Committee must be a practising Catholic and approved by the Bishop and Diocesan Board of Education.

The Trust has a set of rules and procedures setting out how it is run and how it conducts its business and meetings. These are known as the Articles of Association and set out the Trusts charitable objects. The Local Governing Committee members of each school within the Trust, must all apply in the same way, directly to the Director of Governance within the Trust, in order then to submit the appropriate application form for approval by the Bishop. Local Governing Committees may appoint Staff Trustees through an election process, provided that the total number of Trustees on each Local Governing Committee (including the Headteacher) who are employees of the Academy does not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees and Article 58A shall apply.

The term of office for any Director shall be 4 years or a shorter period if specified at the time of appointment.

Additional Governors/Trustees:

The Trustees may appoint no more than 1 other Trustee, and the number of Foundation Trustees must outnumber the non-Foundation Governors by at least 2.

The Headteacher within each academy shall be treated for all purposes as being an ex officio Trustee.

Subject to Article 57, the Parent Trustees shall be elected by parents of registered pupils at the Academy. A Parent Trustee must be a parent of a pupil at the Academy at the time when they are elected. The Trustees shall make all necessary arrangements for, and determine all other matters relating to, an election of Parent Trustees, including any question of whether a person is a parent of a registered pupil at the Academy. Any election of Parent Trustees which is contested shall be held by secret ballot, via the Clerk to the Local Governing Committee.

The Staff Trustees shall be elected by a secret ballot of all staff employed under a contract of employment or a contract for services or otherwise engaged to provide services to the Academy (excluding the Headteacher of an Academy). All arrangements for the calling and the conduct of the election will be administered by the Clerk to the Local Governing Committee and resolution of questions as to whether any person is an eligible candidate shall be determined by the Trustees.

If a Staff Trustee ceases to work at an Academy then they shall be deemed to have resigned and shall cease to be a Governor automatically on termination of their work at the Academy. Any election of a Staff Trustee which is contested shall be held by Secret ballot, arranged by the Clerk to the Local Governing Committee.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

All Trust Board Directors will meet with the CEO for an induction meeting. This could cover educational elements, legal and financial matters. New Local Governing Committee members of Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust will have an introductory discussion with their Headteachers and with either the Director of Governance or their Local Governing Clerk. They can access induction and on-going training via the Governor Hub portal administered by the Trust and which they will be given access to on appointment as a Governor. The sessions offered will usually be internal delivered by the Trust, from the Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, Local Authorities or Schools North East. Individual Local Authorities produce an annual Course Directory which is reviewed each year to reflect any changes in practice and legislation. Trustees can also access information directly from the Company Secretary at Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust, to assist with their development. A number of sessions will also be arranged by the Clerk to the Trustees to assist Trustees in their pursuit of the highest standards of governance. Training for individual Board Members and Governors will be provided by the Governance team at Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust.

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Organisational structure

The trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The Trust Board has a strategic role in running the academies within the trust and is responsible for appointing trustees. It has control over the land and other assets and delegates management of each academy to the trustees.

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, the Articles and to any directions given by special resolution, the business of the trust shall be managed by the trustees who may exercise all the powers of the trust. No alteration of the article shall be limited by any special power given to the trustees by the articles and a meeting of trustees at which a quorum is present may exercise all the powers exercisable by the trustees.

The Trust's Management Structure consists of:

- The Directors
- The CEO and Trust Executive Leadership Team
- The Local Governing Committees for each individual school
- Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team of each individual school

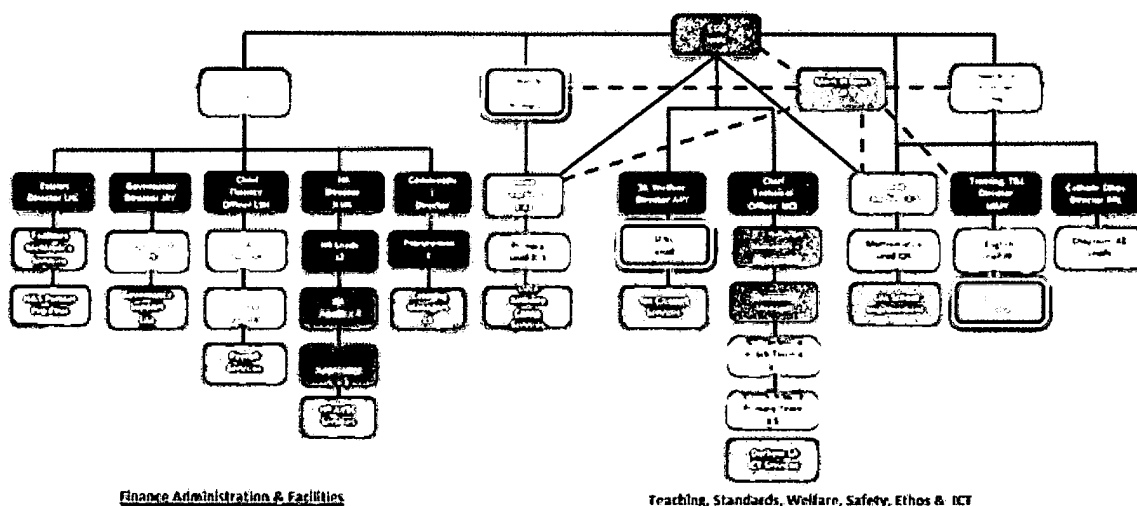
This structure allows sufficient segregation of duties and delegation of authority responsibly. The Diocesan Scheme of Delegation, together with Trust Academy Handbook ensure that transparency in the processes linked to decision-making can take place.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), as accounting officer, has personal responsibility to the trustees for financial and administrative matters including:

- Ensuring regularity and propriety
- Prudent and economical administration
- Avoidance of waste and extravagance
- Efficient and effective use of available resources
- Day to day organisation, majority of staffing and financial decisions and management of the academy has been delegated to the Headteacher in each school



BWCET Staff Structure
Executive Team Accountability Plan



BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Arrangements for setting and reviewing pay and remuneration are reviewed annually and the pay policy is approved by the Board, following appropriate consultation with Union colleagues via the JCC.

The trustees and key management personnel including the CEO, Executive team and Headteachers review and challenge the academy staffing structures regularly to ensure the most appropriate and robust structures are in place to meet the needs of the Trust Essential Services Team and individual schools, whilst maintaining financial integrity. Executive Team and Senior Leaders pay is tightly correlated to strong educational outcomes and sound financial management.

The trust benchmarks the size of their senior leadership teams for example against that of similar schools/academies.

The BWCET Pay Policy for accounting year 2022-23 for all staff, including key leaders within the Trust, was approved and is governed by the Trust Board. The policy includes that all teachers are employed in accordance with the School Teachers Pay & Conditions document and the undertaking of the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle that it will abide by the National Terms & Conditions. The Pay Policy was also reviewed by Union Colleagues when issued for consultation by the Trust, via the JCC.

The CEO is Accounting Officer. An independent review of the CEO and Senior Executive Team salaries within the Trust was completed by the HR Director and an external HR Consultant to benchmark salaries of existing roles of the same responsibilities in other Trusts. The CEO salary is set and agreed by the Board.

There is a robust staff appraisal process, which the trust reviews annually and in turn supports with strong performance management. Pay progression recommendations are reviewed by the Local Governing Committee of each academy for their own individual staff, alongside appropriate evidence. The summary of which is then considered by the trust Board of Directors for approval.

The trustees do not receive any remuneration.

Trade union facility time

The Trust Leadership team has effective working relationships with Union colleagues. The Trust pays into Local Authority schemes who provide this service from both Durham, Sunderland, Northumberland and Gateshead Local Authorities.

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

Worthwhile consultation was undertaken before the TUPE of staff to Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust via whole-staff meetings, one-to-one meetings, either face to face or virtually.

In order to retain meaningful relationships with both our employees and Trade Union colleagues, the Trust has established a Joint Consultative Committee with Union colleagues (JCC) to provide a forum for discussion, consultation and negotiation, prior to large-scale rollout to all staff. It considers:

- Employment relations matters
- Policy development
- Working arrangements
- Training and development
- Welfare
- Terms & Conditions of employment
- Pay & Pensions
- Equality
- Health & Safety
- Pending Trust developments

The Trust Executive Leadership Team hosts fortnightly, group, virtual meetings for all Headteachers to attend. There is the opportunity for Trust updates and discussion/feedback from Heads is welcomed. This regular communication is important to ensure any issues can be channelled to the appropriate Directors for attention. The Heads are responsible for sharing the information provided to their staff in schools.

The policy of the Trust is to support recruitment and retention of both employees and pupils with disabilities. All schools have an Equality Impact Statement published on their individual websites which is updated biannually or when necessary if earlier.

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

Directors and Local Governors have a crucial role to play in connecting Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust and its schools with wider stakeholders in the communities and businesses across all our local areas. Professional links will enhance the education and aspirations of our pupils.

The Trust recognises the responsibility it, and each school, has in playing its part in engaging with customers, business and suppliers. This has a direct positive impact on our pupils and the communities we serve in many ways.

We have developed formal and mutually beneficial relationships with all of our strategic suppliers and have implemented a unique social value model to ensure contractual obligations are focused on enhancing the quality of education and outcomes for our pupils.

For example, we have:

- Established a financial support fund, St Nicholas Fund, to provide specific financial support to our most vulnerable pupils and families facing particularly challenging circumstances.
- Utilised our commercial relationships to create specific apprenticeship opportunities across butchery, quality control and asbestos management with independent suppliers as well as our local authority partners.
- Secured contractual commitment to support T Level placements over a four-year period.
- Achieved contractual commitment to the development of education programmes to support environmental practice and reducing waste, improving cyber security, enhancing ICT skills and infrastructure support.

We continue to utilise a consistent commercial model and 7-step approach to ensure consistency across all activity and involving all relevant staff. Our commercial approach supports our scheme of delegation and public contract regulations. The Commercial Strategy and Vision covers how we ensure Compliance, Make effective Savings for our schools which can be used to benefit the pupil experiences and to improve outcomes directly.

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Commercial activity throughout the financial year has been focused on a number of areas:

- Trust-wide single Management Information System, covering all schools
- ICT Partnership covering multiple ICT lots for all requirements from devices through to infrastructure development, audio visual needs and specialist consultancy
- Asset Collection across all schools to understand statutory compliance needs
- Washroom Services re-tender for all schools
- Site remedial minor works and enhancement across a large number of schools
- Consistent approach to Asbestos Management for all schools
- Staff Absence Protection for all schools
- Supply Staff, including a tier 1 and tier 2 provider for all temporary supply needs
- Catering Equipment & Maintenance
- Ongoing SLA discussions with Durham and Gateshead
- Bishop Wilkinson Commercial Services Ltd continued development supporting other Trusts and schools

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust is now a Trust with 47 academies. The Trust is part of the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle but is not part of any wider network, other than being the Lead School in the Centre for Teaching. This has no impact on the operating policies of Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust.

The CEO and COO are also involved with Education Mutual Limited, a not for profit staff sickness absence cover provider. The CEO and COO of Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust receive no financial incentive for being part of the Education Mutual Board of Directors, Company Secretary nor a Member school. Approval was provided by the Chair and Board of The Trust for their involvement at the outset of the Mutual's development in 2018 and on an annual basis since. It is Minuted accordingly. The CEO and COO are also Board members of Schools Mutual Ltd, again a not for profit Recruitment and staff Supply Company. The CEO and COO of Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust receive no financial incentive for being part of the Schools Mutual Board of Directors, Company Secretary nor a Member school.

The ESFA have provided approval for both the Related Party Transactions shown in the Accounts and the CEO and COO involvement in Education Mutual and Schools Mutual Services is well known throughout the Education sector.

Once the schools are formally incorporated into the Trust, an assessment of services provided by external companies is then determined by the internal Finance team. At that point, an assessment of providers is issued to the Commercial Department within the Trust. The Commercial Team then assess which services must be procured centrally and determine which providers are approaching/over the Trust Handbook thresholds. Schools Mutual is widely used by the Schools within the Trust, due to the ethical nature of the Mutual company and the cost of Supply staff which provides best value for money. An independent process and formal tender was then undertaken via the Constellia Framework and most suitable company was awarded the Contract. SMS were the successful tenderers. The Trust has also established our own trading subsidiary Bishop Wilkinson Commercial Services Limited (BWCS) trading as Education Commercial Services (ECS), which allows the Trust to provide services to other schools outside of the parameters of teaching, in order to generate additional income.

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The principal object and activity of the charitable trust is the operation of Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust to provide education for pupils between the ages of 3 and 18, based on an inclusive, balanced and broad curriculum. The Academy's admissions code has Trustee approval and is published on our website www.bwcet.com.

The Academy's object ("The Object") is specifically restricted to the following: to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, managing, carrying on, and developing Catholic schools. This can be either by the offering of a broad and balanced curriculum and shall be conducted in accordance with the principles, practices and tenets of the Catholic Church and all Catholic canon law applying thereto, including any trust deed governing the use of land used by the MAT both generally and in particular in relation to arranging for religious education and daily acts of worship and having regard to any advice and following directives issued by the Diocesan Bishop.

The Trust shall ensure that all Academies within the Trust comply with any guidance issued by the Secretary of State from time to time, and will ensure that pupils take part in statutory and teacher assessments and in teacher assessments of pupils' performance as they apply to maintained schools.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The Trust schools are situated within four Local Authorities –Gateshead, Sunderland Durham and Northumberland. Predominantly the area has a White-British intake, but has an increasing proportion of EAL/EM pupils. The Trust's mix of pupils is genuinely comprehensive with a larger than average proportion coming from areas of deprivation, and broadly average numbers of disadvantaged pupils. The Trust's stability falls into the upper quintile.

The staff teams within the academies are committed to the children, and provide a stable, happy and highly effective education for the pupils, and were supportive of joining the MAT with the best interests of the pupils and their catholic education in mind. Staff turnover is healthy.

The Trust Development Plan covers the following main areas with specific Aims and Objectives linked to each one:

Curriculum Impact
Curriculum Implementation
Behaviour and Attitudes
Catholic Ethos, Personal Development & SMSC

The areas above are then split down into specific actions and Success Criteria targets. They are allocated to specific members of Working Groups within the MAT Leadership Team and the Headteachers manage and monitor progress throughout the year. In May of each year, the outcomes are reviewed and progress measured accordingly against the pre-determined success criteria.

Public benefit

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our Aims and Objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular the Board consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set. The Trust has provided a fully comprehensive education to all students in its care. It fully complies with all statutory guidance, The National Curriculum and seeks to support its wider educational objectives via a strong community role. The schools within the Trust comply with their duty to teach the National Curriculum and meet the standards set by Ofsted. The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charities Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

STATUTORY OUTCOMES 2023

Early Years

74% of children achieved the Good Level of Development at the end of the Reception Year which indicates their readiness for KS1. This is a +3% improvement on the Trust's 2022 position. The national average is not yet available for 2023. If we compare to 2022, we are 9% above the national average.

Phonics

85% of children achieved the vitally important phonics check standard at the end of the Year 1, which indicates their reading security. This is a +5% improvement on the Trust's 2022 position. The national average is not yet available for 2023. If we compare to 2022, we are 10% above the national average.

Key Stage 1 SATS (Year 2)

75% of children achieved the expected standard in reading. A 5% improvement on the Trust's 2022 position and 8% above NA. 19% of children achieved the greater depth standard in reading. A 4% improvement on the Trust's 2022 position and 1% above NA.

69% of children achieved the expected standard in writing. An 8% improvement on the Trust's 2022 position and 10% above NA. 8% of children achieved the GDS in writing. A 1% improvement on the Trust's 2022 position and in line with NA.

77% of children achieved the expected standard in mathematics. A 6% improvement on the Trust's 2022 position and 9% above NA. 15% of children achieved the GDS in maths. A 1% improvement on the Trust's 2022 position and in line with NA.

Multiplication Tables Check (Year 4)

The average score achieved by pupils was 21/25. This is an improvement of 1 point on the Trust score in 2022. It compares positively to the national average.

35% of pupils achieved full marks in the test – an improvement of 7% compared to last year. This also compares positively to the national average.

Key Stage 2 SATS (Year 6)

Reading

78% of children achieved the expected standard in reading. This is a dip of 2% on 2022 Trust figures, however the national average also dipped by 2%. The Trust sits 5% above the national average. 32% of pupils achieved the greater depth standard. This was the same as last year and is around 3% above the national average. The national average increased this year. The progress score for the Trust in reading is very positive at 0.93, and for all groups of pupils, except disadvantaged pupils. Improving reading at the end of KS2 for disadvantaged pupils is a priority for us.

Writing

76% of children achieved the expected standard. This is an improvement of 5% on 2022 Trust figures. The Trust sits 5% above the national average. 13% of pupils achieved the greater depth standard. This was the same as last year and is in line with the national average. The progress score for the Trust in writing is positive at 0.44. However, it is more variable for some key groups, and is weak for disadvantaged pupils, boys and those with SEND.

Grammar, punctuation and spelling

76% of children achieved the expected standard in GPS. This is a dip of 1% on 2022 Trust figures. The Trust sits 4% above the national average. 28% of pupils achieved the greater depth standard. This is down by 2% compared to last year and is below the national average (30%).

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Mathematics

76% of children achieved the expected standard. This is an improvement of 1% on 2022 Trust figures. The Trust sits 3% above the national average. 22% of pupils achieved the greater depth standard. This was the same as last year and is now below the national average which improved to 24%. The progress score for the Trust in maths is broadly positive at 0.12. However, it is weak for disadvantaged pupils, those with SEND and girls. This will be an area of priority next year.

KS2 RWM combined – measure of 'secondary readiness'

63% of children achieved the expected standard in all three subjects. This is an improvement of 1% on 2022 Trust figures. The Trust sits 4% above the national average. 8% of pupils achieved the greater depth standard. This was the same as last year and is in line with the national average. However, the national average went up this year and our Trust average did not – meaning our gap is widening compared to the national picture.

Primary Priorities

Getting the foundations right for our disadvantaged pupils:

- Increasing proportion of disadvantaged pupils meeting GLD
- Increasing proportion of disadvantaged pupils meeting the phonics check standard in Y1
- Raising the attainment of disadvantaged pupils by the end of KS2 so that more meet the secondary-readiness measure.

Improving mathematical attainment at KS2, both at expected standard and greater depth standard, particularly focusing on:

- Pupils with SEND
- Disadvantaged pupils
- Girls

Improving attainment in writing across KS1 and 2, both at expected standard and greater depth standard particularly focusing on:

- Accuracy in grammar, punctuation and spelling
- The attainment of boys, pupils with SEND and disadvantaged pupils.

Developing and embedding a programme of meaningful and reliable assessment:

- Decoupling formative and summative assessment
- Developing a shared language of assessment across our schools
- Capitalising on the strengths of our Trust family to support moderation and consistency
- Empowering teachers to develop their professional judgement around formative assessment

Embed and assure the quality of implementation of the new curriculums in:

- History
- Geography
- MFL
- Science

Key Stage 4 outcomes

- Progress 8 estimate for the Trust is +0.33 which is an increase from +0.25 in 2022.
- Attainment 8 estimate for the Trust is 53.79 which is a slight decrease from 55.83 in 2022 (-2.04). Nationally, the estimated decrease in A8 is larger - 49.10 to 46.47 (-2.63)
- Strong Pass (5+) in English and Maths is 59.1% (2022 – 60.0%)
- Standard Pass (4+) in English and Maths is 78.2% (2022 – 80.4%)

The Trust EBacc entry rate was 48.7% (50.8% in 2022). The national benchmark was 37.3%. Known entries issues at STM and STL. Average point score was 4.75 (4.93 in 2022). The national benchmark was 4.27. 24.7% of pupils in the Trust achieved a strong pass in the EBacc (31.6% in 2022). The national benchmark was 19.2%. 34.2% of pupils in the Trust achieved a standard pass in the EBacc (39.5% in 2022). The national benchmark was 25.7%.

Open basket results typically strongest in all schools. Vocational typically strong within this. Some variability between the same subject on different awarding bodies.

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Key Stage 5 outcomes

Trust Average Point Score (APS) has returned to around 2019 levels, in line with the national picture. CHS, STM and STR come out favourably against 2019 APS. STL and STM do very well on cumulative grade performance against national average, particularly on A*-A. STR and STB are less secure, with STR being below national measures on all grades and below the regional measure for A*-A grades. Outcomes on vocational courses are strong in all schools except for STB. Tech Level outcomes look particularly strong at CHS and STR.

Secondary Priorities

- Improve the progress and attainment for pupils with SEND.
- Improve the progress and attainment of disadvantaged pupils.
- Improve attainment and progress in English language.
- Reduce the absence of disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND.

School Inspection (June to September 2023)

Catholic School Inspection outcomes – 5 primary schools judged to be good or better

Ofsted Inspections – 5 primary schools – 4 judged to be good and 1 judged to require improvement

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Quality of Education

Ensuring that the quality of education is at least good across all schools in the trust remains our main priority. We are working collaboratively together, in clusters, to support the development of the curriculum. We have secured the services of a number of nationally acclaimed experts to support us with our curriculum developments.

This academic year has seen the development of Subject Leader collaborative working groups coming together more frequently to share ideas and expertise.

Behaviour and Attitudes

Ensuring that there is a safe, calm, orderly and positive environment in all of our schools is essential. The Trust has an overview of all behaviour policies. The trust is notified and involved in all suspensions or exclusions. Trends are reviewed by the Executive Leadership Team. The introduction of our new Management Information System (MIS) Arbor has allowed daily attendance levels of all pupils in all schools to be monitored closely across the whole Trust. This is a significant improvement in MI available real time and allows more effective monitoring and action planning to take place.

The Trust launched a Parent Code of Conduct during this academic year, which has been genuinely well-received by the majority of parents, and welcomed by the staff teams across our schools, who appreciate the support of the Trust Leadership team.

Personal Development

All of our schools place the personal development of pupils at the centre of what they do. The Catholic ethos, vision and values underpins all aspects of daily life in schools. The Trust Vision and Values are the pre-requisite of all we do. The Trust ethos is underpinned with our Value of Through Christ, In Partnership.

Our schools use the diocesan RSE and PSHE guidance. Pupils are actively encouraged to take part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. The trust has organised some additional opportunities for disadvantaged pupils to take part in performing arts, positive mental health and sporting activities.

Leadership and Management

We have been working with 'The Centre for Teaching' to develop subject leadership across the primary and secondary phases. Curriculum collaboration groups are now very well attended and frequently using the expertise of national specialists to support the development of the primary curriculum, which will subsequently feed through to Secondary level. Curriculum groups already in place include Early Years, Science, Music, art and design and design and technology. Some primary headteachers have sort some individual additional support from secondary heads of department. We have also established a new headteachers programme, a deputy headteacher formation programme and an executive headteachers support network. All of which have support from the Trust Executive Leadership Team and are very active groups!

Early Years

We have established 5 early years cluster groups to support our early years leaders. We are holding an annual conference this year for all EY practitioners. We are currently supporting a number of our schools to improve their provision both indoors and outdoors. We have also opened 3 new nursery provisions and have plans to open more in the future.

Sixth Form

Our sixth form leaders are working collaboratively as a group. They are looking at curriculum and exam specification. They have identified where some departments are stronger than others and they are sharing good practice, visiting each others schools to review and offer ideas for collaboration.

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trust Board has a reasonable expectation that the 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

Promoting the success of the Trust

The Trust Board has high aspirations for all BWCET schools and appreciates that there is much to be celebrated. Directors have high standards in their decision-making processes to protect the Trust's long-term viability. This must include the interests of all stakeholders, staff, business relationships with suppliers and customers, and within the wider community. It is imperative for the school communities to continue to attract high levels of pupil numbers to ensure their admission numbers reflect the capacity of their school communities.

Financial review

The principal sources of the Academy's income is obtained from the Department for Education (DfE) via the Education Skills & Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted for particular purposes. Such grants and all associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities for the period ending 31st August 2023.

During the period ending 31st August 2023 total Trust expenditure of £99,213,198 was more than DfE grant funding together with other incoming resources. The excess of expenditure over income was £3,769,503 excluding LGPS adjustments, capital income and depreciation. All of the expenditure shown in the Statement of Financial Activities is in furtherance of the Trusts objectives.

Budget and expenditure reviews have been conducted by the Trust Central Finance Team, Trust Finance Committee and Trust Board.

Each academy will have their reserves held individually prior to academy conversion ringfenced for their future use. This had prior approval from the Trust Board and is supported by the Diocese.

The Trust also received School Condition Allocation Funding (SCA) in order to maintain and develop school sites. Devolved Formula Capital from the Diocese and ESFA was also received on behalf of some schools. Total capital grant was £3,840,352

Prior to conversion, each of the Local Governing Committees agreed to contribute an annual contribution of 5% of school income to the Trust to provide the Central Essential Services Team and Trust-wide provision of services via external suppliers.

General and unrestricted reserves of the Trust reduced from £10,855,106 to £6,549,020.

The whole school Trust Forecast for 2022-23 was submitted to the ESFA for scrutiny in August 2023 showing the additional schools and the anticipated income/expenditure forecast for the next 3 years. This was formally approved and ratified by the Trust Board prior to submission.

The closing level of reserves is healthy and demonstrates a history of positive net assets, adequate cash flow to sustain operations and advance the overall achievements of the trust schools.

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

FINANCIAL EFFECT OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

The most significant event affecting the Trust through this Annual Reporting year is as all would expect, is the continuing Cost of Living Crisis. The dramatic effect of unfunded Pay rise repercussions has placed additional pressures on funding across trust schools and the Central Essential Services team. Support for schools has been provided by the Trust Central Leaders to Headteachers and staff within individual academies.

The overall cost of living crisis is being felt across the purchase of just about all goods and services within the Trust. Increasing costs from all partners are being seen in all areas and having a dramatic impact on school budgets. None more so than Energy and School Meal provision in particular. Individual school budgets are under immense pressure and reserves are dwindling. The Cluster Finance Managers across the Trust and Headteachers are working together to frequently monitor expenditure and income, managing the implications directly.

Specific to trust operations, the purchase and development of our new HQ in Barmston in July 2022, was a significant event. However, the use of the building not only for Central Essential Service provision to schools and the statutory reporting completed on schools behalf, has without doubt improved due to the effectiveness of all staff being housed in 1 building. Collaborative working across the trust and external North East schools has improved as we anticipated due to the use of HQ.

Reserves policy

The Trust Board is mindful that since the rapid expansion of Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust since 2019, overall the total reserves have increased significantly. However, due to rising costs and lower funding levels, a higher number of schools however are now seeing reducing reserves. The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle understand the importance of ensuring that Trusts can operate effectively whilst ensuring they have the capacity to respond to adverse changes in financial circumstances of any of its schools. Holding adequate reserves will allow the Trust to meet ongoing working capital requirements. Any new Reserves policy must provide the framework for future strategic planning and decision-making to support the mitigation of risk upon the continuing operations of Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust and the Diocesan Growth Plan.

The Diocese previously introduced an over-arching Reserves Policy to be implemented across all four Diocesan 'Base MAT's' of an aspirational level of 8%. There has been acknowledgement since the development of the Trusts, that in many cases reserves must be utilised to complete necessary building maintenance, implement curriculum improvements and redevelop in school staffing structures which have impacted reserves. Some school reserves are way below the level of the aspirational 8%, The Trust Leadership team will work with the Headteachers/Business Managers in schools to support them to work towards the aspirational targets. This will be monitored on a monthly basis by the Chair/Head/School Business Manager and Executive Leaders to review which schools are in line with Diocesan policy each month.

The Trust remains solvent, is not in an overall deficit position and forecasts remain healthy. However due to the emerging Cost of Living crisis the Board of Directors do not wish to commit to long term investments at this point in time and continue to review the changing position very closely.

Investment policy

The Trust Board is risk averse, and mindful that they are the custodians of a significant amount of public money on behalf of our schools. Therefore, the Board have not committed to any investments for a longer term than 12 months in the past due to the financial climate and uncertainty with funding for schools. However, the Board made the decision in July 2023 to enter into a higher rated short term investment account with Lloyds, the Trust bankers. This low risk arrangement was thought to be particularly prudent, during this period of time and has earned a significantly higher level of interest than in previous years, which also supports the overall trust budgetary position.

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Principal risks and uncertainties

Capacity to handle risk

The Trust manages its finances and risks appropriately, under the direction of not only the Trust Board and the Finance and Audit Committee members, they do so together with the Internal and External Auditors. The Trust Handbook for Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust is the financial guide for Trustees', Headteachers and staff within academies and the Essential Services team to follow. The Handbook draws upon the financial requirements specified in academy Funding Agreement, approved by the Secretary of State for Education prior to conversion to Academy status, must be adhered to by Trustees and staff.

The risk and control framework

Financial and risk management guidance is contained within The Trust Financial Handbook, and provides detailed information on a wide range of financial management, funding and accounting issues, whilst setting out the overall governance framework and key systems and controls that should be in place within Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust. It is the responsibility of the Accounting Officer (CEO), Chief Operating Officer (COO) and the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) in the Trust to ensure that the Central Finance team, as well as those individuals within academies with responsibility for Finance, carry out their duties on accordance with the financial and risk management objectives and policies within the Trust.

The system of internal control is designed to manage risks effectively to a reasonable level, accepting that the trust will not be able to eliminate risk completely. Directors consider strategic risks facing the trust and have an Audit committee in place to review the risk register in detail. Significant risks are then delegated to the appropriate committee to ensure appropriate action is taken and progress monitored.

Principal risks during this accounting year continued to be centred upon the current level of uncertainty of future funding via the DfE/ESFA. This must be carefully monitored and will also continue to be uncertain due to the impending General Election proposed for 2024.

Whilst the trust has suffered from 3 schools being closed due to the Reinforced Aeriated Concrete (RAAC) crisis, during this financial period, we have not seen any related costs. However, the impact of this expenditure will be seen in the next set of Accounts for the Financial Year 1st September 2023-31st August 2024.

The trust is a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme for Support Staff, which results in the recognition of a significant deficit on the trust balance sheet.

The general, sector wide, Staffing attendance levels, supplier contracts, cost of living crisis, falling income generation for schools and continued service provision (as well as anticipated increases in the costs of that provision) are being monitored, documented and informed. It is of major concern to the public sector that due to the significant impact of the cost of living crisis and reduction in income generation opportunities for our private suppliers, that many may cease to trade and schools are left without provision.

We consider that the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, as identified by the trustees, have been reviewed and that systems or procedures have been established to manage those risks. The internal control systems and the exposure to risks are matters that are considered on a termly basis by management, trustees and the audit and finance committees.

The Internal Audit visits are calendared termly, and the annual audit conducted annually during the Autumn term. Each of the written reports are presented to the Accounting Officer, Finance Committee and Trust Board meetings on a termly basis. The External Audit Partner also presents the findings of the annual External Audit personally to the full Trustee group each Autumn. This element of scrutiny provides the Board and Local Academy Boards with comfort that their statutory duties and financial responsibilities as detailed in the guidance within the Academies Handbook are being discharged satisfactorily by the Central trust team.

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Fundraising

Under the provisions of the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 this section must include information on fundraising practices. The areas to cover are included in section 13 of the Act and include:

Fundraising amongst the school community is limited to small-scale support for registered charities and extracurricular events that are to be supported/accessed by the students/their families. There are no fundraising activities to support the general/daily operations of the academies within the Trust. Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust has not worked with, nor had any oversight of, any commercial participators / professional fundraisers within the current financial year. All monies received from fundraising activity is administered through the school finance/Central team and credited to the individual school income accounts, conforming to recognised standards.

The schools do not receive any direct nor indirect fundraising from external philanthropic donors. Any income generated in excess of the Dedicated School Grant income, is directly from the Education Skills Funding Agency or Department of Education.

The Trust has not received any complaints about the small-scale fundraising it conducts and Trustees are satisfied that the public, including vulnerable people, are not subjected to any unreasonably intrusive or persistent fundraising approaches, and undue pressure to donate.

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust continue to work with our Local Authority Partners, Durham County Council, Gateshead Council, Northumberland Council and Sunderland Council, through procurement of Energy via the NEPO framework and additional energy management support from each individual authority.

As an organisation we are undertaking different approaches to understand our carbon impact and to reduce consumption and our carbon footprint.

The electricity we use is produced via Nuclear energy and is therefore zero carbon producing and we are seeking to consider other technologies such as solar power across our schools.

Actions taken this year include:

- BWCET are continuing to engage our Local Authorities, detailed above, to provide Energy Management Services through a service level agreement for all schools. This provides the staff at the Trust with day+1 data on our energy use across the building estate through an energy portal allowing staff to maintain oversight on consumption.
- Annual energy use reports have been produced for the individual schools in the Trust which have contracted into this Service.
- A comprehensive energy survey and PSDS feasibility study has been completed for Esh St Michaels Primary School.

Methodology

The data collection and processing of schools in Durham has been prepared by Energy leads in all authorities within their Energy Management Teams. They have many years of experience in energy management and reporting, producing the key documentation and monitoring protocols used in the individual authorities carbon management programme.

The data (01/09/2022-31/08/2023) from utilities has been collated from different energy management tools. The report uses Invoice data, which is supplied by utility providers, via the NEPO framework, and backed up by automatic half hourly meter readings and regular physical meter reads.

This information was multiplied by the relevant Carbon Factors from BEIS using the 2023 dataset to calculate emissions.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-conversion-factors-for-company-reporting>

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

BWCET Summary

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period	1 September 2022 to 31st August 2023
Energy Consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	15,083,478
Gas	4,535,233
Electricity	10,425,341
Oil	122,904
Transport Fuel	Included above

Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e	
Gas consumption	1,937

Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e	
Purchased electricity	939

Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e	
Business travel in employee-owned vehicles	45.71

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Plans for future periods

The principles announced in October 2019 set out the foundations for the Trust structures within the Diocese. As the 4 Catholic Education Trusts are now evolving and working collaboratively with their respective schools, it is apparent that the benefit for schools now operating within trust structures has been massively underestimated. Through the appointment of skilled specialists working across large groups of schools, trusts are able to effectively support, monitor and model high quality teaching. Leaders within the schools are working well within the new structures and feel the benefit of the support being provided across the board in all service areas. The Bishop Wilkinson Centre for Teaching is able to successfully attract, train, develop and place students within schools across the trust. New talent, being 'home grown' will secure the future generation of new teaching staff for roles within the trust. Full training schedules for existing staff in numerous roles is also carefully planned and delivered across the academic year.

Detailed School Improvement Plans have been developed by Headteachers, their Senior Leadership Teams and their Local Governing Committee members, and are monitored by Leaders across the Trust with the objective of delivering a robust, exciting and planned curriculum to all students, which is built in each school to take into account their own context.

As a Trust with responsibility for more than 5 schools and more than 3,500 children going forward, the Trust now receives automatic School Condition Allocation Funding (SCA) without having to submit bids from individual schools for funding for Capital works funding.

This funding allows the Trust to prioritise the capital investment required to individual schools and the Board receive information on the priorities at Board meetings throughout the year. The Director of Estates and Chief Operating Officer liaise with external Consultancy, Arcadis in order to prioritise school projects. Priority is given to Health & Safety projects, together with heating maintenance etc.

Opportunities for the growth of Bishop Wilkinson Commercial Services (trust trading arm) is registered at Companies House as a separate entity (company number 13236026). As a large Trust we understand first-hand the unique challenges and restrictions school and academies face, and the services have been comprehensively designed to support schools through the entire procurement process, releasing vital cash, making savings and ensuring compliance at pace. This will not only be an excellent resource for the area, it will also assist in self-generating additional income for the Trust.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

Neither the Academy nor its Trustees are acting as custodian trustee.

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Auditor

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware;

And

The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of threat information.

Azets Audit Services have been the Trust External Auditors since a tendering exercise was undertaken in 2020. In line with the revised guidance/requirements from the ESFA, the Trust conducted a tender to ensure we had separated out the Internal and External Services to separate Audit providers. Therefore the Board was happy following the tender process to appoint Azets as External Auditors and Clive Owen as Internal Auditors accordingly. The Trust team have received excellent, professional services and guidance from both parties.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 15 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs A Boyle
Interim Chair

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Scope of responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education 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 Competency Framework for Governance. The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education 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 Directors has formally met 8 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mr C Coxon (Vice Chair)	5	6
Mr P Cantwell (Resigned 30 June 2023)	6	6
Mr M Gannon	4	6
Mrs M Harrison (Resigned 30 June 2023)	5	6
Mr I Mearns MP	2	6
Mrs C Reid (Resigned 15 May 2023)	5	5
Mrs A Boyle (Interim Chair)	7	8
Rev C M Hayden	2	8
Mr D Hicks	5	8
Mr S Horne (Resigned 27 June 2023)	4	6
Mr A Egdell	7	8

Key Changes to Constitution of the Board:

Mrs A Boyle was appointed as Interim Chair on 14th July 2023.

The work of the Board of Directors is considered by the Diocesan Members. All Directors are knowledgeable, passionate and can articulate the strategic vision for the Trust very well. They have been appointed due to their considerable skillset and experience. The Board are proactive and undertake their roles seriously and with great stewardship. The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle, as well as the Department for Education formally approve the Board Members. Due to staffing changes at the Diocese, there is a backlog of Director appointments awaiting signoff by the Parish Priests and Bishop.

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Conflicts of interest

Conflicts of interest

At the beginning of each Board and Local Governing Committee meeting, all Clerks ensure that Directors/ Governors are asked to advise and reference any conflicts of interest with any of the agenda items being discussed. This record is maintained by the Clerks and a register published on each school and Central website. All involved in governance across the Trust are aware of the importance of these declarations and the ESFA regulations around this.

All Local Governing Committee member takes part in Governor Open Days in their academies and are introduced to pupils in a live school environment. This was considered to be imperative for Governors understanding and decision-making processes. Throughout the Open Days various members of the Senior team present Data and updates on their own departments to assist Governors in their role, which are organised on a termly basis to see the School in action. All school curriculum leaders have appointed Governors who monitor progress and performance.

All Local Governing Committees undertake a repeat self- evaluation of their individual skill sets which are collated by their Clerk and subsequently discussed by the full LGC. All results of the Skills Analysis is sent to the Director of Governance for onward submission to the Board for review. All new LGC Members complete the Skills Analysis documentation prior to their appointment and this is subject to scrutiny by the Diocese at application stage.

The purpose of the Standards Committee is to inform, evaluate and monitor the educational standards in trust schools.

Meetings

Attendance at Standards Committee meetings in the year was as follows:

Standards Committee

Trustee	Meetings Attended	Out of a Possible
Mr A Egdell	2	3
Mr C Coxon	1	3
Mr I Mearns MP	1	3
Mr S Horne	1	2

The purpose of the Finance Committee works with the school to ensure financial decisions are made for the benefit of the school, achieve the strategic aims within the School Development Plan and within agreed delegated authorities.

Attendance at Finance Committee meetings in the year was as follows:

Finance Committee

Trustee	Meetings Attended	Out of a Possible
Mr C Coxon	3	3
Mrs A Boyle	3	3
Mrs C Reid	3	3
Mr I Mearns MP	1	3

The Audit Committee is also a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. They plan to meet on a termly basis, unless there are any urgent matters to attend to, when they would meet immediately. The purpose of the Audit Committee is to plan the annual audit strategy within the trust and review the Internal and External Auditors findings.

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Attendance at Audit & Risk Committee meetings in the year was as follows:

Audit & Risk Committee

Trustee	Meetings Attended	Out of a Possible
Mr P Cantwell	3	3
Mrs M Harrison	2	3
Mr I Mearns MP	1	3
Mr D Hicks	3	3

The Audit Committee works with the Finance Team, reviews the internal and external auditors reports and assesses risks for the school going forward.

Review of value for money

As accounting officer the CEO 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 trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The accounting officer for the trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Tendering, sourcing and implementation of a new Management Information System (MIS) across the whole Trust. Not only did this achieve much greater value for money, the Trust-wide monitoring can now be effectively supported by the Arbor MIS System.
- The previous Payroll system in effect proved to be poor value for money. Whilst the invoiced costs were low on a monthly basis, the amount of additional cost of staffing from within the trust which caused a great deal of angst, was unacceptable. Therefore a new provider was found, and the opportunity cost for the original company also reduced.
- Supporting all 47 schools with their centralized procurement projects, enabling increased purchasing power and realisation of economies of scale

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 Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

Capacity to handle risk

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

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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 monthly management accounts/periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;
- regular reviews by the finance, audit and standards committee 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 decided to utilise an independent, internal and audit function from Clive Owen LLP. Throughout the academic year 2022-23 they carried out audit visits to primary and secondary schools across the Trust.

The programme of work for Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust was agreed by the Trust Board in the Autumn Term 2022, before further discussions around the selection of academies to be visited were undertaken with the Audit Committee, Chief Operating Officer and the Chief Finance Officer in a series of meetings from January 2023 onwards. The areas for review were areas where the internal procedures are carried out by the individual academies finance department and are not part of the Trust Central Finance function. These included a review of:

- The procurement of goods and services in line with the Bishop Wilkinson Financial Handbook
- Compliance with the stated limits where quotations or tenders should be sought in line with the Bishop Wilkinson Financial Handbook
- The procurement of goods and services using the academy credit cards in line with the Bishop Wilkinson Financial Handbook
- The procurement of goods and services using the Amazon Business Account (implemented in Autumn 2021)
- The payment of staff expenses
- Income Recording and Cash Security The Internal Assurance work took place in accordance with the agreed plan across 26 of the trust academies between March and July 2023 .

Below is a list of all schools visited during the 2022-23 academic year to undertake the above Internal Assurance work.

- St Thomas More Catholic School, Blaydon – STB
- Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Byermoor, Burnopfield - SHB
- St Matthew's Catholic Primary School, Prudhoe - SMP
- St Anne's Catholic Primary, Harlow Green, Gateshead - SAH
- Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Primary, Penshaw, LQP
- St Robert of Newminster Catholic School & 6th Form SRN
- St Godrics, Durham Follow Up - SGD
- All Saints Catholic Primary School, Lanchester - ASL
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Gilesgate - SJG
- St Thomas More Primary School, Belmont - STM
- St Joseph's Catholic Infant School, Birtley - SJI
- St Joseph's Catholic Junior School, Birtley - SJJ
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School, South Moor - SMM
- Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School, Gateshead - CCG
- St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Low Fell, Gateshead - SPG
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Blaydon - SJB
- St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Consett - SPC
- St Agnes Catholic Primary School, Crawcrook - SAC
- St Mary & St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary School, Blaydon - SMT
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Whickham - SMW

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

- St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School, Gateshead - SWG
- St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Langley Moor - SPL
- St John Boste Primary, Washington Follow Up from 2020 - SJW
- St Alban's Catholic Primary, Gateshead Follow Up Visit – SAG
- St Benet's Catholic Primary School, Ouston Follow Up - SBO

A summary of the findings from Clive Owen LLP audit team were presented to the Audit Committee and Trust Board, and followed up with discussions with the individual school representatives as follows:

Clive Owen LLP audit team commented "From the Internal Scrutiny work undertaken throughout the academic year 2022-23 there is suitable monitoring of risk areas."

Review of effectiveness

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

- The work of the Internal and External auditors
- The financial management and governance self-assessment process
- The completion and analysis of data submitted within the Schools Resource Management Tool
- The work of the Chief Financial Officer, Central Finance team, Chief Operating Officer, Cluster Finance Managers, School Business Managers and Finance assistants within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 15th December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs A Boyle
Interim Chair



Mr N Hurn OBE
Accounting Officer

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

I confirm that I and the academy trust's board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

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



Mr N Hurn OBE
Accounting Officer

15 December 2023

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The trustees (who are also the directors of Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Annual Accounts Direction issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 15 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs A Boyle
Interim Chair

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinion

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

In our opinion the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

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

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

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

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

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

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Use of our report

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

Azets Audit Services

Graham Fitzgerald BA FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Azets Audit Services

21/12/23
.....

Statutory Auditor

Wynyard Park House
Wynyard Avenue
Wynyard
United Kingdom
TS22 5TB

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 22 August 2023 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education 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 Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 31 January 2012 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance, and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

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

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

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

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

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- completion of self assessment questionnaire by Accounting Officer
- discussions with the Accounting Officer and finance team
- review of Internal Assurance reports
- review of trustee and committee meeting minutes
- review of finance and other relevant policies
- review of purchases, expenses and expense claims on a sample basis including the application of controls and tendering processes where applicable
- review of gifts and hospitality transactions including the application of controls
- review of credit and debit card transactions including the application of controls
- review of payroll transactions on a sample bases including the application of controls
- review of potential special payments to staff
- review of leases and consideration of areas where borrowing may have been incurred
- consideration of transactions with related and connected parties
- review of register of business interests for completeness and compliance with regulations
- enquiries into transactions that may require disclosure under ESFA delegated authority rules
- consideration of value for money and appropriateness of transactions

Conclusion

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

Azets Audit Services

Reporting Accountant

Azets Audit Services

Dated: 21/12/2023

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £ Fixed asset £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	87,343	-	3,840,352	3,927,695
Donations - transfer from local authority on conversion		139,450	-	-	139,450
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	3,382,143	88,481,196	-	91,863,339
Other trading activities	5	3,331,324	-	-	3,331,324
Investments	6	22,239	-	-	22,239
Total		6,962,499	88,481,196	3,840,352	99,284,047
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	4,253,075	63,561	-	4,316,636
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	9	2,904,990	93,172,572	1,056,886	97,134,448
Charitable expenditure - transfer from local authority on conversion		-	-	-	-
Total	7	7,158,065	93,236,133	1,056,886	101,451,084
Net income/(expenditure)		(195,566)	(4,754,937)	2,783,466	(2,167,037)
Transfers between funds	20	-	(536,583)	536,583	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	22	-	8,004,000	-	8,004,000
Net movement in funds		(195,566)	2,712,480	3,320,049	5,836,963
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		6,455,902	(5,971,796)	17,778,847	18,262,953
Total funds carried forward		6,260,336	(3,259,316)	21,098,896	24,099,916

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2022	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds:		Total 2022
		£	General £	Fixed asset £	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	96,437	-	4,135,096	4,231,533
Donations - transfer from local authority on conversion		2,267,213	-	164,177	2,431,390
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	2,842,511	77,185,986	-	80,028,497
Other trading activities	5	2,538,688	-	-	2,538,688
Investments	6	1,894	-	-	1,894
Total		<u>7,746,743</u>	<u>77,185,986</u>	<u>4,299,273</u>	<u>89,232,002</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	2,433,633	44,192	-	2,477,825
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	9	3,022,626	81,069,206	722,975	84,814,807
Charitable expenditure - transfer from local authority on conversion		-	7,110,000	-	7,110,000
Total	7	<u>5,456,259</u>	<u>88,223,398</u>	<u>722,975</u>	<u>94,402,632</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		2,290,484	(11,037,412)	3,576,298	(5,170,630)
Transfers between funds	20	-	858,119	(858,119)	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	22	-	34,008,000	-	34,008,000
Net movement in funds		2,290,484	23,828,707	2,718,179	28,837,370
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		4,165,418	(29,800,503)	15,060,668	(10,574,417)
Total funds carried forward		<u>6,455,902</u>	<u>(5,971,796)</u>	<u>17,778,847</u>	<u>18,262,953</u>

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

		2023		2022	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13	17,530,922		16,779,267	
Investments	14		1		1
		17,530,923		16,779,268	
Current assets					
Stock	15	44,110		27,776	
Debtors	16	3,993,252		4,824,568	
Cash at bank and in hand		16,667,351		17,228,164	
		20,704,713		22,080,508	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(9,673,570)		(9,159,337)	
Net current assets		11,031,143		12,921,171	
Total assets less current liabilities		28,562,066		29,700,439	
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	18	(914,150)		(1,066,486)	
Net assets excluding pension liability		27,647,916		28,633,953	
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	22	(3,548,000)		(10,371,000)	
Total net assets		24,099,916		18,262,953	
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds	20				
- Fixed asset funds		21,098,896		17,778,847	
- Restricted income funds		288,684		4,399,204	
- Pension reserve		(3,548,000)		(10,371,000)	
Total restricted funds		17,839,580		11,807,051	
Unrestricted income funds	20	6,260,336		6,455,902	
Total funds		24,099,916		18,262,953	

The accounts on pages 35 to 70 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 15 December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:



Mrs A Boyle
Interim Chair

Company registration number 07890590 (England and Wales)

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	23	(2,439,084)		2,265,106	
Cash funds transferred on conversion		-		2,431,390	
		(2,439,084)		4,696,496	
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		22,239		1,894	
Capital grants from DfE Group		3,840,352		4,015,642	
Capital funding received from sponsors and others		-		119,454	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,808,541)		(3,981,267)	
Net cash provided by investing activities		2,054,050		155,723	
Cash flows from financing activities					
New other loan		-		505,315	
Repayment of other loan		(175,779)		(106,676)	
Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities		(175,779)		398,639	
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(560,813)		5,250,858	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		17,228,164		11,977,306	
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year		16,667,351		17,228,164	

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

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

The academy trust has not prepared consolidated accounts on the grounds that the activities of the subsidiary company are not material to results of the group as a whole. Details of the financial position of the subsidiary company are included in the notes to the financial statements.

1.2 Going concern

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

The reported share of the LGPS deficit has a significant impact on our restricted funds, however we draw your attention to the cash reserves held by the academy as well as the balances held in unrestricted and restricted general reserves.

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

Sponsorship income

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

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Donations

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

Other income

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

Donated fixed assets

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

Transfer of assets from existing academies

Where assets and liabilities are received on the transfer of an existing academy into the academy trust, the transferred net assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the academy trust. Income equal to the net assets transferred is recognised within donations and capital grant income.

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £10,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

Leasehold improvements	50 years straight line
Assets under construction	Not depreciated
Computer equipment	3 years straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	7 years straight line
Motor vehicles	7 years straight line

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

The academy trust occupies the footprint of the school buildings, which are owned by the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. The Diocese are the providers of the buildings on the same basis as when the academy was a maintained school. The academy trust occupies the buildings under a mere licence. This continuing permission of the trustees is pursuant to, and subject to, the trustees' charitable objects, and is part of the Catholic Church's contribution since 1847 to provide State funded education in partnership with the State. The licence delegates aspects of the management of the land and buildings to the academy trust for the time being, but does not vest any rights over the land in the academy trust. The trustees have given an undertaking to the Secretary of State that they will not give the academy trust less than two years notice to terminate the occupation of the buildings. Having considered the factual matrix under which the academy trust is occupying the buildings the trustees have concluded that the value of the land and buildings occupied by the academy trust will not be recognised on the balance sheet of the academy. Subsequent expenditure funded by the academy has been capitalised.

The remaining land is owned by the local authorities and leased to the trust for 125 years. Building improvements funded by the academy have been capitalised at cost.

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

1.6 Liabilities

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

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 Investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at market value.

1.9 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.

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Financial assets

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

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

Financial liabilities

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

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

1.10 Stock

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

1.11 Taxation

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

1.12 Pensions benefits

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

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

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

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.13 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 the Education Funding Agency and Department for Education where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received and include grants from the Education and Skills Funding Agency/Department for Education.

1.14 Agency arrangements

The academy trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 22, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated as to write off the cost of an asset off over its useful economic life. The accounting policies are disclosed in the accounting policy above.

Assets transferred on conversion

The trust has transferred the assets of the predecessor schools. The value of the assets transferred have been estimated by trustees and management by reference to asset registers and other information from the predecessor schools and the capitalisation and depreciation policies of the trust.

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Capital grants	-	3,840,352	3,840,352	4,015,642
Other donations	87,343	-	87,343	215,891
	<u>87,343</u>	<u>3,840,352</u>	<u>3,927,695</u>	<u>4,231,533</u>

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

4 Funding for the academy trust's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	75,459,034	75,459,034	67,970,712
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- UIFSM	-	974,176	974,176	717,506
- Pupil premium	-	3,269,403	3,269,403	2,801,172
- Start up grants	-	-	-	225,000
- PE and Sports Premium	-	734,108	734,108	528,104
- Rates	-	350,176	350,176	312,343
- Teachers pension grants	-	297,370	297,370	311,553
- Teachers pay grants	-	9,855	9,855	110,252
- National tutor grant	-	267,388	267,388	253,417
- Supplementary grant	-	2,059,340	2,059,340	860,321
- Mainstream schools additional grant	-	1,009,234	1,009,234	-
- Others	-	3,037	3,037	409,672
		<u>84,433,121</u>	<u>84,433,121</u>	<u>74,500,052</u>
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	3,529,390	3,529,390	2,249,239
		<u>3,529,390</u>	<u>3,529,390</u>	<u>2,249,239</u>
COVID-19 additional funding				
DfE/ESFA				
Catch-up premium	-	-	-	725,710
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	518,685	518,685	312,781
Non-DfE/ESFA				
Other COVID-19 funding	-	-	-	104,573
	-	<u>518,685</u>	<u>518,685</u>	<u>1,143,064</u>
Other funding				
Catering income	2,905,370	-	2,905,370	2,513,794
Other incoming resources	476,773	-	476,773	328,717
	<u>3,382,143</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,382,143</u>	<u>2,842,511</u>
Total funding	<u>3,382,143</u>	<u>88,481,196</u>	<u>91,863,339</u>	<u>80,734,866</u>

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Hire of facilities	122,700	-	122,700	77,148
Catering income	96,075	-	96,075	12,958
School trips	1,102,516	-	1,102,516	648,801
Teaching school	12,058	-	12,058	19,751
Other income	1,997,975	-	1,997,975	1,780,030
	<u>3,331,324</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,331,324</u>	<u>2,538,688</u>

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Short term deposits	22,239	-	22,239	1,894
	<u>22,239</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,239</u>	<u>1,894</u>

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure Premises £	Other £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	2,136,122	-	2,180,514	4,316,636	2,477,825
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	57,884,788	-	4,991,975	62,876,763	55,180,071
- Allocated support costs	14,995,346	10,620,707	8,641,632	34,257,685	29,634,736
	<u>75,016,256</u>	<u>10,620,707</u>	<u>15,814,121</u>	<u>101,451,084</u>	<u>87,292,632</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Operating lease rentals	516,010	357,322
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,056,886	722,975
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	29,800	21,350
- Other services	4,775	3,900
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	362,000	619,000
	<u>1,969,471</u>	<u>1,724,547</u>

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

8 Central services

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

- human resources;
- financial services;
- legal services;
- educational support services;
- facilities management;
- governance; or
- others as arising.

Central services have been charged to academies at rates varying between 0% and 5% during year, with the percentage determined by when the academy joined the trust, whether the academy is a primary or secondary academy, and the financial position of the academy

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
St Michael's Catholic Primary School (Sunderland)	45,194	43,725
St Bede's Catholic Primary School (Sunderland)	44,130	43,946
Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Primary School (Sunderland)	66,253	66,253
St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College (Sunderland)	567,132	429,645
St John Boste Catholic Primary School (Sunderland)	39,985	41,624
St Bede's Catholic Comprehensive School and Sixth Form College (County Durham)	404,893	378,209
St Leonard's Catholic School (County Durham)	382,892	365,875
St Thomas More Catholic School (Gateshead)	514,653	415,576
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School (Gateshead)	50,540	50,787
St Matthew's Catholic Primary School (Northumberland)	31,110	30,723
St Bede's Catholic Primary School (County Durham)	25,657	-
St Godric's Catholic Primary School (County Durham)	45,849	43,890
Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Primary School (County Durham)	-	-
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (County Durham - Ushaw Moor)	-	-
St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School (County Durham)	39,043	4,037
St Joseph's Catholic Middle School (Northumberland)	70,191	69,069
St Mary's Catholic First School (Northumberland)	26,721	26,549
St Alban's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead)	42,999	42,038
St Mary's Catholic Primary School (County Durham)	46,249	45,462
St Michael's Catholic Primary School (County Durham)	35,307	-
St Benet's Catholic Primary School (County Durham)	44,143	17,222
St Oswald's Catholic Primary (Gateshead)	47,730	47,304
St Joseph's Catholic Primary (County Durham - Stanley)	45,444	45,060
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School (County Durham)	40,548	39,428
St Augustine's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead)	68,714	65,177
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead)	49,351	44,627
Cardinal Hume Catholic School (Gateshead)	432,203	503,020
St Anne's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead)	35,677	33,021
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Sunderland)	44,062	42,924
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (County Durham - Gilesgate)	29,254	29,777

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

8 Central services		(Continued)	
St Thomas More Primary School (County Durham - Belmont)	20,473	20,259	
St Mary's Catholic Primary School (County Durham - South Moor)	31,450	26,309	
St Pius Xth Catholic Primary School (County Durham - Consett)	22,982	20,775	
St Philip Neri Catholic Primary School (Gateshead - Dunston)	39,981	34,165	
Our Lady and St Joseph Brooms Catholic Primary School (County Durham - Leadgate)	25,689	22,247	
St Joseph's Catholic Junior School (County Durham - Birtley)	25,284	22,023	
St Joseph's Catholic Infant School (County Durham - Birtley)	23,849	18,066	
St Peter's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead - Low Fell)	44,143	25,196	
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School (County Durham - Consett)	80,822	46,467	
Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School (Gateshead)	48,344	26,724	
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead - Blaydon)	46,369	26,103	
St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead - Whickham)	43,077	14,403	
St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead)	33,736	11,215	
St Mary' & St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary School (Gateshead - Blaydon)	44,996	15,049	
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School (County Durham - Langley Moor)	22,169	7,456	
All Saints' Catholic Primary School (County Durham - Lanchester)	37,916	12,747	
St Agnes' Catholic Primary School (Gateshead - Crawcrook)	41,157	13,768	
	<u>3,948,361</u>	<u>3,327,940</u>	
9 Charitable activities			
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	2023
			£
Direct costs			
Educational operations	14,825	62,861,938	62,876,763
			55,180,071
Support costs			
Educational operations	2,890,165	31,367,520	34,257,685
	<u>2,904,990</u>	<u>94,229,458</u>	<u>97,134,448</u>
			<u>84,814,807</u>

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

9 Charitable activities (Continued)

	2023 £	2022 £
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	14,934,262	14,674,400
Depreciation	1,056,886	722,975
Technology costs	1,309,228	1,132,390
Premises costs	9,563,821	6,274,141
Legal costs	88,577	228,061
Other support costs	7,179,791	6,550,665
Governance costs	64,036	52,104
	<u>34,196,601</u>	<u>29,634,736</u>

10 Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	53,426,199	45,848,068
Social security costs	5,341,889	4,613,057
Pension costs	12,635,396	14,349,629
Staff costs - employees	<u>71,403,484</u>	<u>64,810,754</u>
Agency staff costs	3,327,354	1,901,234
Staff restructuring costs	285,418	108,691
	<u>75,016,256</u>	<u>66,820,679</u>
Staff development and other staff costs	543,375	510,299
	<u>75,559,631</u>	<u>67,330,978</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy and severance payments	285,418	108,691
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Severance payments

The academy trust paid 15 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

£0 - £25,000	11
£25,001 - £50,000	4

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

10 Staff

(Continued)

Special staff severance payments

Special staff severance payments are amounts paid to employees outside of statutory and contractual requirements. Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £139,673 (2022: £64,740). Individually, the payments were: £10,000, £21,806, £28,398, £20,000, £4,876, £25,433, £2,333, £8,000, £8,123 and £10,704.

Staff numbers

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Teachers	707	672
Administration and support	932	792
Management	161	142
	<u>1,800</u>	<u>1,606</u>

Higher paid staff

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	42	25
£70,001 - £80,000	19	14
£80,001 - £90,000	7	3
£90,001 - £100,000	6	3
£100,001 - £110,000	3	-
£110,001 - £120,000	-	1
£140,001 - £150,000	-	1
£170,001 - £180,000	1	-
£190,001 - £200,000	-	1
£200,001 - £210,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer NI costs) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £1,557,565 (2022: £1,332,219).

11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

None of the trustees have been paid remuneration or have received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust.

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

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

12 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold improvements	Assets under construction	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost						
At 1 September 2022	15,849,790	249,577	2,312,416	1,204,548	51,929	19,668,260
Transfer	174,408	(249,577)	9,469	65,700	-	-
Additions	925,476	-	541,987	341,078	-	1,808,541
At 31 August 2023	16,949,674	-	2,863,872	1,611,326	51,929	21,476,801
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2022	1,033,212	-	1,307,341	522,091	26,349	2,888,993
Charge for the year	374,354	-	520,779	156,049	5,704	1,056,886
At 31 August 2023	1,407,566	-	1,828,120	678,140	32,053	3,945,879
Net book value						
At 31 August 2023	15,542,108	-	1,035,752	933,186	19,876	17,530,922
At 31 August 2022	14,816,578	249,577	1,005,075	682,457	25,580	16,779,267

14 Fixed asset investments

	£
Market value	
At 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023	1
Historical cost:	
At 31 August 2023	-
At 31 August 2022	1

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

14 Fixed asset investments

(Continued)

The fixed asset investment is in respect of the wholly owned subsidiary, Bishop Wilkinson Commercial Services Limited incorporated 1 March 2021.

The results for the period from incorporation to 31 August 2023 were as follows:

Turnover	£165,379
Expenditure	(£209,727)
Net Loss	(£44,348)

Capital & reserves:

Called up share capital	£1
Profit and loss reserves:	(£50,063)
Total equity	(£50,062)

15 Stock

	2023 £	2022 £
Catering and other consumables stock	44,110	27,776

16 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	231,669	265,853
VAT recoverable	1,016,850	1,944,930
Other debtors	149,402	93,798
Prepayments and accrued income	2,595,331	2,519,987
	3,993,252	4,824,568

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other loans	189,336	212,779
Trade creditors	2,637,837	2,548,029
Other taxation and social security	1,308,258	1,214,220
Other creditors	1,902,393	1,547,548
Accruals and deferred income	3,635,746	3,636,761
	9,673,570	9,159,337

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

18 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other loans	914,150	1,066,486
Analysis of loans	2023 £	2022 £
Not wholly repayable within five years by instalments	283,257	151,900
Wholly repayable within five years	820,229	1,127,365
	1,103,486	1,279,265
Less: included in current liabilities	(189,336)	(212,779)
	914,150	1,066,486
Loan maturity		
Due in more than one year but not more than two years	189,336	212,779
Due in more than two years but not more than five years	630,893	771,272
Due in more than five years	283,257	295,214
	1,103,486	1,279,265

The loan balances comprises;

- CIF loan provided to Cardinal Hume Catholic School by the ESFA totalling £105,000, the loan duration is 10 years and the interest rate is 1.85%.
- CIF loan provided to St Thomas More Catholic School by the ESFA totalling £80,000, the duration is 10 years and the interest rate is 2.29%.
- Salix loan provided to St Thomas More Catholic School by the ESFA totalling £220,000, the duration is 10 years and no interest is being charged.
- Three Salix loans provided to St Bede's Catholic Comprehensive School and Sixth Form College by the ESFA totalling £200,826, the duration of each loan is 8 years and no interest is being charged.
- Twenty-eight Salix loans relating to LED lighting schemes across eight of the schools in the Trust totalling £863,297, the duration of each loan is between 6-8 years and no interest is being charged.
- CIF Loan provided to Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School by the ESFA totalling £30,000, the loan duration is 5 years and the interest rate is 1.91%.

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 Deferred income

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	875,867	982,994
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	982,994	463,872
Released from previous years	(982,994)	(463,872)
Resources deferred in the year	875,867	982,994
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	875,867	982,994
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Deferred income includes universal infant free school meals funding received, rates grant, early years funding, school trip income and ICT service sales invoices in advance of the following academic year.

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	4,399,204	75,459,034	(79,032,971)	(536,583)	288,684
UIFSM	-	974,176	(974,176)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	3,269,403	(3,269,403)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	518,685	(518,685)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	3,037	(3,037)	-	-
Other government grants	-	3,529,390	(3,529,390)	-	-
Teachers pension grants	-	297,370	(297,370)	-	-
Teachers pay grants	-	9,855	(9,855)	-	-
PE and sports premium	-	734,108	(734,108)	-	-
Rates	-	350,176	(350,176)	-	-
National tutor grant	-	267,388	(267,388)	-	-
Supplementary grant	-	2,059,340	(2,059,340)	-	-
Mainstream additional schools grant	-	1,009,234	(1,009,234)	-	-
Pension reserve	(10,371,000)	-	(1,181,000)	8,004,000	(3,548,000)
	<u>(5,971,796)</u>	<u>88,481,196</u>	<u>(93,236,133)</u>	<u>7,467,417</u>	<u>(3,259,316)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	260,266	-	(12,934)	-	247,332
DfE group capital grants	13,390,659	3,840,352	(831,909)	216,160	16,615,262
Capital expenditure from GAG	3,823,313	-	(196,347)	320,423	3,947,389
Other private grants	114,609	-	(5,696)	-	108,913
Donated assets	190,000	-	(10,000)	-	180,000
	<u>17,778,847</u>	<u>3,840,352</u>	<u>(1,056,886)</u>	<u>536,583</u>	<u>21,098,896</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>11,807,051</u>	<u>92,321,548</u>	<u>(94,293,019)</u>	<u>8,004,000</u>	<u>17,839,580</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>6,455,902</u>	<u>6,962,499</u>	<u>(7,158,065)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,260,336</u>
Total funds	<u>18,262,953</u>	<u>99,284,047</u>	<u>(101,451,084)</u>	<u>8,004,000</u>	<u>24,099,916</u>

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

20 Funds

(Continued)

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

General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the academy. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023.

The pension reserve reflects the LGPS transactions. The costs and income associated with the defined benefit pension scheme have been recorded in the restricted fund. Staff costs are paid from this fund, including contributions to the LGPS, and the pension liability has therefore been aligned with these funds.

DfE/EFA capital grants includes; Devolved Formula Capital (DFC), School Condition Allowance (SCA) and Connect the Classroom grants, of which £6,908,577 is carried forward to spend in future years. The trust also has loan balances of £1,103,486 accounted for within fixed asset funds.

Asset additions funded by GAG and unrestricted funds are reflected in the gains, losses and transfers column. Some non-capitalised expenditure has been funded by capital grants, this is also shown in this column.

The Inherited Fixed Asset Fund reflects the fixed assets acquired on conversion. Depreciation on these assets is charged against this fund.

Unrestricted funds can be used for any purpose at the discretion of the trustees, within the objectives of the academy trust.

The academy's restricted general and unrestricted funds were £6,549,020 as at 31 August 2023.

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,910,721	67,970,712	(66,340,348)	858,119	4,399,204
Start up grants	143,632	225,000	(368,632)	-	-
UIFSM	-	717,506	(717,506)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	2,801,172	(2,801,172)	-	-
Catch-up premium	273,895	-	(273,895)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	407,369	(407,369)	-	-
Other Coronavirus funding	-	104,573	(104,573)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	25,848	334,425	(360,273)	-	-
Other government grants	-	2,249,239	(2,249,239)	-	-
Teachers pension grants	-	311,553	(311,553)	-	-
Teachers pay grants	-	110,252	(110,252)	-	-
PE and sports premium	51,313	528,104	(579,417)	-	-
Rates	-	312,343	(312,343)	-	-
National tutor grant	-	253,417	(253,417)	-	-
Supplementary grant	-	860,321	(860,321)	-	-
Other inherited restricted funds	118,088	-	(118,088)	-	-
Pension reserve	(32,324,000)	-	(12,055,000)	34,008,000	(10,371,000)
	<u>(29,800,503)</u>	<u>77,185,986</u>	<u>(88,223,398)</u>	<u>34,866,119</u>	<u>(5,971,796)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	107,091	164,177	(11,002)	-	260,266
DfE group capital grants	10,956,111	4,015,642	(722,975)	(858,119)	13,390,659
Capital expenditure from GAG	3,797,466	-	25,847	-	3,823,313
Other private grants	-	119,454	(4,845)	-	114,609
Donated assets	200,000	-	(10,000)	-	190,000
	<u>15,060,668</u>	<u>4,299,273</u>	<u>(722,975)</u>	<u>(858,119)</u>	<u>17,778,847</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>(14,739,835)</u>	<u>81,485,259</u>	<u>(88,946,373)</u>	<u>34,008,000</u>	<u>11,807,051</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>4,165,418</u>	<u>7,746,743</u>	<u>(5,456,259)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,455,902</u>
Total funds	<u>(10,574,417)</u>	<u>89,232,002</u>	<u>(94,402,632)</u>	<u>34,008,000</u>	<u>18,262,953</u>

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

20 Funds

(Continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:		
St Michael's Catholic Primary School (Sunderland)	146,766	154,504
St Bede's Catholic Primary School (Sunderland)	46,949	61,641
Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Primary School (Sunderland)	37,177	113,996
St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College (Sunderland)	807,064	1,098,960
St John Boste Catholic Primary School (Sunderland)	159,600	213,250
St Bede's Catholic Comprehensive School and Sixth Form College (County Durham)	838,840	870,759
St Leonard's Catholic School (County Durham)	145,636	215,199
St Thomas More Catholic School (Gateshead)	612,855	1,557,493
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School (Gateshead)	43,076	78,120
St Matthew's Catholic Primary School (Northumberland)	(26,533)	(58,227)
St Bede's Catholic Primary School (County Durham)	(71,078)	(3,662)
St Godric's Catholic Primary School (County Durham)	135,681	161,622
Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Primary School (County Durham)	18,363	60,422
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (County Durham - Ushaw Moor)	32,135	75,560
St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School (County Durham)	(47,747)	20,205
St Joseph's Catholic Middle School (Northumberland)	159,028	24,640
St Mary's Catholic First School (Northumberland)	(117,386)	1,999
St Alban's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead)	206,104	172,332
St Mary's Catholic Primary School (County Durham)	188,599	143,320
St Michael's Catholic Primary School (County Durham)	34,304	91,591
St Benet's Catholic Primary School (County Durham)	(9,785)	9,383
St Oswald's Catholic Primary (Gateshead)	282,566	349,579
St Joseph's Catholic Primary (County Durham - Stanley)	249,844	315,938
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School (County Durham)	58,764	123,746
St Augustine's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead)	215,591	285,073
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead)	136,663	106,468
Cardinal Hume Catholic School (Gateshead)	1,812,724	2,257,366
St Anne's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead)	247,718	216,043
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Sunderland)	64,415	162,745
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (County Durham - Gilesgate)	(115,797)	97,770
St Thomas More Primary School (County Durham - Belmont)	(29,825)	17,192
St Mary's Catholic Primary School (County Durham - South Moor)	(86,972)	291
St Pius Xth Catholic Primary School (County Durham - Consett)	52,047	117,488
St Philip Neri Catholic Primary School (Gateshead - Dunston)	(17,292)	83,765
Our Lady and St Joseph Brooms Catholic Primary School (County Durham - Leadgate)	120,704	121,627
St Joseph's Catholic Junior School (County Durham - Birtley)	47,753	91,087
St Joseph's Catholic Infant School (County Durham - Birtley)	58,044	77,666
St Peter's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead - Low Fell)	123,082	171,542

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

20 Funds	(Continued)	
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School (County Durham - Consett)	95,812	144,521
Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School (Gateshead)	115,763	118,349
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead - Blaydon)	161,363	186,416
St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead - Whickham)	112,790	52,517
St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead)	(25,489)	12,313
St Mary' & St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary School (Gateshead - Blaydon)	99,310	122,225
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School (County Durham - Langley Moor)	15,408	42,756
All Saints' Catholic Primary School (County Durham - Lanchester)	4,606	52,646
St Agnes' Catholic Primary School (Gateshead - Crawcrook)	179,193	150,515
Central services	(769,413)	314,355
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	6,549,020	10,855,106
Restricted fixed asset fund	21,098,896	17,778,847
Pension reserve	(3,548,000)	(10,371,000)
Total funds	24,099,916	18,262,953

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

20 Funds

(Continued)

St Matthews - St Matthew's Catholic Primary School is in a deficit position as a result a deficit balance on conversion, due to strategic capital expenditure which under the accounting rules leads to a reduction in reserves. This expenditure was funded by St Thomas More Catholic School via a loan. The deficit at this academy has been reducing over the past two years and continues to do so in the current year.

St Bedes, Sacriston – Additional staffing costs have been incurred to address significant additional SEN needs within the school. Whilst top up funding has been received from the local authority, this has not been sufficient to cover the additional costs. A fall in numbers by 5 pupils has also led to a reduction in GAG funding in 22/23. St Bedes is one of a number of small schools that the Trust are carrying out a review of strategy for to improve the position going forward. This will look at several areas including class sizes, staffing structures, leadership and admin support.

St Cuthberts – The Trust have supported the school with funding to allow them to open a nursery provision from September 2023. This will provide additional funding for the school and will ensure pupil numbers are stabilised going forward, also ensuring GAG funding is maximised. Forecasts show that the school will return to a surplus position within 2 years.

St Mary's First School, Hexham – the school was severely impacted in 22/23 by staff sickness and maternity leaves amongst its already low staff numbers. The aim of the Trust is to safeguard Catholic education in Northumberland and St Mary's will also be subject to the small school strategy planning discussed above.

St Benets – the school was impacted by maternity leaves, one concurrent, amongst teaching and leadership staff leading to an increase in costs. This situation has now stabilised and a balanced budget was set for 23/24.

St Joseph's Gilesgate – early in the academic year, a leadership restructure became necessary which has led to increased staffing costs in 22/23. This was a single year event. Staffing is now settled going forward and the school have opened a nursery to stabilise reception numbers in future. The schools will also be subject to the small school strategy planning discussed above.

St Thomas More Belmont – another small school that is being reviewed. However, the nursery opened in Sept 22 is proving very popular and pupil numbers increased from 80 to 95 on the October 23 census which will safeguard funding going forward.

St Mary's South Moor – the school has been affected by a falling roll in recent years which has adversely affected the funding available. In addition, a leadership restructure became necessary in 22/23 which led to increased staff costs. Staffing is now stable and the school will be subject to the small school strategy planning as previously discussed.

St Philip Neri – Interim leadership arrangements were required during 22/23. This was a single year event and the additional support has now been removed and a new permanent head teacher appointed. The school are expected to operate within in a balanced budget going forward.

St Wilfrids – the school has been adversely affected by in-year pupil growth which was not funded but required additional staffing. On the October census the numbers increased from 124 to 138 which will increase available funding from September 24 and reverse the deficit position.

Central – a significant expansion of the Trust education team has taken place during 22/23. This includes specialists in Primary maths and science, literacy leadership capacity and a secondary curriculum lead. This will provide additional support to our schools ensuring that their provision is excellent and continues to attract pupils and therefore funding.

At the start of 22/23 all of the Durham primaries were added to our in-house catering provision. During the year, catering costs have significantly increased both in terms of staffing costs and food supplies, without a corresponding price increase. This has led to overall losses which have significantly contributed to the overall deficit, recorded centrally. These issues have been addressed for 23/24 with a uniform price increase and tighter control of supplier contracts. The first month of 23/24 recorded an overall in-house surplus.

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20 Funds

(Continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
St Michael's Catholic Primary School (Sunderland)	704,614	178,674	90,736	191,345	1,165,369	1,079,890
St Bede's Catholic Primary School (Sunderland)	720,967	193,590	62,699	180,544	1,157,800	1,045,674
Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Primary School (Sunderland)	1,104,298	293,373	85,230	313,655	1,796,556	1,669,919
St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College (Sunderland)	6,766,614	1,287,383	425,260	1,730,786	10,210,043	8,973,630
St John Boste Catholic Primary School (Sunderland)	641,648	157,152	39,999	213,352	1,052,151	959,391
St Bede's Catholic Comprehensive School and Sixth Form College (County Durham)	5,672,629	1,303,247	524,638	1,544,486	9,045,000	8,086,202
St Leonard's Catholic School (County Durham)	5,579,975	1,067,484	714,509	1,442,597	8,804,565	7,637,661
St Thomas More Catholic School (Gateshead)	6,497,947	1,307,036	355,656	1,654,489	9,815,128	8,849,483
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School (Gateshead)	758,093	164,486	33,083	256,029	1,211,691	1,171,089
St Matthew's Catholic Primary School (Northumberland)	544,956	104,697	27,328	188,635	865,616	787,331
St Bede's Catholic Primary School (County Durham)	463,098	136,920	39,340	92,494	731,852	704,914
St Godric's Catholic Primary School (County Durham)	710,908	197,002	68,285	218,045	1,194,240	1,013,206
Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Primary School (County Durham)	351,793	129,784	42,918	73,052	597,547	543,170
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (County Durham - Ushaw Moor)	462,312	122,295	38,421	83,841	706,869	642,516
St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School (County Durham)	648,261	187,959	31,329	186,562	1,054,111	984,050
St Joseph's Catholic Middle School (Northumberland)	1,010,017	222,563	56,955	268,789	1,558,324	1,731,685

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

20 Funds

(Continued)

	Teaching and educational support staff £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
St Mary's Catholic First School (Northumberland)	455,328	175,003	34,084	274,643	939,058	649,611
St Alban's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead)	693,578	133,586	46,275	222,148	1,095,587	1,061,460
St Mary's Catholic Primary School (County Durham)	622,285	198,653	75,507	165,428	1,061,873	1,026,834
St Michael's Catholic Primary School (County Durham)	629,951	166,248	20,760	131,868	948,827	969,701
St Benet's Catholic Primary School (County Durham)	770,191	220,299	52,160	181,616	1,224,266	1,135,089
St Oswald's Catholic Primary (Gateshead)	752,728	172,135	101,792	267,283	1,293,938	1,137,890
St Joseph's Catholic Primary (County Durham - Stanley)	761,399	242,865	36,890	183,513	1,224,667	1,087,796
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School (County Durham)	666,256	179,257	41,579	180,252	1,067,344	968,170
St Augustine's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead)	1,141,995	232,971	117,698	338,784	1,831,448	1,688,610
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead)	769,254	144,378	47,696	195,830	1,157,158	1,065,568
Cardinal Hume Catholic School (Gateshead)	6,395,299	1,169,360	5,966	2,309,511	9,880,136	8,939,683
St Anne's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead)	466,014	172,634	40,053	175,732	854,433	767,186
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Sunderland)	776,674	171,127	42,876	238,880	1,229,557	1,075,238
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (County Durham - Gilesgate)	629,045	198,263	50,581	131,766	1,009,655	769,095
St Thomas More Primary School (County Durham - Belmont)	322,808	130,941	48,569	114,296	616,614	470,420
St Mary's Catholic Primary School (County Durham - South Moor)	532,793	172,184	38,241	115,112	858,330	718,610
St Pius Xth Catholic Primary School (County Durham - Consett)	476,103	182,024	32,045	73,728	763,900	607,902
St Philip Neri Catholic Primary School (Gateshead - Dunston)	717,999	131,556	32,632	218,478	1,100,665	830,270

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

20 Funds

(Continued)

	Teaching and educational support staff £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Our Lady and St Joseph Brooms Catholic Primary School (County Durham - Leadgate)	378,543	144,125	17,899	97,741	638,308	528,678
St Joseph's Catholic Junior School (County Durham - Birtley)	392,283	86,078	49,697	130,590	658,648	512,731
St Joseph's Catholic Infant School (County Durham - Birtley)	322,545	100,814	41,746	136,045	601,150	412,666
St Peter's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead - Low Fell)	639,804	104,113	95,973	238,183	1,078,073	556,614
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School (County Durham - Consett)	1,446,193	377,931	76,219	233,104	2,133,447	1,156,520
Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School (Gateshead)	832,611	130,146	67,098	251,131	1,280,986	740,101
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead - Blaydon)	721,891	139,581	74,904	249,849	1,186,225	589,304
St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead - Whickham)	599,243	118,938	49,080	242,433	1,009,694	316,166
St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School (Gateshead)	587,667	105,291	43,985	190,030	926,973	272,962
St Mary' & St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary School (Gateshead - Blaydon)	734,615	221,085	70,232	262,576	1,288,508	376,487
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School (County Durham - Langley Moor)	318,210	123,358	38,488	97,596	577,652	179,469
All Saints' Catholic Primary School (County Durham - Lanchester)	689,779	185,335	33,795	162,354	1,071,263	337,668
St Agnes' Catholic Primary School (Gateshead - Crawcrook)	587,360	103,176	49,150	202,929	942,615	277,266
Central services	1,825,950	1,259,007	240,826	3,369,559	6,695,342	4,519,083
	<u>60,294,524</u>	<u>14,446,107</u>	<u>4,450,882</u>	<u>20,021,689</u>	<u>99,213,202</u>	<u>81,624,659</u>

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	General £	Restricted funds: Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	1,713,143	-	15,817,779	17,530,922
Fixed asset investments	-	-	1	1
Current assets	4,547,193	9,248,943	6,908,577	20,704,713
Current liabilities	-	(8,960,259)	(713,311)	(9,673,570)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(914,150)	(914,150)
Pension scheme liability	-	(3,548,000)	-	(3,548,000)
Total net assets	6,260,336	(3,259,316)	21,098,896	24,099,916

	Unrestricted Funds £	General £	Restricted funds: Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	1,755,000	-	15,024,267	16,779,267
Fixed asset investments	-	-	1	1
Current assets	4,700,902	13,345,762	4,033,844	22,080,508
Current liabilities	-	(8,946,558)	(212,779)	(9,159,337)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(1,066,486)	(1,066,486)
Pension scheme liability	-	(10,371,000)	-	(10,371,000)
Total net assets	6,455,902	(5,971,796)	17,778,847	18,262,953

22 Pension and similar obligations

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

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

Contributions amounting to £1,381,624 (2022: £1,257,485) were payable to the schemes at 31 August and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

22 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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 31 March 2016 TPS actuarial valuation results were implemented from 1 September 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% employer administration charge)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. The assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

The latest actuarial TPS valuation results, as at 31 March 2020, were released in October 2023. The revised employer contribution rate, arising from this valuation, is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024.

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £8,733,384 (2022: £7,762,859).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.6 - 24% for employers and 5.5 - 12.5% for employees.

As described in note the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the academy trust, being the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who joined the scheme in the period. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the academy trust at the balance sheet date.

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

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

22 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Total contributions made	2023 £	2022 £
Employer's contributions	3,082,000	2,322,000
Employees' contributions	919,000	713,000
Total contributions	<u>4,001,000</u>	<u>3,035,000</u>

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

22 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions	Durham 2023	Tyne & Wear 2023	Durham 2022	Tyne & Wear 2022
Rate of increase in salaries	3.6	4.1	3.7	4.2
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/ inflation	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.1	5.0	4.1	4.1
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7

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

	Durham 2023 Years	Tyne & Wear 2023 Years	Durham 2022 Years	Tyne & Wear 2022 Years
Retiring today				
- Males	21.7	21.0	22.1	21.8
- Females	23.9	24.1	24.2	25
Retiring in 20 years				
- Males	22.9	22.2	23.2	23.5
- Females	25.0	25.5	25.7	26.7

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Discount rate + 0.1%	48,739,000	52,776,000
Discount rate - 0.1%	50,760,000	55,310,000
Mortality assumption + 1 year	48,472,000	52,513,000
Mortality assumption - 1 year	50,996,000	55,539,000
CPI rate + 0.1%	50,611,000	55,019,000
CPI rate - 0.1%	48,888,000	53,067,000

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

	2023 Fair value £	2022 Fair value £
Equities	23,693,000	23,613,000
Government bonds	2,023,000	2,071,000
Corporate bonds	7,276,000	6,111,000
Cash	831,000	729,000
Property	4,329,000	4,464,000
Other assets	8,034,000	6,667,000
Total market value of assets	46,186,000	43,655,000

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

22 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

The actual return on scheme assets was £(364,000) (2022: £226,000).

Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	2023 £	2022 £
Current service cost	3,901,000	6,632,000
Past service cost	-	16,000
Interest income	(1,850,000)	(675,000)
Interest cost	2,212,000	1,294,000
Total operating charge	4,263,000	7,267,000

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 September 2022	54,026,000	65,035,000
Obligations acquired on conversion	-	15,504,000
Current service cost	3,901,000	6,632,000
Interest cost	2,212,000	1,294,000
Employee contributions	919,000	713,000
Actuarial gain	(10,218,000)	(34,457,000)
Benefits paid	(1,106,000)	(711,000)
Past service cost	-	16,000
At 31 August 2023	49,734,000	54,026,000

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

	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 September 2022	43,655,000	32,711,000
Assets acquired on conversion	-	8,394,000
Interest income	1,850,000	675,000
Actuarial loss	(2,214,000)	(449,000)
Employer contributions	3,082,000	2,322,000
Employee contributions	919,000	713,000
Benefits paid	(1,106,000)	(711,000)
At 31 August 2023	46,186,000	43,655,000

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

23 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(2,167,037)	(5,170,630)
Adjusted for:			
Net (surplus)/deficit on conversion to academy		(139,450)	4,678,610
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(3,840,352)	(4,135,096)
Investment income receivable	6	(22,239)	(1,894)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	22	819,000	4,326,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	22	362,000	619,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		1,056,886	722,975
(Increase) in stocks		(16,334)	(16,937)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		831,316	(1,636,565)
Increase in creditors		537,676	2,879,643
Stocks, debtors and creditors transferred on conversion		139,450	-
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		(2,439,084)	2,265,106

24 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	31 August 2023 £
Cash	17,228,164	(560,813)	16,667,351
Loans falling due within one year	(212,779)	23,443	(189,336)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(1,066,486)	152,336	(914,150)
	15,948,899	(385,034)	15,563,865

25 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

At 31 August 2023 the total of the academy trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts due within one year	46,434	79,378
Amounts due in two and five years	38,100	83,590
	84,534	162,968

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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

26 Capital commitments

	2023 £	2022 £
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	979,044	375,310

27 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust's operations and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the academy trust has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures. The following related party transaction took place in the period of account.

The academy trust occupies the footprint of the school building which is owned by its trustees, the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. The Diocese are the providers of the buildings on the same basis as when the academy was a maintained school. The academy trust occupies the buildings under a mere licence. This continuing permission of the trustees is pursuant to, and subject to, the trustees' charitable objects, and is part of the Catholic Church's contribution since 1847 to provide State funded education in partnership with the State. The licence delegates aspects of the management of the land and buildings to the academy trust for the time being, but does not vest any rights over the land in the academy trust. The trustees have given an undertaking to the Secretary of State that they will not give the academy trust less than two years notice to terminate the occupation of the buildings. Having considered the factual matrix under which the academy trust is occupying the buildings the trustees have concluded that the value of the land and buildings occupied by the academy trust will not be recognised on the balance sheet of the academy.

Expenditure related party transactions

During the year the trust purchased staff insurance provision from The Education Mutual Limited, a company in which Mr N Hurn OBE is also a director. The trust paid premiums of £559,088 (2022 - £453,469) during the year and received income of £416,217 (2022 - £250,803), at the year end, £28,152 is included in trade creditors.

- The academy trust made the transactions at arms' length following a competitive tendering exercise in accordance with its financial regulations, which Mr N Hurn OBE neither participated in, nor influenced
- The Education Mutual Limited is a not for profit mutual company and all services are provided at cost. The company has provided a statement of assurance confirming this.
- In entering into all of these transactions, the academy trust has complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

During the year the trust purchased catering services from Bishop Wilkinson Commercial Services Limited, the company is wholly owned subsidiary of the Trust. The trust paid £23,696 (2022 - £nil) during the year and £10,919 was included in trade creditors at the year end.

- The academy trust made the transactions at arms' length following a competitive tendering exercise in accordance with its financial regulations.
- Bishop Wilkinson Commercial Services Limited is a not for profit company and donates any profits made, to the Trust via a gift aid donation. The company has provided a statement of assurance confirming this.
- In entering into all of these transactions, the academy trust has complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

During the year the trust purchased Catholic education support services of £193,470 (2022 - £201,152) from Hexham and Newcastle Diocese.

BISHOP WILKINSON CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

28 Members' liability

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

29 Agency arrangements

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2023 the trust brought forward £211,154 (2022: £121,959) undistributed funds, received £160,774 (2022: £141,219) and disbursed £78,776 (2022: £52,024) from the fund. An amount of £293,152 (2022: £211,154) is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that are repayable to ESFA.

The academy trust also distributes private sponsorship to students as an agent for certain individuals. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2023 the trust brought forward £30,308 (2022: £30,308) from previous years, received £nil (2022: £nil) and disbursed £14,276 (2022: £nil) from funds. An amount of £16,032 (2022: £30,308) was included in other creditors prior to transfer relating to undistributed funds.