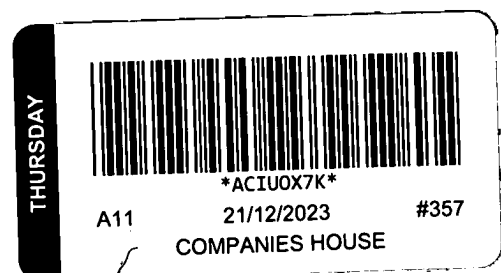


Company Registration No. 08166938 (England and Wales)

WEST DERBY SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023



WEST DERBY SCHOOL

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WEST DERBY SCHOOL

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

K Callant
I Andain
C Birch (Terminated 17 September 2023)
J Kyle
J Duncan (Appointed 17 July 2023)

Trustees

S Graham (Principal and Accounting Officer)
A Keen
D Barlow (Resigned 5 September 2023)
S Poynton
J Duncan (Resigned 17 July 2023)
A Parry
T Conchie
K A Hodgkiss (Chair of Trustees)
A Kofi
R Smith
S J Davies
P J Glassey
D Kirkman
S K Thomas
Dr M Tsalavouta
J S Misra

Senior management team

- Principal	S Graham (Principal and Accounting Officer)
- Director of Business	C Fletcher (Chief Finance Officer)
- Deputy Principal	S Wilkinson (Deputy Head)
- Deputy Principal	M Thomas (Deputy Head)
- Senior Assistant Principal	T Swain
- Senior Assistant Principal	C Jones
- Senior Assistant Principal	J Stephens

Company secretary

St Pauls Secretaries Limited

Company registration number

08166938 (England and Wales)

Registered office

C/O Hill Dickinson LLP
No 1 St Pauls Square
Liverpool
L3 9SJ

Independent auditor

UHY Hacker Young Manchester LLP
St James Building
79 Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 6HT

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
Liverpool Law Courts
Merchants Court
2-12 Lord Street
Liverpool
L2 1TS

Solicitors

Hill Dickinson LLP
No.1 St Pauls Square
Liverpool
L3 9SJ

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The trustees present their annual report together with the accounts and independent auditor's reports of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023.

The annual report serves the purpose of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The academy trust operates an academy for boys aged 11 to 18 (with girls welcomed to sixth form) in north Liverpool. It has a pupil capacity of 1,050 and a roll of 1,007 in the school census on 5 October 2023.

Principal Activities

The academy trust took over the operation of West Derby School on the school's conversion to academy status on 1 September 2012. Since then the academy trust's principal objective and activity has been to manage the school's provision of education to pupils between the ages of 11 and 18.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust.

The trustees of West Derby School are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as West Derby School.

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

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

The academy trust maintains trustees' and officers' liability insurance which gives appropriate cover for any legal action brought against its trustees. The academy trust has also granted indemnities to each of its trustees and other officers to the extent permitted by law. Qualifying third party indemnity provisions (as defined Trustees by section 236 of the Companies Act 2006) were in force during the period and remain in force, in relation to certain losses and liabilities which the trustees or other officers may incur to third parties in the course of acting as trustees or officers of the academy trust.

Details of the insurance cover are provided in note 11.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

Under the terms of its Articles, the academy trust shall have the following trustees:

- Up to 11 trustees, appointed by members
- A minimum of 2 parent trustees
- The principal
- Co-opted trustees

To aid succession planning, the Academy Trust recruited five new trustees in the academic year 2021-2022, enlisting the service of Governors for Schools and Inspiring Governance, both of whom are trusted sources for finding high calibre, skilled new trustees. During the recruitment process, Trustees consider the collated skills audit to ascertain the skills and competencies required by the Board before the advert is placed. Candidates' profiles are then shared with the Board to establish if their skills and competencies meet the criteria specified and required. Since these appointments in 2021/22, three trustees have resigned. The trustees commissioned a review of governance in 2022, which recommended that the Board should ideally reduce in number. We therefore do not plan to recruit any more trustees to the Board at the current time unless a significant gap in expertise/knowledge arises.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

All new trustees are inducted to the Board and have a preliminary meeting with the Headteacher, Chair of Trustees and Clerk, and are issued with an information pack. The information pack includes the Governance Handbook, Governance Competency Framework, and the Academy Trust Handbook. New trustees undertake the Induction for academy trustees programme with The Key for School Governors. Trustees have access to a full programme of courses which are organised in collaboration with School Improvement Liverpool's Governor Services. These range from bespoke courses delivered by external agencies to internal training from staff. Trustees are also invited to attend staff inset days to enable them to access all training on offer. The Business Director provides bespoke finance training which is offered to all trustees. The school continues to subscribe to the NGA Learning Link, an online learning platform offering a plethora of relevant courses. In addition, trustees sign up to Governorhub which alerts them to training opportunities and any updates to legislation, policy etc. Trustees also have access to The Key for School Governors, which again sends its members regular updates. Trustees can also access the various training modules on The Key as relevant to their role. Relevant correspondence from the ESFA and briefing documents from School Improvement Liverpool are regularly shared with trustees. In addition, the school now subscribes to The School Bus, another online resource and information platform, to which all trustees have access.

Training for new trustees depends on their previous experience. The academy trust continually looks for opportunities to increase access to external training and support for trustees. The Governance Review recommended training for trustees on SEND and Exclusions, both of which have been delivered.

Organisational structure

The organisational structure consists of four levels: Members, the Board of Trustees, the Accounting Officer, Senior Leadership Team and the Middle Management Team. The Scheme of Delegation (Trust Board Decision Planner) is approved by the Board of Trustees annually and sets out the levels of delegated authority between Members, the Board of Trustees, the Accounting Officer, Committees and where decisions cannot be delegated lower than the Board of Trustees. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels, whilst adhering to the provisions laid down in the Trust Board Decision Planner.

The trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the academy by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the academy, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The Senior Leadership Team comprises the Principal (Accounting Officer), two Deputy Headteachers, Assistant Headteachers, Director of Business (Chief Finance Officer), Director of Data & Information and Director of Governance & Compliance. These managers control the academy at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the trustees and reporting back to them. As a group the Senior Leadership Team are responsible for the authorisation of spending up to a level delegated to them within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff. Some spending control is devolved to members of the Middle Management Team, with limits above which the Principal must countersign.

The Middle Management Team includes Departmental Leaders and Pupil Progress Leaders. Along with the Senior Management Team these managers are responsible for the day to day operation of the academy, in particular organising the teaching staff, facilities and students.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and senior leadership team as disclosed on page 1.

The remuneration policy, setting the terms and conditions for the key management personnel, was developed and approved by the Board of Trustees, after taking advice from the Principal and following guidance from the relevant professional pay review bodies. Naturally the Principal was not involved in setting her own remuneration package.

Only staff trustees, are remunerated, and these individuals are only in receipt of remuneration in respect of services they provide under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their role as trustees. Specific disclosures concerning staff trustees' remuneration is included in the notes to accounts. The academy trust has only one such Trustee, the Principal (ex-officio).

The day to day running of the remuneration policy is delegated to the Principal and monitored by the Buildings, Finance and Personnel Committee. All details for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel are set out in the pay policy and appraisal policy which are reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees.

Remuneration of key management personnel is set at an individual level, and where possible the trustees have taken external professional advice which includes benchmarking, market trends and advice on structuring of incentives. Senior management salaries are linked closely to pay spines, helping trustees conclude that each individual is remunerated at an appropriate level. As such salaries are linked to factors such as length of service and experience. Total remuneration packages include employer pension contribution rates at specific approved rates.

The board always bears in mind the charitable status of the academy trust and recognises the fact the trust receives funding under a funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education, and therefore ensures that the remuneration paid to senior management personnel never exceeds a reasonable amount that provides value for money to the trust. The performance of senior management personnel is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure continuing value for money.

Total remuneration paid to senior management personnel is set out in note 9.

Trade union facility time

Under the provisions of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication requirements) regulation 2017, and where the academy has more than 49 full time equivalent employees throughout any 7 months within the reporting period, it must include information included in Schedule 2 of the regulations.

The trust has no staff members acting as trade union representatives at the time of this report and non in the year ended 31 August 2023.

The trustees would have referred to Statutory Instrument 2017 No 328, The Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirement Regulations 2017) for calculation details.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The academy works closely with Holly Lodge Girl's College to share good practice, skills and information and to achieve best value for the purposes of buying shared trustee training. Andy Keen (trustee) is the Headteacher at Holly Lodge and Sian Graham is a trustee at Holly Lodge Girl's College.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The principal activity of the academy trust is to provide education for boys between the ages of 11 and 18.

Objectives, strategies and activities

West Derby School's priorities are;

- Support senior leaders: facilitating opportunities for organic development and growth to foster retention and ensure outstanding progress and outcomes for our pupils
- Resource the school: ensure that resources in staffing, equipment and other support meet the varied needs of all the pupils in our mainstream setting
- Demonstrate excellence: challenge staff to reach the highest possible Ofsted grading for the school
- Strong finances: maintain good reserves and financial control to ensure the viability of the school
- Maximise assets: utilise the trust's buildings, land and funds to get maximum return to benefit the pupils time with the school and the working environment for the school community

Public benefit

West Derby School is an academy converter catering for boys aged 11 to 18 (with girls welcomed to sixth form) and strives to promote and support the advancement of education within the local community. The school provides a programme of educational and recreational activity - all designed to contribute to the overall education of our students in areas such as academic distinction, music, the arts and sport. For example:

- Providing services and events to local primary schools to promote sports and wellbeing with children in the local community
- Collaboration with other secondary schools in the city to share best practice across subject areas
- Inviting primary schools into the academy at various times of the year

Wherever possible the school also aims to contribute to the benefit of the wider public, by making available the premises to third parties for the provision of educational and other opportunities. For example:

- Cyclical timetable of events that students and staff create in support of local and national Charities
- Provision of buildings and services for common inset day across secondary schools in Liverpool

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The trustees believe that the academy trust's aims, together with the activities outlined above, are demonstrably to the public benefit.

The trustees have complied with their duty to have regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

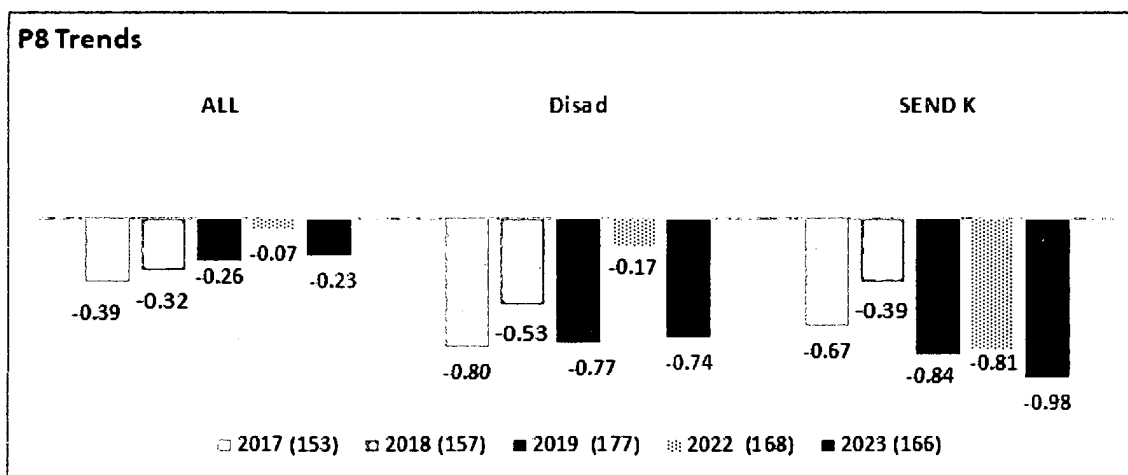
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic report

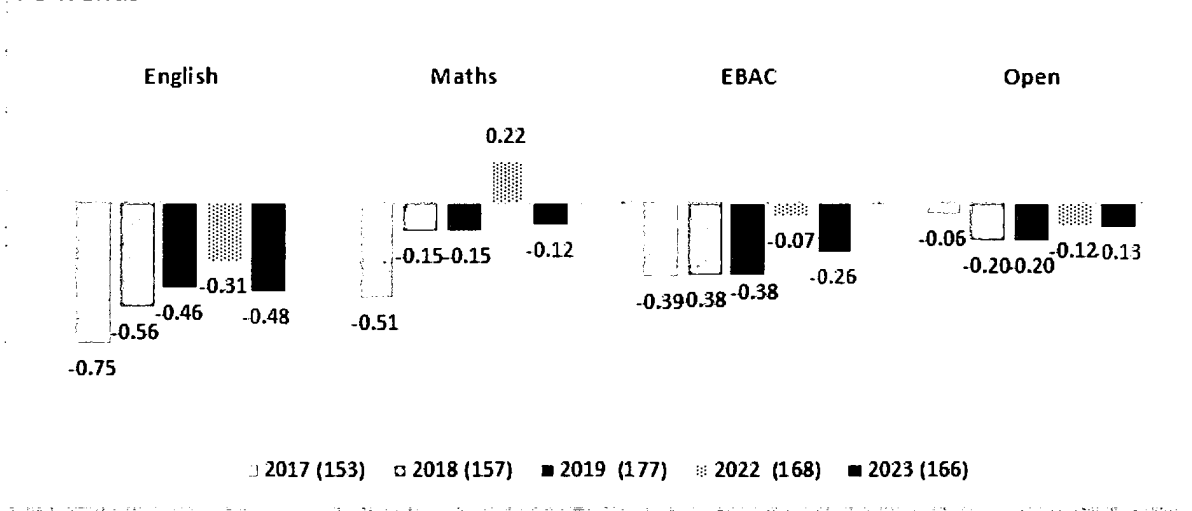
Achievements and performance

In 2023 the decision was made by the DfE and OFQUAL for the distribution of exam grades to return to pre-2020 levels, ending the measures put in place from 2020 to 2022 to account for the impact of the pandemic. To that end, the 2019 performance is to be used as a comparator when measuring performance.



The progress made by all pupils in 2023 has improved from what was achieved in 2019. 2023 Progress 8 is -0.23 compared to -0.26 in 2019. There have also been improvements in progress from 2019 in the Maths, EBAC and Open Progress 8 elements. (Maths P8 2023: -0.12, 2019: -0.15. EBAC P8 2023: -0.26, 2019: -0.38. Open P8 2023: -0.13, 2019: -0.20).

P8 Trends



Furthermore the progress made by disadvantaged students also increased from the 2019 figure (disadvantaged P8 2023: -0.74, 2019: -0.77).

In 2023 there were two areas that did not see an improvement, English Progress 8 and the SEND K cohort Progress 8. (English P8 2023: -0.48, 2019: -0.46. SEND K P8 2023: -0.98, 2019: -0.84).

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

2023 Y11 GCSE Headline Figures

KS4	2018 Results	2019 Results	2023 Results	Trend			Diff to 2019
No on Roll	158	177	175	18	19	23*	
Average Attainment 8 Grade	4.41	4.54	4.15	↑	↑	↓	-0.40
Progress 8	-0.32	-0.26	-0.23	↑	↑	↑	0.03
English and Maths at 5+	37%	44%	34%	↑	↑	↓	-0.09
English 5+	48%	59%	46%	↑	↑	↓	-0.14
Maths 5+	45%	50%	40%	↑	↑	↓	-0.10
English and Maths at 4+	59%	67%	53%	↑	↑	↓	-0.14
English 4+	69%	77%	65%	↑	↑	↓	-0.12
Maths 4+	70%	72%	57%	↑	↑	↓	-0.15
EBACC 5+	3%	2%	2%		↓	→	0.00
EBACC Science 5+	35%	43%	37%		↑	↓	-0.07
EBACC MFL 5+	87%	90%	73%		↑	↓	-0.17
EBACC Humanities 5+	31%	31%	33%		→	↓	0.02
EBACC 4+	3%	4%	2%	↑	↑	↓	-0.02
EBACC Science 4+	48%	61%	51%	↑	↑	↓	-0.11
EBACC MFL 4+	93%	90%	80%	↑	↓	↓	-0.10
EBACC Humanities 4+	39%	46%	44%	↑	↑	↓	-0.02
EBACC APS	3.49	3.54	3.25		↑	↓	-0.29
Science VA	-0.42	-0.10	-0.13	↑	↑	↓	-0.03
Humanities VA	-0.86	-0.53	-0.59	↑	↑	↓	-0.06
Languages VA	1.52	1.51	1.12	↑	↓	↓	-0.39
English P8	-0.56	-0.46	-0.48	↑	↑	↓	-0.02
Maths P8	-0.15	-0.15	-0.12	↑	→	↑	0.03
EBAC P8	-0.38	-0.38	-0.26	↑	→	↑	0.12
Open P8	-0.20	-0.20	-0.13	↑	→	↑	0.07

Attainment measures in 2023 have decreased when compared to 2019. The reason for this decline is due to the 2023 cohort's KS2 scores on entry being lower than that of the 2019 cohort, this is demonstrated by the improved Progress 8 figures in 2023 compared to 2019.

Currently for the 2023 KS4 cohort all but 4 pupils have moved on to education, employment or training. Of these 4, 2 are disadvantaged and 2 are SEND. The academy and its CIAG officer are working tirelessly with these pupils and their families to support them in securing suitable EET.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

2023 KS5 Results

KS5	2019 Results	2023 Results
% A* - C Grades	63%	55%
% A* - E Grades	96%	95%
Academic APS	27.45	25.48
% Dist* - Dist Grades	66%	43%
% Dist - Merit Grades	96%	85%
% Dist* - Pass Grades	100%	93%
APS: Applied General	32.96	28.30
Tech Level APS	33	35
L2 English Progress	1	N/A
L2 Maths Progress	0.9	N/A
Retention	94%	TBC

N.B. There is no Value Added or L2 Progress data in 2023 as per the DfE guidance.

In KS5, there was a decrease in the % of pupils achieving academic grades at A*-C grades in 2023 compared to 2019. (2023: 55%. 2019: 63%) The % of pupils achieving academic grades at A*-E was in line with 2019. (2023: 95%. 2019: 96%).

In Applied General results also saw a decline from 2019 outcomes. (Dis* - Dis 2023: 43%, 2019: 66%) (Dis* - Merit 2023: 85%, 2019: 96%) (Dis* - Pass 2023: 100%, 2019: 93%).

This decline was foreseen by the academy as we were aware that we had allowed entry to a number of 6th form pupils who would not normally be admitted to WDS 6th Form. This was due to the impact they had encountered in their KS4 education due to the pandemic and so the decision was made to relax the entry requirements for this cohort only.

For our Disadvantaged cohort in 2023 there was an improvement in the % achieving grades A*-C in 2023 compared to our 2019 disadvantaged group. (Disadvantaged A*-C 2023: 64.4%. 2019: 61.9%.) There was a slight decrease in the % achieving A*-E (Disadvantaged A*-E 2023: 93.3%. 2019: 95.2%).

98% of the 2023 KS5 cohort are currently in a secure education, employment or training programme. This equates to 1 pupil currently deemed NEET who is also in the SEND cohort. All of our Disadvantaged pupils are in Education, Employment or Training.

55% of the 2023 cohort moved onto University, with 17% of the cohort joining a Russell Group establishment. Of the 2023 Disadvantaged cohort 47% have moved onto university, with 13% of the Disadvantaged cohort joining a Russell Group establishment. 22% of the 2023 SEND cohort moved onto University, and 50% of these were Russell Group establishments.

12 pupils were not retained throughout their 2 years of KS5. These pupils were supported by the academy staff and its CIAG officer to ensure that all moved onto suitable EET.

The academy and its CIAG officer are working tirelessly with the 1 x KS5 pupil who is NEET, and their family to support them in securing suitable EET.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Key performance indicators

The trustees consider that the following are key performance indicators for the academy trust:

Spending as a % of total income

• Spend on staffing as a % of total income	68.6%
• Spend on premises costs as a % of total income	8.7%
• Spend on energy costs as a % of total income	3.5%
• Spend on teaching resources as a % of total income	6.4%
• Spend on other non staff costs as a % of total income	12.7%

Spending as a % of total expenditure

• Spend on teaching staff as a % of total expenditure	52.6%
• Spend on education support staff as a % of total expenditure	6.4%
• Spend on administrative and clerical staff as a % of total expenditure	4.5%
• Spend on leadership staff as a % of total expenditure	10.9%
• Spend on other staff as a % of total expenditure	2.0%
• Spend on premises costs as a % of total expenditure	9.4%
• Spend on energy costs as a % of total expenditure	3.7%
• Spend on teaching resources as a % of total expenditure	6.9%
• Spend on other non staff costs as a % of total expenditure	3.5%

Income and expenditure per pupil

• Total income per pupil	£7,819
• Total expenditure per pupil	£7,268

Reserves/balances as a % of total income

• In-year balance as a % of total income	4.47%
• Revenue reserve as a % of total income	14.0%

School characteristics

• Average teacher cost	£66,669
• Senior leaders as a % of workforce	9.7%
• Pupil to teacher ratio	16.7
• Pupil to adult ratio	9.7

Going concern

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

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Financial review

Most of the academy's recurrent income is obtained from the ESFA in the form of grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the period ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

During the period ended 31 August 2023, total expenditure of £8,291,776 was covered by recurrent grant funding from the ESFA together with other incoming resources. The excess of income over expenditure for the year (excluding restricted fixed asset funds and pension reserves) was an in-year surplus of £335,943.

There was significant uncertainty during the period ended 31 August 2023 in relation to nationally negotiated pay-rises for teachers. Trustees felt it was prudent to ascertain the level of pay-rises agreed together with any potential funding for this before committing any further funds into the rolling programme of investment in the estate.

At 31 August 2023, the net book value of fixed assets was £23,285,572 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 12 to the financial statements. During the period the assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Academy.

At 31 August 2023 the unrestricted reserve totalled £873,283.

Setting a balanced budget for each year continues to be challenging for the academy trust, as it is for all schools and publicly funded organisations in the current economic environment. However, with a continued annual review of all expenditure against income the trust is able to plan ahead to ensure that income is adequate to cover expenditure each year. However this situation is dependent on the funding for schools remaining at a level, per pupil and/or via individual grants, that sufficiently provides for increasing costs. The trust's reserves have been carefully managed to ensure a sufficient level to provide the necessary resources should income fall too quickly in any given year, to enable expenditure to be adjusted in time.

The trust continue to balance their strategic plans to ensure future sustainability as well as future investment in essential areas such as continual IT upgrades. This process is continual and takes into account the wider risks at national level as well as regional and local factors.

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The academy trust does not use complex financial instruments. It manages its activities using cash and various items such as trade debtors and trade creditors that arise directly from its operations.

The existence of these financial instruments exposes the academy trust to a number of financial risks which are described in more detail below. The main risks arising from the trust's financial instruments are liquidity risk and cash flow interest rate risk.

Liquidity risk - the trust manages its cash resources, including sufficient working capital, so that all its operating needs are met without the need for short-term borrowing.

Interest rate risk - the trust earns interest on cash deposits. With interest rates currently low, the trustees will consider action to increase the income from these deposits, provided it does not jeopardise the liquidity or security of the trust's assets.

Credit risk – this arises from the possibility that amounts owed to the trust will not be repaid. The trust does not undertake credit activities so it is only exposed to credit risk as it arises from normal business. Credit risk is managed through the use of approved banks and the prompt collection of amounts due.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Reserves policy

The Board of Trustees identify why the trust should hold reserves and, having identified its needs, decide how much should be held to meet them. The financial risk to the trust will be balanced alongside our vision to maintain the highest levels of education.

The Trust Estate Vision states:

- Strive to improve facilities for sports & green areas, for our pupils and the community to enjoy. Thus contributing to overall health and wellbeing of our pupils, their families and our wider community
- Contribute to the government net zero strategy and reduce carbon emissions and reduce the environmental impact of school in areas such as single use plastic and recycling
- Provide a safe, secure environment with the best resources possible to use public funds for the optimum benefit of the trust and our school community

Reserves will be held above the minimum level to fund this strategy alongside funding streams such as the Trust Lifecycle Fund (managed by Liverpool City Council as part of Building Schools for the Future Funding Conditions).

The trust will hold a minimum free reserve of £580,000. This equates to 8.5% of the trust's general annual grant (GAG). The trustees have determined that the appropriate level of free reserves should be equivalent to approximately one month's cost. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grant income and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance or long term sickness where unforeseen costs are incurred.

However, trustees are aware that other major capital spend such as IT replacement and upgrades and building redecoration are not covered by this arrangement and are too expensive to fund via annual devolved Formula Capital Grants. For this reason trustees have determined to carry additional reserves above the free reserve level to facilitate these works over a three year period, whilst monitoring the budgetary situation to ensure affordability in each year.

The academy is carrying a net surplus on funds excluding the pension scheme liability of £24,447,817 and at the end of the period has free reserves of £1,162,245.

Investment policy

The trust aims to manage its cash balances to provide for the day-to-day working capital requirements of its operations, whilst protecting the real long term value of any cash balances against inflation and avoiding any high risk investments. Therefore, the only investment is a 12 month fixed term deposit with the academy trust bank for £500,000. This is a low-risk investment which attracts interest at a more favourable level than short term cash deposits, this investment matures on 9 January 2024 at which point the capital investment plus interest accrued returned to the short-term deposit account. Trustees continue to assess cash-flow on a regular basis and will also consider additional shorter term accessible term deposit accounts with the academy trust bank during the year 2023/24, to maximise interest whilst ensuring that there is sufficient cashflow for the trust's operations during the year.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Principal risks and uncertainties

The main risks that the academy is exposed to are summarised below. For each of these risks the probability, impact and seriousness have been considered together with appropriate action and management plans:

- Operational and reputational – this covers risks to the running of the academy (including the capacity of staff and buildings to meet the needs of pupils) and its performance in delivering the curriculum.
- Financial – covering risks to the academy trust's financial position, including revenue streams, cost control and cash management.
- The risks to which the academy trust is exposed arise both internally and externally. External risks include those in respect of future funding levels, competition, changes due to rules and regulations and the financial position of the staff pension schemes.

The school continues to be oversubscribed and is judged 'good' by Ofsted. The Trust continually monitors all risks operational, reputational, financial and legal with a robust risk register and risk management strategy.

The trust follow the principles of Good Estates Management and ensure the trust' estate is well maintained and complies with relevant regulations. To help with this the trust engage a suitably qualified and competent hard facilities management company to manage planned preventative maintenance including all statutory maintenance. There is also access to reactive services for repairs required, including out of hours emergencies. In addition, the trust has a lifecycle fund, managed by Liverpool City Council, to provide for those major assets at end of life. The trust also engage professionals, where needed, to provide services such as Fire Risk Assessment, Health & Safety audits and statutory training.

The Trust Estates Vision sets out the short, medium and long term vision for the school estate. This includes a rolling programme of redecoration, repair and replacement and budget resource allocated by trustees where required.

Fundraising

The academy trust does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the trustees.

Plans for future periods

The emphasis of all the plans for future periods for the academy is to continue to improve the achievement and wellbeing for all pupils and to maintain financial stability in an uncertain funding environment moving forward which can support the plans for improvement.

Main priorities:

- To further improve outcomes and provision for the whole school including the Sixth Form
- To further improve outcomes and close the gap for disadvantaged and SEND cohorts
- Make good progress towards 90% of students studying the English Baccalaureate by 2025.
- To ensure all teachers in all subjects use appropriate strategies to address misconceptions.
- To continue to broaden and enrich extra-curricular experiences for all students.
- To restore attendance to pre-pandemic levels

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

No such funds held.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the academy trust'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.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the governing body, as the company directors, on 07/12/2023..... and signed on its behalf by:

Sian Graham

.....
S Graham

Principal and Accounting Officer

K A Hodgkiss

.....
K A Hodgkiss

Chair of Trustees

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Scope of responsibility

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

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

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Principal, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between West Derby School and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 4 times during the year. Attendance during the period at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
S Graham (Principal and Accounting Officer)	3	4
A Keen	1	4
D Barlow (Resigned 5 September 2023)	1	4
S Poynton	4	4
J Duncan (Resigned 17 July 2023)	1	4
A Parry	3	4
T Conchie	3	4
K A Hodgkiss (Chair of Trustees)	4	4
A Kofi	1	4
R Smith	3	4
S J Davies	3	4
P J Glassey	4	4
D Kirkman	3	4
S K Thomas	1	4
Dr M Tsalavouta	4	4
J S Misra	4	4

Conflicts of interest

The trust maintains an up-to-date and complete register of interests. Conflict of interests is a standing item on all full board meeting and committee meeting agendas in order to give trustees the opportunity to declare any interests in general, and specifically in relation to the agenda itself. This is formally minuted. Should any interests be declared, the relevant trustee would abstain from any discussion or decision making for that agenda item.

The Director of Governance and Compliance informs the Business Director immediately of any interests declared. The Business Director regularly provides a full list of suppliers and contractors to the full board and formally requires trustees to make any interests known at that point. This is formally minuted.

Meetings

The board and its committees meet regularly enough to discharge their responsibilities and ensure robust governance and effective financial management. As the board has met less than 6 times during the year, additional arrangements are in place to maintain effective governance. Each month the financial monitoring report and associated documents are shared with the full board of trustees. All trustees have access to Governor-Hub where all documents are stored so that they can have ease of access.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Governance reviews

Trustees are invited to participate in staff inset training and they also receive regular bulletins from School Improvement Liverpool's Governor Services regarding training opportunities. All trustees are registered with Governorhub, an online portal which provides frequent updates, not just on governance, but on the education sector in general. The school also subscribes to The Key for School Governors and The School Bus, to which all trustees have access. Both providers email trustees on a regular basis with updates to policy and legislation. In addition, the school has subscribed to the National Governor Association Learning Link which has a wide range of learning modules for trustees to undertake at their leisure. Trustees have been signposted to training based on their completed skills audits and committee membership. The school also shares relevant correspondence from the ESFA.

The Finance, Personnel and Admissions Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to plan and monitor the financial and other resources of the school effectively, and to ensure the school provides a safe educational environment. One of the committee's responsibilities is routine budget setting and monitoring.

During the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 the main purpose has been to monitor the ongoing budget situation to ensure that reserves remain at a level which is deemed to be suitable to guard against future risks around potential decreases in income and increases in costs but also to enable future investment for the school. There has been significant uncertainty during the year around public sector pay increases.

External review of Governance

To ensure its effectiveness, accountability and compliance, the Trust Board commissioned an external review of Governance in the spring term of 2022. The review was completed by Hill Dickinson in the summer term of 2022. The report made some recommendations, many of which have been actioned.

Attendance at Finance, Personnel and Admissions Committee meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
S Graham (Principal and Accounting Officer)	3	3
D Barlow (Resigned 5 September 2023)	1	3
T Conchie	1	1
K A Hodgkiss (Chair of Trustees)	3	3
R Smith	3	3
P J Glassey	1	3
S K Thomas	1	3
Dr M Tsalavouta	1	3

The Audit and Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. In 2020-21 we established an Audit and Risk Committee. Its purpose is to oversee and approve the trust's programme of internal scrutiny. The Audit and Risk Committee reports to the board on the adequacy of our internal control framework (this includes financial and non-financial controls and management of risks).

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
D Barlow (Resigned 5 September 2023)	2	3
T Conchie	3	3
R Smith	3	3
S J Davies	0	3
Dr M Tsalavouta	2	3
J S Misra	3	3

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the Head teacher has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

- Procurement of reprographic new contract achieving a higher level of service for a lower price
- Adjustments to cleaning contract to recruit and retain quality staff and so secure a higher quality of service which focusses on a safe, clean well- maintained site.
- Fire door replacement programme phase one implemented, which involved a large number of bespoke quality fire doors being fitted across school.
- Continued roll out of the whole school redecoration and flooring programme
- Increased grounds maintenance regime for sports fields to ensure safe quality facilities for pupils at all time and keep pace with climate changes and the impact on pitches and facilities.
- Remaining IT Switches replaced. School now has replaced 100% of switches in the last 2 years. Replacement main IT server. All part of continuous improvement and replacement programme to ensure the highest level of cyber security and stability of provision as possible.
- New PC's installed across all IT classroom suites at competitive price which enhances the learning environment for pupils
- Staffing review to recruit and retain the highest quality staff during a national shortage of teachers
- Maximising donations and grants available to support experiences for pupils

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in West Derby School for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

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

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The risk and control framework

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

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

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided:

- to buy-in an internal audit service from WR Partners

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

- Payroll
- Procurement
- Income
- Banking
- Management accounts
- Risk register
- Cyber security
- GDPR
- Budgeting

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 and annually prepares an annual 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.

During the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 the auditor carried out three audits as planned. There were no material control issues arising as a result of the auditor's work.

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer, the Principal has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditor,
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool,
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- correspondence from ESFA e.g. FNTI/NtI and 'minded to' letters

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

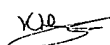
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Audit and Risk Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the governing body on 07/12/2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Sian Graham

S Graham
Principal and Accounting Officer



K A Hodgkiss
Chair of Trustees

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

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

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

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

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

Sian Graham

S Graham
Accounting Officer

07/12/2023
.....

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The trustees (who are also the directors of West Derby School for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

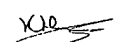
The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the governing body on 07/12/2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Sian Graham
S Graham
Principal and Accounting Officer


K A Hodgkiss
Chair of Trustees

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WEST DERBY SCHOOL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinion

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

In our opinion the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WEST DERBY SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud
Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, 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.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WEST DERBY SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities
In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance
- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance,
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team and involving relevant internal specialists, including tax, and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks the academy operates in, focussing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act and Academies Accounts Direction.

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- Enquiring of management and those charged with governance concerning actual and potential litigation claims;
- In assessing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and assessing whether judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of potential bias.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the academy's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- Reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- Enquiring of management and those charged with governance concerning actual and potential litigation claims;
- In addressing the risk of fraud through inappropriate recording of income, we review the existence and completeness of ESFA income and reconcile all other material income streams to third party evidence;
- We carry out a detailed review of deferred income, including a review of amounts released to income in the year.
- We review a sample of expenditure to ensure it has been appropriately authorised and that tender process have been followed where applicable;
- We carry out a review of the register of interests and minutes to ensure that all related parties have been disclosed adequately;

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WEST DERBY SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

- In assessing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and assessing whether judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of potential bias.

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

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

Use of our report

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

UHY Hacker Young

Ryan Wear BSc ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of UHY Hacker Young Manchester LLP

07/12/2023
.....

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

St James Building
79 Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 6HT

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO WEST DERBY SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

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

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

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of West Derby School's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 25 May 2012 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

We have not performed any additional procedures regarding the academy trust's compliance with safeguarding, health and safety and estates management.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO WEST DERBY SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Conclusion

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

UHY Hacker Young

Reporting Accountant

UHY Hacker Young Manchester LLP

Dated: 07/12/2023

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	2,226	2,250	157,218	161,694	143,164
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	7,799,039	-	7,799,039	7,107,565
Other trading activities	5	280,542	32,088	-	312,630	304,094
Investments	6	142	-	-	142	139
Total		282,910	7,833,377	157,218	8,273,505	7,554,962
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	175,243	7,403,056	713,477	8,291,776	8,142,581
Total	7	175,243	7,403,056	713,477	8,291,776	8,142,581
Net income/(expenditure)		107,667	430,321	(556,259)	(18,271)	(587,619)
Transfers between funds	17	-	(202,045)	202,045	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	438,000	-	438,000	1,938,000
Net movement in funds		107,667	666,276	(354,214)	419,729	1,350,381
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		765,616	(836,314)	23,639,786	23,569,088	22,218,707
Total funds carried forward		873,283	(170,038)	23,285,572	23,988,817	23,569,088

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2022	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	-	6,070	137,094	143,164
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	7,107,565	-	7,107,565
Other trading activities	5	272,043	32,051	-	304,094
Investments	6	139	-	-	139
Total		<u>272,182</u>	<u>7,145,686</u>	<u>137,094</u>	<u>7,554,962</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	229,128	7,335,675	577,778	8,142,581
Total	7	<u>229,128</u>	<u>7,335,675</u>	<u>577,778</u>	<u>8,142,581</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		43,054	(189,989)	(440,684)	(587,619)
Transfers between funds	17	(49,264)	(12,143)	61,407	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	1,938,000	-	1,938,000
Net movement in funds		(6,210)	1,735,868	(379,277)	1,350,381
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		771,826	(2,572,182)	24,019,063	22,218,707
Total funds carried forward		<u>765,616</u>	<u>(836,314)</u>	<u>23,639,786</u>	<u>23,569,088</u>

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	23,285,572	23,639,786
Current assets			
Stock	13	3,126	2,205
Debtors	14	482,487	187,956
Cash at bank and in hand		1,339,789	1,052,501
		1,825,402	1,242,662
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(663,157)	(450,360)
Net current assets		1,162,245	792,302
Net assets excluding pension liability		24,447,817	24,432,088
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19	(459,000)	(863,000)
Total net assets		23,988,817	23,569,088
Funds of the academy trust:			
Restricted funds	17		
- Fixed asset funds		23,285,572	23,639,786
- Restricted income funds		288,962	26,686
- Pension reserve		(459,000)	(863,000)
Total restricted funds		23,115,534	22,803,472
Unrestricted income funds	17	873,283	765,616
Total funds		23,988,817	23,569,088

The accounts on pages 28 to 50 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 07/12/2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

Sian Graham

S Graham
Principal and Accounting Officer

K A Hodgkiss

K A Hodgkiss
Chair of Trustees

Company registration number 08166938 (England and Wales)

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by operating activities	20		489,191		267,068
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		142		139	
Capital grants from DfE Group		157,218		103,536	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(359,263)		(164,943)	
Net cash used in investing activities			(201,903)		(61,268)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			287,288		205,800
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			1,052,501		846,701
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			1,339,789		1,052,501

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

West Derby School is a charitable company. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 1 and the nature of its operations are set out in the trustees' report.

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

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

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

Sponsorship income

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

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.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

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

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

Donated fixed assets

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

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £2,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

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

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

Land and buildings	60 years straight line on buildings
Building adaptations	10 years straight line
Computer equipment	33% straight line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	25% straight line
Motor vehicles	25% straight line

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

1.6 Liabilities

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

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 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. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities

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

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

1.9 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.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.10 Pensions benefits

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

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

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

1.11 Fund accounting

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

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

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

Restricted pension funds represent the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit inherited on conversion, with movements for any actuarial gains or losses and contributions made since.

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

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

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

(Continued)

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 19, will impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

The ultimate responsibility for setting the assumptions is that of the Academy Trust, as the employer, however each year the LGPS actuary proposes a standard set of assumptions as part of the valuation exercise, using their expert opinion, and which comply with the accounting requirements. The Academy Trust has, in practice with most employers, adopted the recommended actuarial assumptions following further consultation with its auditors to ensure these assumptions are reasonable and in line with those adopted by other academy trusts.

The key assumption is the discount rate, which is the estimated rate of long-term investment returns. This year the discount rate of 5.4% is higher than the rate of 4.3% used in 2022. A higher discount rate means assets will grow more rapidly in the future, this results in lower current liabilities. This is the key driver for the reduction in the carried LGPS deficit from £0.9m to £0.5m during the year.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Donated fixed assets	-	-	-	33,558
Capital grants	-	157,218	157,218	103,536
Other donations	2,226	2,250	4,476	6,070
	<u>2,226</u>	<u>159,468</u>	<u>161,694</u>	<u>143,164</u>

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	6,828,824	6,828,824	6,447,557
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- Pupil premium	-	381,680	381,680	359,851
- Others	-	444,981	444,981	230,935
	<u>-</u>	<u>7,655,485</u>	<u>7,655,485</u>	<u>7,038,343</u>
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	143,554	143,554	69,222
	<u>-</u>	<u>143,554</u>	<u>143,554</u>	<u>69,222</u>
Total funding	<u>-</u>	<u>7,799,039</u>	<u>7,799,039</u>	<u>7,107,565</u>

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Catering income	224,443	-	224,443	242,489
Trip income	-	25,725	25,725	24,257
Other income	56,099	6,363	62,462	37,348
	<u>280,542</u>	<u>32,088</u>	<u>312,630</u>	<u>304,094</u>

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Short term deposits	142	-	142	139

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure Premises £	Other £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	4,514,533	383,979	580,624	5,479,136	5,211,025
- Allocated support costs	1,036,605	1,344,188	431,847	2,812,640	2,931,556
	<u>5,551,138</u>	<u>1,728,167</u>	<u>1,012,471</u>	<u>8,291,776</u>	<u>8,142,581</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Operating lease rentals	19,212	19,212
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	613,376	577,778
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	100,101	-
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	8,500	8,500
- Other services	6,000	6,000
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	33,000	42,000

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

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

8 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Direct costs				
Educational operations	-	5,479,136	5,479,136	5,211,025
Support costs				
Educational operations	175,243	2,637,397	2,812,640	2,931,556
	<u>175,243</u>	<u>8,116,533</u>	<u>8,291,776</u>	<u>8,142,581</u>
Analysis of costs			2023 £	2022 £
Direct costs				
Teaching and educational support staff costs			4,514,533	4,365,738
Staff development			19,722	20,863
Depreciation			383,979	382,757
Educational supplies and services			170,698	64,659
Examination fees			103,443	102,443
Educational consultancy			234,929	232,929
Other direct costs			51,832	41,636
			<u>5,479,136</u>	<u>5,211,025</u>
Support costs				
Support staff costs			983,988	1,158,022
Depreciation			329,498	195,021
Technology costs			115,735	170,181
Maintenance of premises and equipment			478,536	387,558
Cleaning			175,601	174,359
Energy costs			297,053	349,920
Rent, rates and other occupancy costs			39,827	39,982
Insurance			23,673	19,977
Security and transport			27,216	20,583
Catering			175,243	202,442
Finance costs			33,000	42,000
Other support costs			62,023	87,195
Governance costs			71,247	84,316
			<u>2,812,640</u>	<u>2,931,556</u>

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

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

9 Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	4,006,495	3,933,484
Social security costs	429,797	422,769
Pension costs	923,922	1,052,150
Staff costs - employees	5,360,214	5,408,403
Agency staff costs	190,924	169,873
Staff development and other staff costs	5,551,138 19,722	5,578,276 20,863
Total staff expenditure	5,570,860	5,599,139

Severance payments

The academy trust paid 1 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

£0 - £25,000	1
--------------	---

Staff numbers

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Teachers	56	55
Administration and support	43	47
Management	9	10
	108	112

Higher paid staff

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	2	1
£70,001 - £80,000	2	1
£100,001 - £110,000	-	1
£110,001 - £120,000	1	-

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

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

9 Staff

(Continued)

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £684,483 (2022 - £711,210).

10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

The headteacher only receives remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the role of headteacher, and not in respect of their services as trustee. During the year, travel and subsistence payments totalling £70 (2022: £140) were reimbursed to 1 trustee, in their capacity as a member of staff.

Other trustees did not receive any payments, from the academy trust in respect of their role as trustees.

The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

S Graham (Headteacher and trustee):

Remuneration - £115,000 - £120,000 (2022: £105,000 - £110,000)

Employer's pension contributions - £25,000 - £30,000 (2022: £25,000 - £30,000)

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

11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim. The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 September 2022	27,712,417	927,676	245,259	8,500	28,893,852
Additions	126,659	212,340	20,264	-	359,263
Disposals	(122,573)	(311,780)	(50,757)	(8,500)	(493,610)
At 31 August 2023	27,716,503	828,236	214,766	-	28,759,505
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	4,315,299	709,862	220,405	8,500	5,254,066
On disposals	(22,472)	(311,780)	(50,757)	(8,500)	(393,509)
Charge for the year	444,503	158,153	10,720	-	613,376
At 31 August 2023	4,737,330	556,235	180,368	-	5,473,933
Net book value					
At 31 August 2023	22,979,173	272,001	34,398	-	23,285,572
At 31 August 2022	23,397,118	217,814	24,854	-	23,639,786

Buildings to the value of £20,450,876 are included in fixed assets at depreciated replacement cost, following a professional valuation as at 31 August 2012 by FHP Property Consultants, a firm of independent Chartered surveyors. The valuation is in accordance with the RICS appraisal and valuation manual. The total land value included in fixed assets is £2,296,000. Land is not depreciated.

13 Stock

	2023 £	2022 £
Catering stock	3,126	2,205

14 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	15,572	44,355
Other debtors	117,267	38,571
Prepayments and accrued income	349,648	105,030
	482,487	187,956

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

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

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	296,712	130,798
Other taxation and social security	212,869	197,356
Other creditors	4,947	-
Accruals and deferred income	148,629	122,206
	<u>663,157</u>	<u>450,360</u>

16 Deferred income

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	<u>26,249</u>	<u>620</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	620	20,426
Released from previous years	(620)	(20,426)
Resources deferred in the year	<u>26,249</u>	<u>620</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	<u>26,249</u>	<u>620</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding the following deferred income funds:

- Parentpay - £3,966
- Rates relief - £22,283

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

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

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	26,686	6,828,824	(6,364,503)	(202,045)	288,962
Pupil premium	-	381,680	(381,680)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	444,981	(444,981)	-	-
Other government grants	-	143,554	(143,554)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	34,338	(34,338)	-	-
Pension reserve	(863,000)	-	(34,000)	438,000	(459,000)
	<u>(836,314)</u>	<u>7,833,377</u>	<u>(7,403,056)</u>	<u>235,955</u>	<u>(170,038)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	23,375,899	157,218	(713,477)	202,045	23,021,685
Private sector capital sponsorship	263,887	-	-	-	263,887
	<u>23,639,786</u>	<u>157,218</u>	<u>(713,477)</u>	<u>202,045</u>	<u>23,285,572</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>22,803,472</u>	<u>7,990,595</u>	<u>(8,116,533)</u>	<u>438,000</u>	<u>23,115,534</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	765,616	282,910	(175,243)	-	873,283
Total funds	<u>23,569,088</u>	<u>8,273,505</u>	<u>(8,291,776)</u>	<u>438,000</u>	<u>23,988,817</u>

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

- (i) General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the academy.
- (ii) The other DfE/ESFA grants fund is used to track grants provided by local and central government departments.
- (iii) The pensions reserve is a restricted fund to account for the liabilities arising under The Local Government Pension Scheme.
- (iv) The restricted fixed asset funds are carried forward to meet the specific costs of fixed asset projects and to cover the depreciation charges that will be required on these projects going forward and the current fixed assets held.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

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

17 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	7,818	6,447,557	(6,416,546)	(12,143)	26,686
Pupil premium	-	359,851	(359,851)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	230,935	(230,935)	-	-
Other government grants	-	69,222	(69,222)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	38,121	(38,121)	-	-
Pension reserve	(2,580,000)	-	(221,000)	1,938,000	(863,000)
	<u>(2,572,182)</u>	<u>7,145,686</u>	<u>(7,335,675)</u>	<u>1,925,857</u>	<u>(836,314)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	23,755,176	103,536	(577,778)	61,407	23,342,341
Private sector capital sponsorship	263,887	33,558	-	-	297,445
	<u>24,019,063</u>	<u>137,094</u>	<u>(577,778)</u>	<u>61,407</u>	<u>23,639,786</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>21,446,881</u>	<u>7,282,780</u>	<u>(7,913,453)</u>	<u>1,987,264</u>	<u>22,803,472</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>771,826</u>	<u>272,182</u>	<u>(229,128)</u>	<u>(49,264)</u>	<u>765,616</u>
Total funds	<u>22,218,707</u>	<u>7,554,962</u>	<u>(8,142,581)</u>	<u>1,938,000</u>	<u>23,569,088</u>

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	General £	Restricted funds: Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	23,285,572	23,285,572
Current assets	873,283	952,119	-	1,825,402
Current liabilities	-	(663,157)	-	(663,157)
Pension scheme liability	-	(459,000)	-	(459,000)
Total net assets	<u>873,283</u>	<u>(170,038)</u>	<u>23,285,572</u>	<u>23,988,817</u>

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

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

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	23,639,786	23,639,786
Current assets	765,616	477,046	-	1,242,662
Current liabilities	-	(450,360)	-	(450,360)
Pension scheme liability	-	(863,000)	-	(863,000)
Total net assets	765,616	(836,314)	23,639,786	23,569,088

19 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 Merseyside Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020, and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 30 October 2023.

Contributions amounting to £129,589 were prepaid to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022: £18,212) and are included within debtors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

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

19 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

The revised employer contribution rate, arising from the 2020 valuation, is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2027.

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £690,790 (2022: £656,141).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

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

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

Total contributions made	2023 £	2022 £
Employer's contributions	228,000	215,000
Employees' contributions	62,000	60,000
Total contributions	290,000	275,000
Principal actuarial assumptions	2023 %	2022 %
Rate of increase in salaries	4.3	4.4
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.9	3.0
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.4	4.3
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.8	2.9

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

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

19 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2023 Years	2022 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	20.8	20.9
- Females	23.3	24
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.1	22.4
- Females	25.1	25.9

Sensitivity analysis

	+0.5% discount rate	p.a.+0.25% inflation	p.a.+0.25% pay growth	p.a.1 year increase in life expectancy
	£	£	£	£
Liabilities	3,984,000	4,509,000	4,365,000	4,418,000
Assets	(3,868,000)	(3,868,000)	(3,868,000)	(3,868,000)
Deficit/(surplus)	116,000	641,000	497,000	550,000
Projected Service Cost for next year	157,000	185,000	175,000	180,000
Projected Interest Cost for next year	(1,000)	27,000	20,000	22,000

Defined benefit pension scheme net liability

	2023 £	2022 £
Scheme assets	3,868,000	3,552,000
Scheme obligations	(4,327,000)	(4,415,000)
Net liability	(459,000)	(863,000)

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

	2023 Fair value £	2022 Fair value £
Equities	2,011,000	1,712,000
Government bonds	220,000	330,000
Other bonds	70,000	124,000
Cash/liquidity	43,000	78,000
Property	464,000	384,000
Other assets	1,060,000	924,000
Total market value of assets	3,868,000	3,552,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £95,000 (2022: £(157,000)).

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

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

19 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2023 £	2022 £
Current service cost	229,000	394,000
Interest income	(157,000)	(61,000)
Interest cost	190,000	103,000
Total operating charge	262,000	436,000
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 September 2022	4,415,000	6,078,000
Current service cost	229,000	394,000
Interest cost	190,000	103,000
Employee contributions	62,000	60,000
Actuarial gain	(500,000)	(2,156,000)
Benefits paid	(69,000)	(64,000)
At 31 August 2023	4,327,000	4,415,000
Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 September 2022	3,552,000	3,498,000
Interest income	152,000	56,000
Actuarial loss	(57,000)	(213,000)
Employer contributions	228,000	215,000
Employee contributions	62,000	60,000
Benefits paid	(69,000)	(64,000)
At 31 August 2023	3,868,000	3,552,000

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

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

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

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(18,271)	(587,619)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(157,218)	(137,094)
Investment income receivable	6	(142)	(139)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	19	1,000	179,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	19	33,000	42,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		613,376	577,778
Loss on disposal of fixed assets		100,101	-
(Increase)/decrease in stocks		(921)	981
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(294,531)	168,288
Increase in creditors		212,797	23,873
Net cash provided by operating activities		489,191	267,068

21 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	31 August 2023 £
Cash	1,052,501	287,288	1,339,789

22 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts due within one year	3,202	19,212
Amounts due in two and five years	-	3,202
	3,202	22,414

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

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

23 Related party transactions

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

Holly Lodge Girls' College - a school in which Mr A Keen (a trustee) is a governor and Head Teacher, Ms S Graham (a trustee, and also Head Teacher) is a governor.

No transactions have taken place in the current year with Holly Lodge Girls' College (2022: £300). No balances were outstanding at year end (2022: £nil).

24 Members' liability

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