

**The Diocese of Westminster
Academy Trust**


**Annual Report and Financial
Statements**

31 August 2022

Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number
07944160 (England and Wales)

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Legal and administrative information

Members	Cardinal Vincent Nichols Bishop John Sherrington P Camoletto P Sweeney P Leeson
Trustees	R Anderson OBE, Foundation Director F Federico, Co-opted Director L Fitton, Co-opted Director, appointed 20 September 2022 V Fulton, Foundation Director M Gifford, Foundation Director, appointed 7 September 2022 N Joseph, Co-opted Director P Leeson, Foundation Director, Chairman M Motha, Foundation Director K Sullivan, Foundation Director S Tanner, Co-opted Director
Registered office	Waxwell House, 125 Waxwell Lane, London HA5 3EP
Company registration number	07944160 (England and Wales)
Company Secretary	A Lynch
Key management personnel	P Murden, Chief Executive Officer M Metcalfe, Chief Financial Officer C Nicholson, Director of Primary Improvement (appointed 1 September 2022)
Independent Auditor	Landau Baker Limited Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors Moutcliff House 154 Brent Street London NM4 2DR

Legal and administrative information

Bankers	Lloyds TSB Bank plc 286/288 Station Road Harrow Middx HA1 2EB
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Solicitors	Winckworth Sherwood LLP Minerva House 5 Montague Close London SE19bb
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Trustees' report Year to 31 August 2022

The Trustees of the Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the period ended 31 August 2022. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies on pages 33 to 39 of the attached financial statements and comply with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006, the Financial Reporting and Accounts Requirements issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, applicable laws and 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Trust operates 5 primary and 6 secondary academies as detailed below.

Academy	Phase	Local Authority	Conversion
Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School	Secondary	Hertfordshire	1/3/12
The Saint John Henry Newman Catholic School	Secondary	Hertfordshire	1/3/12
The Douay Martyrs Catholic Secondary School	Secondary	Hillingdon	1/3/12
St Claudine's Catholic School for Girls	Secondary	Brent	1/4/12
St Mark's Catholic School	Secondary	Hounslow	1/4/12
St Michael's Catholic High School	Secondary	Hertfordshire	1/4/12
Our Lady Catholic Primary School	Primary	Hertfordshire	1/7/12
St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School	Primary	Hertfordshire	1/7/12
St John's Catholic Primary School	Primary	Hertfordshire	1/7/12
St Marys Catholic Primary School	Primary	Hertfordshire	1/7/12
St Thomas More Catholic Primary School	Primary	Hertfordshire	1/7/12

The academies have a combined pupil capacity of 8234 and had a roll of 8528 (8313 2021) as of October 2022.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. It was incorporated on 9 February 2012 and under the Funding Agreement dated 1 March 2012.

The memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust.

The Trustees of The Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

The charitable company is known as The Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust (DoWAT).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Constitution (continued)

Details of the Trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and administrative details on page 1. The

principal activity of the Trust is the establishing, maintaining and developing Catholic schools within the Diocese of Westminster which shall offer a broad and balanced curriculum.

Members' Liability

Every 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' and Officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academy has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim. The cost is included in the RPA insurance the Academy has opted into.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The number of Trustees shall be not less than 3 but shall not be subject to a maximum. The first set of Trustees shall be those named in the initial memorandum. The Trust shall have the following Trustees: Such Foundation Trustees appointed by Members, which must exceed the number of other directors by at least 2. Co-opted Trustees appointed by the board and any post holders as stipulated under article 50c. The parental representation at the Trust is through 2 parent governors at each of the Local Governing Bodies.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend on their existing experience. Where necessary, induction will provide training on charity and educational legal financial matters. All new Trustees are offered the opportunity to visit or link with an academy. All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, financial statements, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees.

Director Briefings are organised on specific topics relating to the governance role.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Organisational Structure

DoWAT's governance structure consists of four levels:

1. The Trustees and the CEO
2. Trust Committees
3. Local Governing Bodies
4. Headteachers and their Senior Leadership Teams of the Academy schools in the Trust

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key personnel including the CEO, key Trust central personnel and Headteachers are set under the Pay Policy and Scheme of Delegation approved by the Board of Trustees of DoWAT.

Trade union facility time

There were no employees who were relevant union officials during the period, so there was no time or percentage of the pay bill spent on facility time. There were no paid trade union activities during the period.

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

Trustees and Local Governing Body Members engage positively with staff. There are regular staff briefings and meetings with the unions. Staff are supported in collaborative working with their peers which encourages professional development. In its Equalities Statement, the Trust commits to the promotion and understanding of the principles of equality and justice. Equality, diversity and inclusion are key trust priorities and the trust aims to ensure equality in the recruitment process as well as throughout an employee's career.

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

The Trust engages positively with customers and suppliers, clearly setting out the terms and conditions within which it operates. Suppliers receive a purchase order which details services required and agreed payment terms. An invoice is raised to customers, clearly detailing the services being provided and when payment is due.

There is a contract management process for larger trust suppliers.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Related Parties and other connected charities and organisations

The Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust has a strong working relationship with the Diocese of Westminster. This relationship is defined through the role of the Catholic Church as defined in the Memorandum of Understanding between the DfE and the Catholic Church. Catholic Academy Trusts and their schools are subject to education legislation, and they, their dioceses and their Trustees are also subject to charity law. The DfE and the CES recognise that, in addition, Catholic schools within Catholic Trusts are legally subject to any relevant Trust Deeds and Catholic canon law.

In addition to this, the Trust also provides a procurement framework that enables its member academies to access commercial services that ensure value for money and consistent quality. For some of these commercial services the Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust has entered into agreements with commercial providers of back-office services including legal, HR, Payroll, Insurance, financial systems and accountancy services through Churchmarketplace or the Education Buying Group, a public sector procurement organisation, of which DoWAT is a Corporate Director.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

During the period the main object of the trust was the advancement of the Catholic religion in the Diocese by such means as the Diocesan Bishop may think fit and proper by, managing and developing the Catholic schools within the trust conducted in accordance with the principles, and subject to the regulations and discipline of the Catholic Church.

The trust has a Scheme of Government consisting of a 'Master Funding Agreement' between the Company and the Secretary of State and 'Supplemental Funding Agreements' for each Academy. This specifies, amongst other things, the basis for admitting pupils to the Academies within the Multi Academy Trust, the catchment area from which the pupils are drawn, and that the curriculum should comply with the substance of the national curriculum.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The trust's mission is to achieve excellence in the service of the Gospel. With Christ at the centre of our hearts and of our schools, we are committed to the flourishing of our children and young people, so that they might grow in excellence and learn how to use their skills and knowledge for the common good, for the sake of their sisters and brothers in the world, especially the poor and marginalized. Our vision is for Excellence in Catholic Education.

Our focus for during the period was on our 5 strategic aims.

Leadership

- Continuing to embed mission and strategy into school policy and practice
- Identifying and forming the next generation of leadership within the Trust, through leadership surveys and the development of professional communities.
- Supporting and developing current leaders through coaching, mentoring and external review

- **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES** (continued)

Governance

- Developing effective governance. We introduced a new scheme of delegation which articulated the relationships between the diocese, trust board and local governance and set out clear lines of accountability.
- Developing financial systems and procedures which will ensure viability and allow for investment in Trust priorities School Improvement, through the introduction of a new finance handbook and reserves policy.
- Developing a school improvement model with clear roles and responsibilities which supports and challenges all schools towards excellence, through defined evaluation of key areas of school performance.
- Developing a professional learning community which provides excellent training and support for Trust staff, through the development of best practice groups across trust schools.

Option for the Vulnerable

- A relentless focus on promoting the well-being, progress and attainment of vulnerable pupils, especially SEND, Pupil Premium and Looked After Children through reviews of provision for pupils with SEND and refined reporting on progress of vulnerable groups.

Structural Growth

- The growth of pupil numbers in the Trust where numbers are low through dedicated marketing and promotion, including re-branding.
- Identifying and implementing the central team and functions to serve the Trust's vision
- Exploring the growth of the number of schools in the Trust through dialogue with the diocese and identified primary schools

Contribution to the partnership

All partnership members actively support the partnership principles, are committed to implementing its vision and values, and are committed to supporting the development of an effective, ambitious and outward-facing Multi-Academy Trust. During the year the trust has developed collaborative partnerships with other Catholic Multi Academy Trusts and The Catholic Education Service and Church of England to deliver the new National Professional Qualifications.

Public benefit

In setting the Trust's objectives and planning its activities, the Board of Trustees has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The Trustees consider that the trust's aims and activities are demonstrably to the public benefit.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievements and performance

This was the first year since 2019 that statutory assessments and public examinations were taken by pupils. The tables below show the headline outcomes from key assessments.

At primary level, the Key Stage 2 outcomes were a strength in all schools. Attainment was high with positive progress scores. Key Stage 1 teacher assessments were generally good. The trust saw mixed results in the Early Years and Foundation Stage development check and the phonics check.

Secondary school performance remains strong with improving outcomes at GCSE and A Level. Initial analysis of data show that all secondary schools achieved positive Progress 8 scores at GCSE, with St Mark's being the fifth highest performing school nationally. Outcomes at Key Stage 5 were also strong and most pupils progressed to first choice universities.

Key Stage 2 Assessments

Key Stage 2 2022	National 2022	Our Lady	St Thomas More	St Mary's	St Catherine	St John's
Expected						
Reading %	74	84	87	79	88	76
Writing %	69	69	80	82	82	79
Maths %	71	77	73	79	91	79
GPS %	72	77	83	75	88	75
Greater Depth						
Reading %	28	23	24	36	41	34
Writing %	13	16	37	32	18	14
Maths %	22	28	20	43	24	31
GPS %	28	26	27	25	24	31
Combined RWM	59	63	60	71	74	72

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Achievement and Performance (continued)

GCSE

School Name	% English and Maths 4-7	% English and Maths 5-7
St Claudine's Catholic School	63%	46%
Douay Martyrs School	84%	61%
Nicholas Breakspear School	72%	51%
St Mark's RC School	91%	78%
St Michael's RC High School	80%	54%
The St John Henry Newman RC School	90%	69%

A Level

School Name	% A*/A	% A*-C
St Claudine's Catholic School	22%	77%
Douay Martyrs School	25%	76%
Nicholas Breakspear School	31%	92%
St Mark's RC School	40%	89%
St Michael's RC High School	25%	83%
The St John Henry Newman RC School	29%	79%

Schools continued to see disruption as a result of the global pandemic, with increased levels of pupils and staff absence, therefore. Schools were able to adapt learning as necessary, offering remote learning and additional tutoring to enable pupils to catch up. This work is reflected in the strong outcomes in statutory assessments and public examinations.

During the period, Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School had a section 8 Ofsted inspection and continues to be a good school. Ofsted found there is enough evidence of improved performance to suggest the school could be judged outstanding at its next full inspection.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Achievement and Performance (continued)

Our Lady Catholic Primary School had a full Ofsted inspection in the summer of 2022 and was judged to be good. This reflected the hard work of the local governors, headteacher and wider staff team in raising standards at the school.

St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School and St Claudine's Catholic School for Girls, both received Diocesan Inspections and received Good and Outstanding grades respectively.

It was pleasing to see such successes in external inspections following the disruption caused by the pandemic in previous years.

This was the first full academic year with the substantive Chief Executive Officer. The Central Team was strengthened with seconded appointments, to oversee primary improvement, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Safeguarding. Formal external assurance was commissioned to ensure that school standards, SEND and Safeguarding provision are effective.

The year also saw the development of 'Leads Together' Groups, which share best practice across a range of leadership and subject areas. The Trust also worked in partnership with the Church of England and Catholic Education Service to shape the delivery of the new National Professional Qualifications. This work is key to the trust delivering school led self-improvement.

The Trust continued to focus on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion with a focus on developing recruitment policies that deliver on the Public Sector Equality Duty. The development of in-house leadership programmes through the NPQ role out, provides the opportunity for ensuring under-represented groups have access to and support with training.

The Trust has received £1.7 million of School Conditions Allocation Grant from the DfE and £0.6 million of Devolved Formula Capital Grant to improve the provision for the students within the Trust. The Trust carried out condition surveys on all its schools and prioritised projects in line with its Estates Plan. Two schools are undergoing Priority School Building Programme Phase Two projects which will complete in the next period.

Going concern

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

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Promoting the success of the Trust

As directors of the charitable company, the Trustees have considered the interest of the Trust and its stakeholders in its decision-making. The Trust has a wide range of key stakeholders including students and their parents, its employees, the Diocese of Westminster and the local parishes and communities and governors. Trustees are highly cognizant of their role and the role of schools in their local parishes, in delivering Catholic education and in their wider communities promoting the common good.

Where appropriate to do so, stakeholders are consulted on specific policy decisions prior to their approval. The Trust board is committed to its own code of conduct and that of its staff. It is aware of the potential for conflicts of interest and puts in place mechanisms to counter these where they apply. The Trustees place a high premium on making decisions that are right for the communities and children that they serve.

Financial review

Financial position

During the year ended 31 August 2022, total income was £54,358k (year ended 31 August 2021 £51,053k). Total expenditure was £53,587k (year ended 31 August 2021 – £50,026k).

At 31 August 2022 the net book value of fixed assets was £17,907k (2021 – £16,194k) and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 11 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Academy Trust.

The Academy Trust held fund balances at 31 August 2022 of £27,306k (2021 – £7,628k) comprising £25,963k (2021 – £5,173k) of restricted funds including a pension reserve deficit of £3,457k (2021 – £19,827k) and unrestricted funds of £1,343k (2021 – £2,455k).

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

Reserves policy

The total reserves at the end of the period amounted to £27,306k before deducting the local government pension scheme deficit of £(3,457k).

The level of reserves held take into account the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match them with commitments, including future capital projects and the nature of reserves.

During the period, the trust adopted a formal reserves policy. This sets out the level of minimum and maximum reserves that will be held. This is summarised below:

Trustees' report Year to 31 August 2022

- **STRATEGIC REPORT** (continued)
- **Financial review** (continued)
- **Reserves policy** (continued)
- Unrestricted reserves and donations will be held at school level and are not capped. The current level of reserves is £1,343k.
- Grant funding will be no lower than 3% and no greater than 8%. The current reserve is £8,643k.
- Capital funding will be allocated in year although expenditure will happen across financial years. £300,000k will be retained in any one year for contingency. The current fixed asset fund is £2,873k.

The trust intends to use reserves on capital and infrastructure projects as well as fixed term appointments to improve standards and support the most disadvantaged pupils. Over the next 3 years over £1.6m is already allocated to capital projects, over and above the School Condition Allocation. The Trust is also exploring improvements to IT infrastructure and additional short-term staffing to support the higher level of need following the Covid pandemic.

Principal risks and uncertainties

Trustees have assessed the key risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the Trust and its finances. The Trust Board has implemented a number of systems to assess risks, especially those relating to teaching, health and safety (including Covid-safety, school visits and the control of finance. The Trust Board has introduced a range of policies and procedures such as vetting new employees and volunteers, site safety and internal financial control in order to minimise risk. Trustees have also ensured that they have adequate insurance cover and are satisfied that the systems in place are consistent with Charities Commission and ESFA guidelines. The systems for adequate financial controls are covered in detail in the Financial Review.

The Audit and Risk Committee reviews the Risk Register and associated policies regularly. This has involved scoring the risks faces and prioritising them in terms of their operational or financial impact. The main risks are:

- Reduction in funding through policy and formula changes or through declining pupil numbers
- The risk of regulatory failure
- Inaccurate financial reporting and monitoring
- Difficulty in recruiting senior leaders.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Financial review (continued)

In order to mitigate the risks, the trust contributes to financial consultations and carefully models income and expenditure scenarios. The trust also reviews pupil numbers and models these over the medium term as well as supporting schools with marketing. The trust is developing a stronger central function to manage other risks, for example with the appointment of substantive CEO and CFO. This has led to a new accountability framework for assessing school standards and ensuring robust budgetary oversight is in place.

Financial position and reserves policy

Under the provisions of the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 the Trust is required to provide details on its fundraising practices.

As a Catholic Academy Trust our schools have a long tradition of helping those in need, as a community, we understand just how privileged we are, and recognise the Gospel call to serve others. Across the Trust we support a variety of charitable organisations throughout the academic year

In addition, the Trust seeks voluntary parental contributions to further the development of the provision of Catholic Education through the diocesan building fund. All our fundraising is operated through our school private accounts which are audited and form part of the Trusts consolidated final accounts.

Investment Policy

The Trust aims to manage its cash balances to provide for the day-to-day working capital requirements of its operations. In addition, the Trust aims to invest surplus cash funds to optimise returns but ensuring the investment instruments are such that there is no risk to the loss of these cash funds.

Trustees will formally adopt an investment policy in November 2022.

FUNDRAISING

The Trust does not employ a professional fundraiser. The Trust does not actively fundraise for its own purposes, other than for other charitable causes.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data	1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022	1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	10,079,625	11,200,116
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>		
Gas consumption	1214.93	1532.36
Owned transport – mini-buses <u>Total scope 1</u>	2.12	3.02
<u>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u> Purchased		
electricity	662.21	598.59
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u> Business travel in		
employee owned vehicles	5.30	1.79
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e	1,884.56	2135.7
<u>Intensity ratio</u>		
Tonnes CO2e per pupil	0.23	0.26

Quantification and reporting methodology

We have followed the 2022 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2022 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

Intensity measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

Comparison with 2021

The intensity ratio was 0.26 in 2021 and there has been a decrease to 0.23 in 2022.

Trustees' report Year to 31 August 2022

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The Trust continues to develop its central services to drive school improvement in key areas. The development of a partnership with the Catholic Education Service and the Church of England means that the Trust will be a NPQ delivery partner from February 2022.

The Trust is working closely with the Diocese of Westminster Education Commission's Academy Project Board and 4 primary schools have entered due diligence with a view to becoming part of DoWAT in the future.

Since the end of the accounting period, St Mark's School received a full Ofsted Inspection and was judged to be Outstanding and St Claudine's received a non-graded inspection and continues to be good.

AUDITOR

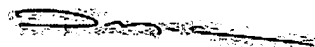
In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company's directors, on 14 December 2022 and signed on the board's behalf by:



Mr P Leeson
Chair of Trustees



Mr P Murden
Accounting Officer

Scope of responsibility

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

The board has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between the Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses and breakdowns in internal controls.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' report and in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities. The Trust Board has formally met 8 times during the period. Attendance during the period at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Number of meetings attended	Out of a possible
R Anderson	8	8
V Fulton	7	8
P Leeson	8	8
M Motha	8	8
F Federico	4	8
N Joseph	6	8
K Sullivan	6	8
S Tanner	6	8

Finance Committee attendance was as follows:

Finance and Resources committee attendance

Trustee	Number of meetings attended	Out of a possible
V Fulton	3	4
M Motha	4	4
P Leeson	4	4
K Sullivan	4	4
N Joseph	1	1

Audit and Risk committee attendance

Trustee	Number of meetings attended	Out of a possible
R Anderson	4	4
V Fulton	4	4
P Leeson	4	4
M Motha	2	4

Conflicts of interest

The Trust has processes in place to manage conflicts of interest. This includes maintaining an up to date and complete register of interests and having declarations of interest as a standing item on all agendas.

The trust has no subsidiaries; however, it does ensure that the relationship with the Diocese of Westminster is understood and reported.

Governance reviews

Trustees reviewed the skills of directors and identified areas where trustee skills could be strengthened. As a result, a new co-opted and a new Foundation director were appointed in the autumn term of 2022.

A review of local governance was carried out as part of the internal audit process and trustees will be following the recommendations made in the next financial period in order to strengthen the flow of information from local governors to the strategic board.

Review of value for money

As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes 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 the 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 Academy Trust has delivered and improved value for money during the period as follows:

- ♦ procuring certain projects centrally to gain discounts
- ♦ using existing employees within the trust to carry out trust improvement priorities across the trust
- ♦ implemented a single O365 domain.

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 Multi-Academy's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in the Trust Academies for the year ended 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements

Capacity to handle risk

The Strategic Board in consultation with the local governing boards has reviewed the key risks to which the multi academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Strategic Board is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the multi academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year ending 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. The Strategic Board have appointed for this year an external consultant to support in the review of Health and Safety risks who provide a report to the Local Governing Bodies and a Strategic Report to the Board. This process is regularly reviewed by the Strategic Board through the Risk Management reporting schedule from the Local Governing Bodies.

The risk and control framework

The Trust adheres to the newly revised FRC Ethical Standards as the Audit firm for external audit does not provide any internal audit or scrutiny.

The Trust has in place a Gift and Hospitality policy.

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees.
- regular reviews by the finance and resources committee 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 guidelines.
- identification and management of risks.

The risk and control framework (continued)

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has appointed Buzzacott LLP as internal auditor. The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial and other systems. The checks carried out in the current period included:

- reviews of internal controls at a sample of academies
- a review of academy handbook compliance
- a review of risk management procedures
- a review of local governance.

On a termly basis, the auditor reports to the board of trustees through the audit and risk committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities. On an annual basis the auditor prepares a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

The internal audit report does not highlight any significant control issues and the recommendations within the report are being acted upon to ensure improvement in all the overall financial controls across all the Trust schools

Governance statement Year to 31 August 2022

Review of effectiveness

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

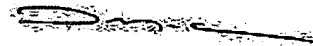
- ◆ the work of the internal auditor;
- ◆ the work of the external auditor;
- ◆ the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- ◆ the work of the senior management team within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The Accounting Officer has advised the Audit and Risk Committee of the implications of his review of the system of internal control and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Mr P Leeson
Chair of Trustees



Mr P Murden
Accounting Officer

Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance Year to 31 August 2022

As Accounting Officer of the Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust governing body and the Education and Skills Funding Agency of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with ESFA terms and conditions of funding, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2022.

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



Patrick Murden
Accounting Officer

Date: 14 December 2022

Statement of Trustee's responsibilities 31 August 2022

The Trustees (who act as governors of the Trust and are also the directors of the Academy Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the Annual Accounts Requirements issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ observe the methods and principles in the Charities' SORP FRS102 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022;
- ◆ make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- ◆ prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Academy Trust will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Academy Trust's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Academy Trust and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Academy Trust 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 Academy Trust applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from the ESFA have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board and signed on its behalf by:



Chair of Trustees

Date: 14 December 2022

Independent auditor's report to the members of The Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the academy's affairs as at 31 August 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Basis Of 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the academy in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 governing body's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

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

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

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. The governing body are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion On Other Matters Prescribed By The Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Governing body's report including the Strategic report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Governing body's report and the Strategic report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters On Which We Are Required To Report By Exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the academy and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Governing body's report including the 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 financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of governing body's 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 Governing body's responsibilities statement, the governing body (who are also the directors of the academy for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the governing body determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's Responsibilities For The Audit Of The Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' 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

Independent auditor's report 31 August 2022

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

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

We considered the nature of the industry and its control environment, and reviewed the academy's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to fraud and compliance with laws and regulations. We also enquired of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the academy's operates in, and identified the key laws and regulations that:

- had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. These included the UK Companies Act and tax legislation; and
- do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

We discussed among the audit engagement team regarding the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements.

In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluated the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to the risks identified included the following:

- reviewing financial statement disclosures by testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- enquiring of management, and external legal counsel concerning actual and potential litigation and claims, and instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

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

Use Of Our Report

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

Independent auditor's report 31 August 2022

members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Jacob Lew (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

Landau Baker Limited

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditors

Mountcliff House

154 Brent Street

London

NW4 2DR

Date: 14 December 2022

Independent reporting accountant's report 31 August 2022

Independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity to The Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 14 September 2012 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2022, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust during the period from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to The Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to The Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust and the ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than The Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of The Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust accounting officer and the reporting auditor

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 March 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 2021 to 2022. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

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

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

Independent reporting accountant's report 31 August 2022

Approach (continued)

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- ◆ review of management reporting documents.
- ◆ review of Trustees/Governors meeting minutes.
- ◆ confirming compliance with the Academy Trust's Scheme of Delegation.
- ◆ compliance with delegated authorities Conclusion
- ◆ consideration of whether any personal benefit has been derived from the Academy Trust's transactions by staff or related parties.
- ◆ adherence to tendering policies.

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 from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Reporting Accountant

Landau Baker Limited

Landau Baker Limited

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditors

Mountcliff House

154 Brent Street
London
NW4 2DR

Date: 14 December 2022

Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account)
Year ended 31 August 2022

		Restricted funds				
	Notes	Unrestricted general funds £'000	General funds £'000	Fixed asset funds £'000	2022 Total funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	1	537	-	2,042	2,579	2,673
Charitable activities						
Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations	3	-	50,647	-	50,647	47,750
Other trading activities	2	-	1,130	-	1,130	628
Investments		-	2	-	2	2
Total income		537	51,779	2,042	54,358	51,053
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities						
Academy's educational operations	5	180	51,845	1,562	53,587	50,026
Total expenditure	4	180	51,845	1,562	53,587	50,026
Net income (expenditure)		357	(66)	480	771	1,027
Transfers between funds		(1,469)	419	1,050	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension scheme	19	-	18,907	-	18,907	(3,344)
Net movement in funds		(1,112)	19,260	1,530	19,678	2,317
Reconciliation of funds						
Total fund balances brought forward at 1 September 2022		2,455	(14,074)	19,247	7,628	9,945
Total fund balances carried forward at 31 August 2022		1,343	5,186	20,777	27,306	7,628

All of the Academy's activities derived from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

The Academy has no recognised gains or losses other than those shown above.

Balance sheet 31 August 2022

	Notes	2022 £'000	2022 £'000	2021 £'000	2021 £'000
Fixed assets					
Intangible fixed assets	10		3		19
Tangible fixed assets	11		17,904		16,194
			17,907		16,213
Current assets					
Stocks		-		14	
Debtors	12	1,194		960	
Cash at bank and in hand		14,934		13,002	
		16,128		13,976	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(3,272)		(2,734)	
Net current assets			12,856		11,242
Total assets less current liabilities			30,763		27,455
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19		(3,457)		(19,827)
Total net assets			27,306		7,628
The funds of the Academy Trust:					
Restricted funds					
. Fixed assets fund	14		20,777		19,247
. Restricted income fund	14		8,643		5,753
. Restricted funds excluding pension asset	14		29,420		25,000
. Pension reserve	14		(3,457)		(19,827)
Total restricted funds			25,963		5,173
Unrestricted income funds					
. General funds	14		1,343		2,455
Total funds			27,306		7,628

The financial statements on page 29 to 62 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 14 December 2022 and are signed on their behalf by:



PATRICK LEESON

Chair of Trustees

The Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust
Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number: 07944160 (England and Wales)

Statement of cash flows Year ended 31 August 2022

	Note	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Cashflows from operating activities	A	3,138	2,182
Cash flows (used by) financing activities	B	(16)	(61)
Cash flows (used by) / from investing activities	C	(1,190)	508
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period		<u>1,932</u>	<u>2,629</u>
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds:			
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2021		13,002	10,373
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	D	<u>14,934</u>	<u>13,002</u>

A Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash provided by operating activities

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Net expenditure for the period (as per the statement of financial activities)	771	1,027
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation & amortisation charges (notes 10 & 11)	1,565	1,521
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(2,042)	(2,408)
(Gain)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	(25)	-
Interest receivable	(2)	(2)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 19)	2,197	1,333
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 19)	340	262
Decrease in stocks	14	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(234)	154
Increase in creditors	554	295
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>3,138</u>	<u>2,182</u>

B Cash flows from financing activities

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Repayments of borrowing	(16)	(61)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(16)</u>	<u>(61)</u>

C Cash flows from investing activities

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	2	2
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets	25	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(3,259)	(1,902)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	2,042	2,408
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(1,190)</u>	<u>508</u>

Statement of cash flows Year ended 31 August 2022

D Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Cash at bank and in hand	14,934	13,002
Total cash and cash equivalents	14,934	13,002

E Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2021 £'000	Cash flows £'000	At 31 August 2022 £'000
Cash	13,002	1,912	14,914
Debt due within 1 year	(18)	18	-
Total	12,984	1,930	14,914

Statement of accounting policies

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

Basis of preparation

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

The financial statements are presented in sterling to the nearest thousand pounds.

Going concern

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

Income

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

Grants

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

Income (continued)

Grants (continued)

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

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

Legacies

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Academy Trust has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Academy Trust, can be reliably measured.

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 tangible 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.

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. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Charitable activities

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

All expenditure is stated net of recoverable VAT.

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible assets costing £5,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost net of amortisation and any provision for impairment.

Amortisation is provided on intangible assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life.

Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £5000 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. 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 such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities so as to reduce the fund over the expected useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the Academy Trust's depreciation policy.

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:

Tangible fixed assets (continued)

- ♦ Building improvements - 3 to 50 years
- ♦ Computer equipment - 3 years
- ♦ Plant and machinery - 3 to 5 years
- ♦ Furniture and Equipment - 5 to 15 years
- ♦ Motor vehicles - 5 years

Depreciation is charged from the month of acquisition.

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.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amounts prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand. Notice deposits are included on the balance sheet as short term deposits.

Liabilities

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

Provisions

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

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

Leased assets

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

Financial instruments

The Academy Trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the Academy Trust and their measurement basis are as follows:

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 12. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 13. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

Taxation

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

Pension benefits

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

Pension benefits (continued)

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Academy Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in note 18, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

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

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

Fund accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the Academy Trust at the discretion of the Trustees.

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

Restricted general funds comprise all other grants received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency, the Local Authority or other revenue funds that are given for specific purposes.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

- ♦ **LGPS defined benefit liability**
The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 18, 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 2022. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.
- ♦ The 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.

Agency Arrangements

The multi academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA.

Notes to the Financial Statements Year ended 31 August 2022

1 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset funds £'000	2022 Total funds £'000
Capital grants	-	-	2,038	2,038
Donations fixed assets	-	-	4	4
Other donations	537	-	-	537
	<u>537</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,042</u>	<u>2,579</u>

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
Capital grants	-	-	2,194	2,194
Donations fixed assets	-	-	99	99
Other donations	299	81	-	380
	<u>299</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>2,292</u>	<u>2,673</u>

2 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2022 Total funds £'000
Hire of facilities	-	285	285
Income from other charitable activities	-	348	348
Income from ancillary trading activities	-	497	497
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,130</u>	<u>1,130</u>

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
Hire of facilities	-	169	169
Income from other charitable activities	41	183	224
Income from ancillary trading activities	8	227	235
	<u>49</u>	<u>579</u>	<u>628</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements Year ended 31 August 2022

3 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2022 Total funds £'000
DfE / ESFA grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	45,721	45,721
Other DfE / ESFA grants			
. UIFSM	-	151	151
. Pupil Premium	-	1,059	1,059
. Others	-	2,023	2,023
	-	48,954	48,954
Other Government grants			
SEN Funding	-	807	807
Local authority grants	-	341	341
	-	1,148	1,148
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	-	545	545
	-	545	545
2022 total funds	-	50,647	50,647

Notes to the Financial Statements Year ended 31 August 2022

3 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations (continued)

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
DfE / ESFA grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	41,971	41,971
Other DfE / ESFA grants			
. UIFSM	-	193	193
. Pupil Premium	-	1,086	1,086
. Others	-	2,373	2,373
	-	45,623	45,623
Other Government grants			
SEN Funding	-	526	526
Local authority grants	-	356	356
	-	882	882
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	-	465	465
Coronavirus additional funding (DfE/ESFA)			
Catch-up premium	-	543	543
Other DfE/ESFA Coronavirus funding	-	237	237
	-	780	780
2021 total funds	-	47,750	47,750

Catering income has been included in note 3 above rather than note 5 in previous years.

Notes to the Financial Statements Year ended 31 August 2022

4 Expenditure

	Non pay expenditure			
	Staff costs £'000	Premises £'000	Other costs £'000	2022 Total funds £'000
Academy's educational operations:				
. Direct costs	33,488	1,560	3,996	39,044
. Allocated support costs	9,402	2,957	2,184	14,543
	42,890	4,517	6,180	53,587

	Non pay expenditure			
	Staff costs £'000	Premises £'000	Other costs £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
Academy Trust's educational operations:				
.. Direct costs	33,201	1,528	2,663	37,392
.. Allocated support costs	7,783	2,564	2,287	12,634
	40,984	4,092	4,950	50,026

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Net income (expenditure) for the period includes:		
Operating lease rentals	201	171
(Gain)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	(25)	-
Depreciation	1,549	1,488
Amortisation	16	25
Fees payable to auditor		
. Statutory audit	26	46
. Other services	10	18

5 Charitable activities - Academy trust's educational operations

	2022 Total funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
Direct costs	39,044	37,392
Support costs	14,543	12,634
	53,587	50,026

Notes to the Financial Statements Year ended 31 August 2022

5 Charitable activities - Academy trust's educational operations (continued)

	2022 Total funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	6,865	6,188
Pension finance costs	340	262
Premises costs	2,957	2,564
Legal cost – other	-	-
Other support costs	1,833	1,912
Governance costs	351	375
Non cash pension costs	2,197	1,333
Total support costs	14,543	12,634

6 Staff

(a) Staff costs

Staff costs during the period were:

	2022 Total funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
Wages and salaries	29,947	29,128
Social security costs	3,246	3,041
Pension costs	7,005	6,500
	40,198	38,669
Supply teacher costs	454	638
Staff restructuring costs	41	100
Non cash pension costs	2,197	1,333
	42,890	40,740

(b) Severance payments

The academy trust paid 4 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

	2022 No.
£0 - £25,000	4

(c) Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £6,000 (2021: £54,000). Individually, the payment was £6,000: (2021: £19,000, £35,000).

Notes to the Financial Statements Year ended 31 August 2022

Staff (continued)

(d) Staff numbers

The average numbers of persons (including senior management team) employed by the Academy Trust during the period was as follows:

Charitable activities	2022 No.	2021 No.
Teachers	452	524
Administration and support	380	430
Management	64	-
	896	954

Higher paid staff

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 on an actual basis, was:

Charitable activities	2022 No.	2021 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	29	28
£70,001 - £80,000	8	8
£80,001 - £90,000	4	4
£90,001 - £100,000	2	6
£100,001 - £110,000	-	-
£110,001 - £120,000	2	1
£120,001 - £130,000	1	-
£130,001 - £140,000	1	1
£140,001 - £150,000	1	1
£150,001 - £160,000	1	-

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension and national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust in the period was £318,000 (2021 – £254,734).

7 Related Party Transactions - Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No Trustees were paid remuneration or had received other benefits from an employment with the Academy Trust for the current year.

During the period ended 31 August 2022 no travel and subsistence expenses were reimbursed to Trustees (2021 – none).

Notes to the Financial Statements Year ended 31 August 2022

8 Trustees' and Officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academy has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim. The cost is included in the RPA insurance the Academy has opted into.

9 Central Services

The Academy Trust has provided the following central services to its Academies during the period:

- ♦ Educational Leadership and School Improvement support
- ♦ Financial Leadership
- ♦ Legal and regulatory support
- ♦ HR advice and guidance

The actual amounts charged during the period were as follows:

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
The Douay Martyrs School	261	114
St Marks Catholic School	213	104
Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School	151	67
John Henry Newman Catholic School	254	143
St Michael's Catholic High School	180	105
Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College	171	59
St John's Catholic Primary School	25	17
Our Lady Catholic Primary School	23	27
St Thomas More Catholic Primary School	26	23
St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School	31	27
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	26	17
Total	1,361	703

Notes to the Financial Statements Year ended 31 August 2022

10 Intangible fixed assets

	Computer Software £'000	Total funds £'000
Cost/valuation		
At 1 September 2021	116	116
Additions	-	-
Transfers	-	-
At 31 August 2022	116	116
Depreciation		
At 1 September 2021	97	97
Charge in period	16	16
At 31 August 2022	113	113
Net book value		
At 31 August 2022	3	3
At 1 September 2021	19	19

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Building improvements £'000	Furniture and equipment £'000	Computer Equipment £'000	Motor Vehicles £'000	Total funds £'000
Cost/valuation					
At 1 September 2021	19,101	2,973	2,950	79	25,103
Additions	2,329	304	626	-	3,259
Disposals	-	-	-	(58)	(58)
At 31 August 2022	21,430	3,277	3,576	21	28,304
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2021	4,336	2,026	2,468	79	8,909
Charge in period	893	322	334	-	1,549
Disposals	-	-	-	(58)	(58)
At 31 August 2022	5,229	2,348	2,802	21	10,400
Net book value					
At 31 August 2022	16,201	929	774	-	17,904
At 1 September 2021	14,765	947	482	-	16,194

Notes to the Financial Statements Year ended 31 August 2022

12 Debtors

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Trade debtors	91	56
VAT recoverable	529	336
Other debtors	27	74
Prepayments and accrued income	547	494
	1,194	960

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Trade creditors	522	208
Other loans	-	18
Other taxation and social security	1,349	890
Other creditors	31	180
Accruals and deferred income	1,370	1,438
	3,272	2,734

Notes to the Financial Statements Year ended 31 August 2022

Accruals and deferred income above includes the following deferred income balance:

	Total 2022 £'000	<i>Total 2021 £'000</i>
Deferred income at 1 September 2021	446	465
Released during the year	(446)	(465)
Resources deferred in the year	563	446
Deferred income at 31 August 2022	563	446

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance in respect of ESFA revenue grants totalling £178k and other income totalling £350k. Included within this is catering income and school trips income. The Trust also had £35k in relation to 16-19 bursary funding within deferred income.

Notes to the Financial Statements Year ended 31 August 2022

14 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	5,753	45,721	(43,250)	419	8,643
Other DfE/ESFA grants					
UFSM	-	151	(151)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	1,059	(1,059)	-	-
SEN Funding	-	807	(807)	-	-
Other grants	-	-	-	-	-
Local authority grants	-	341	(341)	-	-
General funds	-	3,700	(3,700)	-	-
Pension reserve	(19,827)	-	(2,537)	18,907	(3,457)
Total restricted funds	(14,074)	51,779	(51,837)	19,326	5,194
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Restricted fixed asset funds all funds	19,247	2,042	(1,562)	1,050	20,777
	5,173	53,821	(53,399)	20,376	25,971
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	2,455	537	(180)	(1,469)	1,343
Total unrestricted funds	2,455	537	(180)	(1,469)	1,343
Total funds	7,628	54,358	(53,587)	18,907	27,306

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

Restricted fixed asset funds have been increased by capital grants provided by the DfE and reduced by depreciation charges.

Restricted general funds have been increased by revenue grants provided by the DfE and reduced by expenditure incurred in the operation of the academy.

The restricted funds can only be used in terms of limitations imposed within the Funding Agreement with the DfE and the terms of any specific grant.

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

Notes to the Financial Statements Year ended 31 August 2022

14 Funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2021 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	4,496	41,972	(40,308)	(407)	5,753
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	-	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	193	(193)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	1,086	(1,086)	-	-
Catch up Premium	-	543	(543)	-	-
SEN funding	-	526	(526)	-	-
Other grants	-	2,372	(2,372)	-	-
Covid-19 funding	-	237	(237)	-	-
Local authority grants	-	356	(356)	-	-
General funds	-	1,127	(1,127)	-	-
Pension reserve	(14,888)	-	(1,595)	(3,344)	(19,827)
Total restricted funds	(10,392)	48,412	(48,343)	(3,751)	(14,074)
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Restricted fixed asset funds all funds	18,068	2,293	(1,521)	407	19,247
	18,068	2,293	(1,521)	407	19,247
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	2,269	348	(162)	-	2,455
Total unrestricted funds	2,269	348	(162)	-	2,455
Total funds	9,945	51,053	(50,026)	(3,344)	7,628

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
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Analysis of fund balance by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2022 were allocated as follows:

St Claudine's Catholic School for Girls	1,736	1,956
Our Lady Catholic Primary School	50	114
St Michaels Catholic High School	1,561	1,610
St Mark's Catholic School	1,545	1,174
St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School	249	292
St John's RC Primary School	155	105
St Thomas More School	201	183
The Douay Martyrs School	2,482	1,600
Saint John Henry Newman Catholic School	1,005	772
St Marys Catholic Primary School	103	51
Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School	643	147
Central Trust	256	203
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	9,986	8,207
Restricted fixed asset fund	20,777	19,246
Pension liability	(3,457)	(19,287)
	27,306	7,628

14 Funds (continued)

Analysis of academies by cost

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

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff costs £'000	Other Support Staff costs £'000	Educational Supplies £'000	Other Costs (Excluding Depreciation) £'000	Total 2022 £'000
St Claudine's Catholic School for Girls	4,060	1,163	493	823	6,539
Our Lady Catholic Primary School	546	231	70	212	1,059
St Michaels Catholic High School	4,334	843	554	1,067	6,798
St Mark's Catholic School	5,091	1,008	422	885	7,406
St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School	865	205	94	218	1,382
St John's RC Primary School	623	219	75	118	1,035
St Thomas More School	744	134	103	179	1,160
The Douay Martyrs School	5,572	1,355	713	910	8,550
Saint John Henry Newman Catholic School	6,419	1,005	706	900	9,038
St Marys Catholic Primary School	814	183	92	156	1,245
Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School	3,436	778	428	695	5,337
Inter Academy Costs removed on consolidation	-	-	-	(1,369)	(1,369)
Central Trust	556	171	246	343	1,316
	33,060	7,295	3,996	5,137	49,488

Notes to the Financial Statements Year ended 31 August 2022

Funds (continued)

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff costs £'000	Other Support Staff costs £'000	Educational Supplies £'000	Other Costs (Excluding Depreciation) £'000	Total 2021 £'000
<i>St Claudine's Catholic School for Girls</i>	4,270	1,259	356	673	6,558
<i>Our Lady Catholic Primary School</i>	662	231	48	177	1,118
<i>St Michaels Catholic High School</i>	4,299	1,169	376	756	6,600
<i>St Mark's Catholic School</i>	4,842	1,276	380	791	7,289
<i>St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School</i>	911	249	61	180	1,401
<i>St John's RC Primary School</i>	616	168	49	150	983
<i>St Thomas More School</i>	754	198	83	162	1,197
<i>The Douay Martyrs School</i>	5,795	1,640	483	894	8,812
<i>Saint John Henry Newman Catholic School</i>	6,341	1,170	434	678	8,623
<i>St Marys Catholic Primary School</i>	818	176	58	181	1,233
<i>Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School</i>	2,982	772	276	685	4,715
<i>Inter Academy Costs removed on consolidation</i>	-	-	-	(1,045)	(1,045)
<i>Central Trust</i>	380	-	56	585	1,021
	<u>32,670</u>	<u>8,308</u>	<u>2,660</u>	<u>4,867</u>	<u>48,505</u>

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Fund £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	17,904	17,904
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	3	3
Current assets	1,343	11,915	2,870	16,128
Current liabilities	-	(3,272)	-	(3,272)
Pension scheme liability	-	(3,457)	-	(3,457)
Total net assets	<u>1,343</u>	<u>5,186</u>	<u>20,777</u>	<u>27,306</u>

14 Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Fund £'000	Total 2021 £'000
<i>Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:</i>				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	16,194	16,194
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	19	19
Current assets	2,455	8,487	3,034	13,976
Current liabilities	-	(2,734)	-	(2,734)
Pension scheme liability	-	(19,827)	-	(19,827)
Total net assets	2,455	(14,074)	19,247	7,628

16 Capital commitments

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	316	421

17 Commitments under operating leases

Operating leases

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

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Amounts due within one year	201	72
Amounts due between one and five years	200	90
	401	162

18 Contingent Liability

The Academy Trust lost an employment tribunal in 2021 and expected any award to be within the limits of its insurance. The liability award was made in October 2022 and there is uncertainty as to the level of insurance to cover the award. There is potential that the uninsured liability could be about £250,000.

19 Members' Liability

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

20 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 the respective local authorities of the academies listed in the Trustee's Report. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £nil were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2022 (2021 – £nil) and are included within creditors.

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. These regulations apply to teachers in schools, colleges and other educational establishments. Membership is automatic for teachers and lecturers at eligible institutions. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions, along with those made by employers, are credited to the Exchequer under arrangements governed by the above Act. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

- ◆ employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy);

19 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Teachers' Pension Scheme (continued)

- ♦ 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; and
- ♦ the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2023.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £3,802,000 (2021: £).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pension Scheme 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 (LGPS)

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee- administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2022 was £2,163,000 (2021 - £2,123,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £1,732,000 (2021 - £1,727,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 396,000 (2021 - £358,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are Hertfordshire 22.65%, Hillingdon 25.9%, Hounslow 23.3% and Brent 32.6% for employers and between 5.5% to 12.5% for employees.

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

Principal Actuarial Assumptions	At 31 August 2022	At 31 August 2021
Hertfordshire County Council Pension Fund		
Rate of increase in salaries	3.60	3.30
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	3.20	2.90
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.25	1.65
Inflation assumption (CPI)		

19 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) (continued)

Principal Actuarial Assumptions	At 31 August 2022	At 31 August 2021
Hertfordshire County Council Pension Fund		
Rate of increase in salaries	3.60	3.30
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	3.20	2.90
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.25	1.65
Inflation assumption (CPI)		

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

	At 31 August 2022	At 31 August 2021
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	22.1	22.3
Females	24.5	24.7
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.8	23.3
Females	25.5	26.2

	At 31 August 2022	At 31 August 2021
London Borough of Hounslow Pension Fund		
Rate of increase in salaries	4.00	3.90
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	3.00	2.90
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.25	1.65
Inflation assumption (CPI)		

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

	At 31 August 2022	At 31 August 2021
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.0	21.0
Females	23.5	23.8
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.3	22.4
Females	24.9	25.4

19 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) (continued)

London Borough of Brent Pension Fund	At 31 August 2022	At 31 August 2021
Rate of increase in salaries	3.35	3.20
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	3.05	2.90
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.25	1.65
Inflation assumption (CPI)		
The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:		
	At 31 August 2022	At 31 August 2021
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	22.1	22.3
Females	24.5	24.7
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	23.2	23.5
Females	26.0	26.2

19 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) (continued)

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

	Fair value at 31 August 2022 £'000	Fair value at 31 August 2021 £'000
Equities	14,909	15,213
Gifts	-	-
Bonds	5,509	6,524
Property	3,450	2,566
Cash	2,638	2,089
Alternative Assets	-	-
Total market value of assets	26,507	26,392
Present value of scheme liabilities		
Funded	29,964	46,219
Deficit in the scheme	(3,457)	(19,827)
	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Amounts recognised in statement of financial activities		
Current service cost	(3,926)	(3,036)
Past service cost	-	(21)
Interest income	449	400
Interest cost	(789)	(662)
Admin expenses	(3)	(3)
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	(4,269)	(3,322)
	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Analysis of pension finance costs		
Expected return on pension scheme assets	-	-
Interest on pension liabilities	789	662
Pension finance costs	789	662

19 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) (continued)

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
At 1 September 2021	46,219	36,343
Current service cost	3,926	3,036
Interest cost	789	662
Employee contributions	431	396
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(20,919)	6,354
Benefits paid	(482)	(593)
Past service cost	-	21
At 31 August 2022	29,964	46,219

Changes in the fair value of the Academy Trust's share of scheme assets:	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
At 1 September 2021	26,932	21,455
Administration expenses	(3)	(3)
Actuarial gain (loss)	(2,012)	3010
Expected return on assets	-	-
Employer contributions	1,731	1,727
Employee contributions	431	396
Benefits paid	(482)	(593)
At 31 August 2022	26,507	26,392

20 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the Academy's operations and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which a member of the Trustee has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Academy's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

20 Related party transactions (continued)

The Academy Trust conducted the above related party transactions in accordance with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook, and with their financial regulations and procurement procedures.

During the year the Trust bought services from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster totalling £33,925. These services were procured at cost.

The academy trust company occupies land (including buildings) which are owned by its Trustees who are the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust. The Trustees are the providers of the academy on the same basis as when the academy was a maintained school. The academy trust company occupies the land (and buildings) under a mere licence. This continuing permission of their 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 company for the time being, but does not vest any rights over the land in the academy trust company. The Trustees have given an undertaking to the Secretary of State that they will not give the academy trust company less than two years notice to terminate the occupation of the land (including buildings). Having considered the factual matrix under which the academy trust company is occupying the land (and buildings) the directors have concluded that the value of the land and buildings occupied by the academy trust company will not be recognised on the balance sheet of the company.

There were no other related party transactions, other than those disclosed in note 7.

21 Agency arrangements

The multi academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2022 the academy trust received £78,699 (2021: £76,525) and disbursed £83,655 (2021: £64,377) from the fund. An amount of £35,192 (2021: £40,148) is included within deferred income and other creditors relating to undistributed funds that is repayable to ESFA.

Notes to the Financial Statements Year ended 31 August 2022

22 Comparative statement of financial activities for the 31 August 2021

		Restricted funds			
	Notes	Unrestricted general funds £'000	General funds £'000	Fixed asset funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
Income from:					
Donations and capital grants	1	299	81	2,293	2,673
Charitable activities					
· Funding for the Academy					
Trust's educational	3	-	47,750	-	47,750
operations					
Other trading activities	2	49	579	-	628
Investments	3	-	2	-	2
Total income		348	48,412	2,293	51,053
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities					
· Academy's educational					
operations	5	162	48,343	1,521	50,026
Total expenditure	4	162	48,343	1,521	50,026
Net income (expenditure)		186	69	772	1,027
Transfers between funds		-	(407)	407	-
Other recognised gains and losses					
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension scheme	19	-	(3,344)	-	(3,344)
Net movement in funds		186	(3,682)	1,179	2,317
Reconciliation of funds					
Total fund balances brought forward at 1 September 2020		2,269	(10,392)	18,068	9,945
Total fund balances carried forward at 31 August 2021		2,455	(14,074)	19,247	7,628