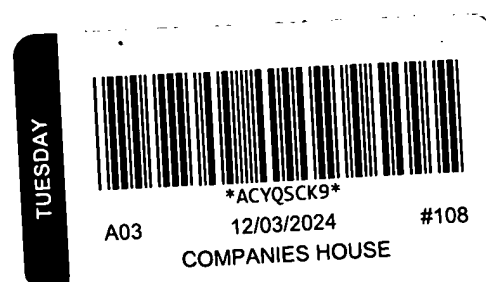


Company Registration Number
08179498 (England and Wales)

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023



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CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST
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Reference and Administrative Details

Members	John Bruce (from 29.11.22) Peter Leggett Alan Smith Anthony Young Sheena Hodgson (23.05.22-13.10.22)
Trustees	Anthony Young (Chair of the Board of Trustees) John Bruce (to 28.11.22) Steve Delaney Costas Kyriacou (from 25.05.23) Shakil Motala Churnet Pieters Katherine Ward Stuart Baker (from 07.07.23) Cornelis von Mollendorff (from 07.07.23)
Company Secretary	Yvonne Allijohn
Senior Management Team:	
CEO and Accounting Officer	Robert Mammen (from 01.01.23) Wayne Barnett (Interim Autumn Term 2022)
Chief Financial Officer	Yvonne Allijohn
Director of Professional Development and Pedagogy	Natalie White
Trust Estates Manager	Colin Howes
Trust Business Manager	Lorna Dixon
<u>Chingford Foundation School</u>	
Senior Vice Principal	Hasip Mahir
Assistant Principals	Alexander Gordon, Charles Millan, Daniel Taborda, Maxine Davies (to 31.08.23), Mark Leadon (to 31.08.23)
<u>South Chingford Foundation School</u>	
Vice Principal	Sean Reed
Senior Assistant Principal	Lee Baker
Assistant Principals	Victoria Godsave, David Cole
Other Trust Staff	
Trust ICT Network Manager	Michael Tribe
Company Name	Chingford Academies Trust
Principal and Registered Office	31 Nevin Drive, Chingford, London E4 7LT
Company Registration Number	08179498 (England and Wales)
Independent Auditor	BKL Audit LLP 35 Ballards Lane, London N3 1XW
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland 747 Attercliffe Road, Sheffield S9 3EF Barclays Bank Tottenham 2, Leicestershire LE87 2BB
Solicitors	Browne Jacobson 15th Floor, 6 Bevis Marks, London EC3A 7BA

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST
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TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the year ended 31 August 2023

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company Chingford Academies Trust for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' Report, and a Directors' Report and Strategic Report under company law.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 28 to 32 and comply with applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019, the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

a. Constitution and Principal Activities

Chingford Academies Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association (dated 14th August 2012) are the primary governing documents of Chingford Academies Trust. The trustees of Chingford Academies Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

The trustees revised their Articles of Association in December 2017. Full details can be found on the academies' website.

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

The principal activity of Chingford Academies Trust ("the Trust") is to advance, for the public benefit, education by maintaining and operating its academies. The Trust operates 2 secondary academies in Chingford, East London – Chingford Foundation School (CFS) and South Chingford Foundation School (SCFS). The Trust's academies have a combined pupil capacity of 2,175 and had a roll of 2,041 in the School Census of October 2022.

b. Members' Liability

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

c. Trustees' Indemnities

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act, every governor or other officer of the charitable company shall be indemnified out of the assets of the charitable company against any liability incurred by them in that capacity in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgement is given in favour or in which they are acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to them by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the charitable company.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

d. Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The trustees are appointed under the terms of the Trust's Articles of Association:

- Chief Executive Officer (ex officio)
- Academy trustees
- Any trustees elected by the Secretary of State for Education
- Up to 3 co-opted trustees
- Sponsor trustees

The term of office for any trustee is four years with the exception of the Chief Executive Officer, who remain as trustee as long as he/she remains in office. The term of office of the Chief Executive Officer runs parallel with his/her contract of employment. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of trustee, any trustee may be re-appointed or re-elected. With the exception of the Chief Executive Officer, there are no staff trustees within the Trust.

e. Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new trustees will depend on their existing experience. Where necessary, an induction will provide training on charity and educational, legal and financial matters. All new trustees are given a tour of both academies within the Trust and the chance to meet with staff and students. All trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as trustees and directors of the charitable company. Trustees regularly visit both academies.

f. Organisational Structure

The charitable company has established a management structure to enable its efficient running. The structure consists of the Board of Trustees, Local Governing Bodies, the Chief Executive Officer and a Senior Management Team for each academy. The Chief Financial Officer is part of the Senior Management Team of each academy.

The Board of Trustees has considered its role thoughtfully and decided on the role of the trustees is to approve the strategic direction and objectives via the MAT and Academy Development Plans of the charitable company and to monitor its progress towards these objectives.

The Board of Trustees has approved a Scheme of Delegation, which sets out a statement on the system of internal control, responsibilities, scheme of delegation, terms of reference and standing orders. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the day to day running of the Trust and is assisted by a Senior Management Team in each academy.

Trustees are responsible for setting general policy and strategic direction of the Trust, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the charitable company by use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the charitable company, including capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The Chief Executive Officer assumes the role of the Accounting Officer.

g. Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel comprises of all members of the Senior Management Team of both academies. The Pay and Personnel Committee meet annually to determine pay scales and review salaries arrangements for all members of the Senior Management Team as set out in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD), National Joint Council Pay Scales and relevant public information. In determining the appropriate pay range, the trustees consider the permanent responsibilities of the role, any challenges that are specific to the role and all other relevant considerations. No remuneration is made to trustees, with the exception of Staff Trustees.

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2023

h. Trade Union Facility Time

Under the provisions of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017, the information included in Schedule 2 of the Regulations required to be published are as follows:

Table 1 - Relevant union officials

No. of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
7	6.09

Table 2 - Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	No. of employees
0%	-
1 – 50%	7
51 – 99%	-
100%	-

Table 3 - Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	£23,464
Total pay bill	£11,877,000
% of the total pay bill spent on facility time	0.20%
- calculated as (total cost of facility time ÷ total pay bill) X 100	

Table 4 - Paid trade union activities

Time spent on trade union activities as % of total paid facility time hours	6.48%
- calculated as (total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period ÷ total paid facility time hours) X 100	

i. Related Parties and Other Connected Charities and Organisations

Chingford Foundation School is the founding member of Chingford Academies Trust. The Trust undertakes educational support activities.

For academies within the Trust, there is a strong working relationship that is supportive and collaborative. The Chief Executive Officer oversees this role in both academies. For commercial services, there is a strong move towards a procurement framework that enables its members to access shared support for back office services including ICT, legal, financial, payroll and human resources support.

j. Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The CEO operates an open door policy which has been useful in engaging staff feedback and suggestions on the ground. Staff are frequently consulted on day to day matters and encouraged to be open and honest in their opinions to drive improvement across the Trust. Collaboration is promoted and several cross-trust posts have been created to facilitate consistency in approach, including seeking ways to improve educational and financial efficiencies and effectiveness. In addition, strategic working groups include volunteers from the staff body covering the subjects of policy review, inclusion, assessment and wellbeing are established.

The Trust operates an equal opportunities policy and this is actively promoted in all aspect of trust operations, including the recruitment and retention of staff.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2023

k. Engagement with Suppliers, Customers and Others in a Business Relationship with the Trust

Trustees continue to maintain a strong and positive relationship with all suppliers, ensuring that best value is observed at all time. The Trust continued with best practices and has continued using online platforms via Microsoft Teams as a means for training staff, webinars, governance and senior management meetings and data protection audits. Trust bulk purchasing to reduce costs has been a key driver, along with a review of contracts (mainly premises and IT related) to synchronise services and further reduce costs. In line with our financial processes and regulations, the cleaning service was re-tendered in October 2021 and CleanTec Services Limited was awarded the cleaning contract for academies within the Trust from 1st January 2022 for 3 years.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

a. Objects and Aims

The principal object of the charitable company is:

- the advance for the public benefit of education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools ("the academies") offering a broad and balanced curriculum
- to promote for the benefit of the communities in the areas served by the academies, the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances for the public at large in the interest of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of the said inhabitants

b. Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The Trust has undertaken a review of its effectiveness using the DfE's published MAT school improvement capacity framework (a diagnostic tool developed in partnership with MAT leaders in the South-East RSC region). The strategic objectives of the Trust have been re-stated under the leadership of the current CEO.

The Trust Charter continues as "live" work to support the Charter through the culture of the school remains in place.

The commitments under the Trust Charter are:

- to continue the development of a community culture which engages everyone in an 'all-in' culture and improves behaviour and attitudes both within and outside the school grounds
- to continue supporting rewards programmes which develop and celebrate whole-school community awareness, inclusive practices, peer to peer and peer to staff relationships

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2023

b. Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)

Key strategic objectives set in 2022-23 are:

Strategic Objective 1: To ensure all of our students make good progress from their starting points

- By providing the highest quality education within broad, balanced and enriching curriculums, which meet the needs of both students and the community, whilst exceeding acceptable minimum educational standards
- By delivering the best learning opportunities through exceptional teaching and support
- By making high quality resources available, whenever and wherever they need them
- By providing the best provision both in and beyond the classroom

Attainment

- To review and improve KS3 curriculum
- To improve KS4 attainment results
- To improve KS5 results

Progress

- To drive pupil progress in defined target groups (PP/Higher Achievers/Boys/SEN)
- To deliver enhanced Career Guidance advice
- To improve student attitudes to learning
- To improve staff wellbeing and to develop middle leaders
- To improve stakeholder communications

Strategic Objective 2: To deliver effective, sustainable, and consistent improvement across our academies within the Trust

- By developing and celebrating inspirational leadership and management at all levels
- By staffing our academies with high-performing professionals, exhibiting passion and taking real pride in their work, in a context of effective support and challenge, whilst promoting their well-being
- By driving Best Practice across the Trust
- By continually monitoring, and then learning, adapting and improving in all that we do

Strategic Objective 3: To be an employer that puts our students and staff first

- By ensuring that attending a Chingford Academies Trust academy adds value to each and every student than would otherwise be expected, by building skills, confidence, independence, resilience and social responsibility
- By ensuring that our accommodation and premises are safe, happy, well-maintained, conducive to learning and are constantly improving
- By ensuring the Trust's infrastructure and IT provision is both effective and efficient, creating the environment and the means by which blockages to improvement can be readily removed and is both effective and efficient

Strategic Objective 4: To put teaching and learning at the heart of everything we do as a Trust

- By utilising standard and centralised approaches to HR and Finance
 - By operating a single approach to facilities management, utilising the best possible central skills to best match local needs
 - By utilising aligned IT platforms that provide either cost effective, efficient platforms for MIS or optimise Teaching & Learning
 - By best leveraging group-wide purchasing power to optimise cost saving benefits

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

b. Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)

- By optimising income per current student
 - By attracting more students to schools within the MAT
 - By better utilising the Trust's assets, skills and people
 - By focussing on integrated curriculum planning to best optimise Trust resources
 - By optimising capital funding and revenue grants
 - By enlisting the support of parents
 - By attracting donations and sponsorships in line with MAT values

Strategic Objective 5: To ensure that all students and staff feel part of the Chingford Academies Trust and it is welcoming to new staff, students and schools that join us.

- By optimising the impact of our efforts, as validated by external accreditation and inspection
 - By improving Attainment and Progress 8 scores year on year
 - By striving to make our academies full and oversubscribed, as a result of their popularity, reputation and success
 - By working in partnership to develop education and links within the wider community
- By adding value to all academies within the Trust
 - By using management systems that are coherent and cohesive
 - By staffing them with colleagues, who are innovative, adaptable, and capable of absorbing new initiatives
 - By using sound financial management practices, whereby student centric, best value for money is always given due regard

In addition to the Trust objectives, other key elements of the academies' strategic and operational working have been reviewed or are currently undergoing review. The curriculum remains a key focus area. An effective and efficient curriculum is one which matches stakeholders' vision for the quality of education and the needs of the academies' pupils, securing strong outcomes and destinations and contributing to the objectives of the Trust.

The academies' vision is to create a curriculum which is a 'firm foundation for life' (CFS) and which 'builds ambition for all' (SCFS). In both cases, this is because the curriculum:

- is broad and balanced, yet meets the needs of all of our students
- is fundamentally high calibre, rigorous and academic
- provides opportunities for personal development and enrichment beyond the taught curriculum
- embraces and celebrates diversity as part of our inclusive and comprehensive ethos and as a consequence we thrive in a culture of mutual respect

CFS was inspected under the new Ofsted framework in October 2023 and received a 'Good' grading overall and 'Good' in all categories. This was a significant improvement on the 'Requires Improvement' grading in December 2019.

SCFS received an inspection in 2021-22 and remains a good school. The leadership at SCFS have self-evaluated its academy to be good for the quality of education in all categories.

c. Public Benefit

In setting the objectives, the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education.

As an academy trust, we make best use of our skills, expertise and experience with regards to the community.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

d. Public Benefit (continued)

Examples of this are:

- Duke of Edinburgh Award programmes
- Jack Petchey Award Scheme
- Sports Leader programmes that provide sporting activities to local primary schools
- Enrichment and trips

STRATEGIC REPORT

a. Achievements and Performance

The objectives under the heading 'Objectives, Strategies and Activities' above were progressed well during the year as the Trust moves forward to normality post the COVID-19 pandemic.

b. Key Performance Indicators

Good progress has been made in the following areas:

- Self-evaluation against the Ofsted judgements for both academies are good in all areas. This will be reviewed every autumn term.
- A restructure of the two leadership teams took place during the Spring and Summer terms in 2023, thus resulting in a Head of School appointed to each academy. There were also additional appointments to the leadership teams and an extended leadership team to ensure that the improvements in the academies are driven forward.
- Planned recruitment of trust positions has included an Executive Assistant to oversee all administration in the academies, a Marketing and Communications Officer, an HR Manager and a Trust Careers Lead.
- Trust level professional development programme has been further developed.

c. Going Concern

After taking appropriate measures, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, despite reductions in external funding. 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.

d. Promoting the Success of the Company

2022-23 saw the continuation of the action plan focussing on Trust development, website and careers development programmes for students and CPD framework. Clearer lines of accountability continued to be developed and is evidenced.

The Trust Development Plan has professional development, curriculum, teaching, learning and outcomes at its core. The Trust aims continued in its ambitions to be the 'go-to' Trust for teaching and support staff professionals, parents and external agencies, seeking to recruit and retain the best and be oversubscribed in each of its academies. The CEO's role and recruitment to Trust positions is helping to facilitate this in the following ways:

- The Trust is a member of the PiXL MAT Connect network that brings together Trust Leads from across the country, as well as being a member of the Local Authority Learning Partnership Steering Group.
- The CEO and the HR Team work together on a strategy for recruiting and retaining the best talent through the creation of Trust website and recruitment strategy.
- The Teaching and Learning Lead for Chingford Foundation School presents regularly on teaching and learning internet forums.
- The Trust Careers Officer has an extensive network of careers professionals and bodies, having worked as a Careers Officer for the Local Authority. This includes a network of local businesses through which the Trust and its academies are promoted for the benefit of all students in the Trust.

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

d. Promoting the Success of the Company (continued)

The School Sports Network Co-ordinator continue to promote school-to-school working with primary schools, as normality resumes within Waltham Forest. This work disseminates a wealth of knowledge to teachers and students and provides a key approach to recruiting pupils from feeder schools for the Trust. The regeneration of the Arts Awards has also been a focal point in promoting secure links within the schools. The Trust continues its intent that every child will access at least one extra-curricular activity during the school year and in line with the schools' Equality Objectives, the schools map this access to ensure that all student groups are well represented in this curriculum offer.

As a Trust, good estates management is only achievable as far as funding permits. Significant capital investment was made in 2022-23 to refurbish the main hall, reception, staff areas and the office spaces at Chingford Foundation School. There was also improvement to site security comprising of CCTV upgrades and external and internal fencing. At South Chingford Foundation School, further capital investment included the complete refurbishment of the teaching and learning spaces and an upgrade to the Trust office space. Whilst cost pressures remain, it was important for these capital works to take place to ensure that students learn and thrive in a positive and well-resourced environment.

Looking forward, Chingford Foundation School has been selected as part of the Schools Rebuilding Programme which will include new buildings, thereby allowing the Trust to compete with nearby schools in terms of modern buildings and facilities. It is anticipated that the refurbishment works will further improve students' teaching environment and learning experiences as well as boosting student numbers in future years.

The Trust has a strong community presence, has maintained links with local charities and continues to develop its alumni database which will place it in a secure position for the future.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

a. Review of Financial Performance

Most of the Trust's income is obtained from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Trust also received grants for fixed assets from the ESFA. In accordance with the Charities SORP 2019, such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

Under the Charities SORP 2019, it is necessary to charge projected deficits on the Local Government Pension Scheme, which is provided to support staff, to a restricted fund. This results in reducing reserves shown in the total funds of the Trust. It should be noted that this does not present the Trust with any current liquidity problem. The employer pension contribution rates are assessed by the actuaries and it is expected the rates will increase over a period of years to help bring further reduction of this pension deficit in the future. Details of the Trust's defined benefit pension schemes are included in the Notes to these Financial Statements.

Chingford Foundation School continues to be popular for Years 7-11. Trustees made the decision to maintain the school's PAN of 240 from September 2022 intake. Work is continuing to review staffing structures to ensure that year by year reduction in pupil intake is sustainable in the longer term and that the new structure can deliver excellent educational outcomes whilst maintaining financial stability and sustainability.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

a. Review of Financial Performance (continued)

South Chingford Foundation School continues to experience financial pressures. The continued use of Early Careers Teachers has helped to reduce staffing costs and re-address to some extent, but this has been outweighed by incremental drift, staff moving up the upper pay scales and pay awards.

Planned decisions to redecorate and upgrade the school's facilities have resulted in having a positive impact on pupil intake. The school managed to secure higher pupil numbers for 2022 and 2023, which in turn will ensure additional funding for the school. Indicative pupil numbers for September 2024 shows that the upward trajectory is set to continue which will have a positive impact on future finances of the school.

Staff recruitment has been a key focus for the Trust during 2022-23. The Trust continues to recruit to key positions whilst reviewing its current staffing structures and ensuring both staffing and financial stability.

Local government announcements regarding pay calculation errors on the annual leave entitlement for term time staff has been concerning, and with backdated pay claims to January 2016 and no clear compensatory funding for academies, the Trust still await to see how this will significantly and negatively impact its balances and reserves. Further announcements on Harper Trust vs Brazel on holiday pay has now raised additional concerns for the Trust.

An increase in lettings at SCFS operated throughout the year, with anticipated introduction at CFS due to take place in 2023-24. Rising energy costs and cost of living increases have meant that lettings will be carefully planned and executed to ensure that the costs vs income does not negatively impact on the academies. Lettings income will be earmarked for related lettings expenditure and further upgrade of building stock.

The Trustees are continuing the work around rebranding and marketing the academies and promoting engagement with the community and the fruits of this work is seen in the take-up of rising Year 7 placements, Year 12 uptake and positive feedback from parents.

For 2023-24, concerns on unfunded pay awards for support staff backdated to April 2023 and teaching staff from September 2023 remains a live issue for the Trust. Work is currently underway to review staffing structures in line with ESFA benchmarks to ensure that the Trust is as efficient as possible in its staffing complement.

Contracts management reviews continue to be a key focus for the Trust, ensuring that there is a robust financial review process in place to obtain best value at all times.

Staff absences continues to remain a challenge for the Trust.

b. Reserves Policy

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

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

b. Reserves Policy (continued)

Reserves at 31 August 2023 attributed to Chingford Foundation School (CFS) and South Chingford Foundation School (SCFS) were as follows:

	CFS	SCFS	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Restricted fund reserves/(deficit)	1,003	54	1,057
Unrestricted fund reserves	28	-	28
Pension (deficit)	(2,634)	(1,086)	(3,720)
Restricted capital assets fund	<u>23,990</u>	<u>10,481</u>	<u>34,471</u>
Total	<u>22,387</u>	<u>9,449</u>	<u>31,836</u>

The trustees will continue to keep this level of reserves under review. The Trust's revenue reserves above, shown as restricted and unrestricted funds, have been earmarked to cover:

- Contribution towards any external CIF bid funding applications
- Targeted support to promote student learning and wellbeing
- Strategic reserves to balance the effect of any future fluctuations in pupil numbers that could impact on the current work undertaken by the Trust
- Contingency budget

c. Investment Policy

The Trust holds cash reserves at banks in interest-bearing accounts. The trustees will endeavour to maintain a working balance of a minimum of £100,000 to respond to unexpected financial demands and to minimise any financial risks facing the trust. Trustees will review the reserves of the Trust in light of its risks and opportunities and future staffing costs. The Trust does not currently hold stocks and securities.

d. Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The Trust operates using simple financial instruments, principally bank accounts, trade creditors and sundry debtors and creditors, all of which carry minimal risks or uncertainties. Risks are reviewed regularly as part of the Trust's system of internal controls and robust systems of cash management are in place, so that all its operating needs are met without the need for short-term borrowing. Surplus cash is invested with the Trust's bankers to maximize interest income. In the absence of borrowings and with low prevailing interest rates, the Trust is not exposed to significant interest rate risk.

e. Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The key risks and uncertainties identified are:

- Recruitment of students to South Chingford Foundation School has reduced funding and increased cost pressures. Although the last few years have seen an increase in numbers and the roll is now at 610 (Years 7-11), it is increasingly difficult to provide a balanced and broad curriculum and maintain staffing structures. ASCL leaders note that schools facing these pressures may not be financially viable in the long term.
- Uncertainty in funding for future years is of concern to both schools.
- Unfunded pay awards are of real concern to the Trust, and there are fears that there will be an inability to help those students who are most in need of support.
- Lack of academy capital funding which is not aligned with the funding required to maintain fixed assets, particularly buildings. This remains a real concern especially in light of the demands on revenue funding and the Trust's inability to afford significant transfers to capital costs and the rising cost of contributions to secure CIF bids.
- Concerns on the lasting impact of COVID-19 pandemic on attendance and the long term effect on students' well-being.

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

f. Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those relating to specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas (e.g. health and safety, behaviour and school trips), and its finances. The trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the academies face and in relation to the control of finance. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors, supervision of school grounds), and internal financial controls in order to minimise risks. Where significant financial risk still remains, they have ensured the Trust has adequate insurance cover.

Chingford Academies Trust has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement.

FUNDRAISING

Minimal fundraising activities took place during the year and the Trust did not use any external fundraisers.

STREAMLINED ENERGY AND CARBON REPORTING

The trust is a large company, as determined by sections 465 and 466 of the Companies Act 2006, and consumes more than 40,000 kWh of energy (in the UK) in the reporting period.

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period September to August		2022-23	2021-22 Re-stated kWh	2021-22 Previously reported
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)		2,664,301	2,852,493	2,004,696
Energy consumption break down (kWh) (optional)	Gas	1,877,832	1,948,240	1,298,444
	Electricity	779,837	898,284	700,283
	Transport fuel	6,632	5,969	5,969
Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e	Gas consumption	343.51	355.63	237.02
	Owned transport – mini-buses	1.14	1.37	1.37
	Total Scope 1	344.65	357.00	238.39
Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e	Purchased electricity	161.48	173.71	135.42
Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e	Business travel in employee owned vehicles	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e		506.13	530.71	373.81
Intensity ratio in metric tonnes CO ₂ e per pupil		0.248	0.257	0.181
Quantification and Reporting Methodology We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2023 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.				
Intensity measurement The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.				
Measures taken to improve energy efficiency We have started to install smart meters across all sites and increased video conferencing technology for staff meetings to reduce the need for travel between sites.				

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Following the 2023 summer examinations, both CFS and SCFS posted negative Progress 8 scores: CFS (-0.19) and SCFS (-0.25). A greater focus on data tracking, data entry profiles and expected attainment is in place to ensure positive progress in 2024.

Academy Development Plans have been written to address areas of underperformance at both academies. These documents identify key areas of strategic improvement that are required to raise standards. These documents also draw out targets for leaders to adopt, as a part of their performance management, so that governors and trustees can hold leaders to account. It is imperative that governors and trustees familiarise themselves with the targets so that there is a coherence between the strategic intent and the implementation of improvement.

A review of leadership capacity has been completed with an eye on the strategic areas of improvement. This has led to a review of the leadership structure that has been implemented for September 2023.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

The Trust and its trustees did not act as a custodian trustee during the current or the previous year.

AUDITOR

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

Trustees' Report, incorporating a Strategic Report, was approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 12 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

A Young

Anthony Young
Chair of the Board of Trustees

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of Responsibility

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

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, 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 the Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The Chief Executive Officer is 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. During the year under review, the trustees held 7 full trustee meetings. In addition, there were regular meetings covering audit, finance, premises, personnel, curriculum and governance. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Board of Trustees	Finance Committee	Pay & Personnel Committee	Premises Committee
Anthony Young (Chair of the Board of Trustees)	7 out of 7	3 out of 3	4 out of 4	1 out of 1
John Bruce (to 28.11.22)	2 out of 2	-	-	-
Steve Delaney	6 out of 7	2 out of 3	3 out of 4	1 out of 1
Costas Kyriacou (from 25.05.23)	1 out of 1	1 out of 1	-	-
Shakil Motala	3 out of 7	1 out of 3	-	-
Churnet Pieters	6 out of 7	3 out of 3	1 out of 4	1 out of 1
Katherine Ward	7 out of 7	3 out of 3	2 out of 4	1 out of 1
Stuart Baker (from 07.07.23)	-	-	-	-
Cornelis von Mollendorff (from 07.07.23)	-	-	-	-
Robert Mammen (CEO & Accounting Officer from 01.01.23)	7 out of 7	3 out of 3	4 out of 4	1 out of 1
Wayne Barnett (Interim CEO & Accounting Officer Autumn Term 2022)	1 out of 1	1 out of 1	1 out of 1	-

The Finance Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to:

- guide and assist the CEO and Board of Trustees in all matters concerning budgeting, finance management, policies, legislation and regulations including financial priorities
- recommend the annual budget to the Board of Trustees
- ensure funding received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and other sources is used only in accordance with the conditions attached
- ensure all annual statements are produced in line with ESFA requirements
- promote and monitor the Trust's aims and ethos and operate value for money
- monitor at least termly, the actual income and expenditure and revised forecast against the annual budget, making recommendations

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)

Governance (continued)

The trustees exercised their right under the Academy Trust Handbook 2022 not to continue with an Audit Committee. This decision was based on the Trust turnover and the limits set within the Handbook. The Audit Committee was replaced in September 2019 with a Risk Management Sub-Committee. The trustees agreed a programme of works for 2022-23 and will ensure transparency and expertise through attendance at meetings with consultants.

In July 2022, the trustees commissioned Leadershipwise (an external provider) to carry out a review of governance for the Trust. This work began in the Autumn Term 2022 and a Governance Professional and Clerk was appointed in December 2022. A working party including the CEO and Chair of Trustees worked together on an action plan to improve Trust governance. Separation of roles between Local Governing Bodies and the Board of Trustees including the appointment of new governors and trustees were identified and implemented. The development of this work will continue into 2023-24.

Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for ensuring that the Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Accounting Officer considers how the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The trustees are continually looking at new procurement opportunities to reduce prices and achieve trust-wide savings. Over the past year, the Accounting Officer has sought to achieve best value by:

- tapping into the benefits of cloud technology as a means of improving efficiencies at MAT level
- maximising opportunities afforded via CIF and SEEF bids to improve the teaching spaces for our students
- continue to review high value contracts with a view to ensure the Trust is receiving best value and economies of scale
- promoting share expertise across the Trust for both teaching and support staff

Purpose of the System of Internal Controls

The system of internal controls 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 controls is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Trust's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal controls has been in place in the Trust for the year 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 Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year 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.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)

The Risk and Control Framework

The Trust's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures 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 actual financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- identification and management of risks
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties

The Trust works with an independent consultant to review the financial controls and accounting records, and to provide support where necessary. Work is carried out remotely where possible and this has proved to be an effective and efficient working practice. All remedial work is completed on a timely basis. The services of the independent consultant include preparation of the end of year accounts for both academies and the Trust's consolidated financial statements for external audit, and preparation of ESFA Accounts Return for approval by the external auditor.

The Trust has retained the services of Lauder Baker Limited (Chartered Accountants) for the provision of audit advice, external audit, and submission of the Trust's audited financial statements to Companies House and ESFA. All remedial work as outlined by the external auditor is completed annually.

Review of Effectiveness

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

- review of the accounting records
- the work of the external auditor
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process
- the work of the Senior Management Team within the Trust who have responsibilities for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 12 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

A Young

Anthony Young
Chair of the Board of Trustees

R Mammen

Robert Mammen
Executive Principal/Accounting Officer

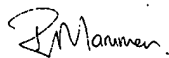
CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As Accounting Officer of Chingford Academies Trust ("the Trust"), I have considered my responsibility to notify the Trust's Board of Trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the 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.

I confirm that I and the Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the 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 the ESFA.



Robert Mammen
Executive Principal/Accounting Officer

Date: 12 December 2023

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 12 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

A Young

Anthony Young
Chair of the Board of Trustees

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
TO THE MEMBERS OF CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST**

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of Chingford Academies Trust ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

BASIS OF OPINION

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

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the 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 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
TO THE MEMBERS OF CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST (continued)

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether these give rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

OPINION ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

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

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

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

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

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

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
TO THE MEMBERS OF CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST (continued)

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

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

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the 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 Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we:

- tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments;
- assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and
- evaluated the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
TO THE MEMBERS OF CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST (continued)

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

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

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

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

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the Trust's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Trust'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 Trust and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Carly Pinkus

Carly Pinkus (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of

BKL Audit LLP

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditors

35 Ballards Lane, London N3 1XW

Date: 12 December 2023

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY
TO CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 16 May 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 Chingford Academies Trust during the year 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 Chingford Academies Trust ("the Trust") and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Trust and the ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUST'S ACCOUNTING OFFICER AND THE REPORTING ACCOUNTANT

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of the Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 September 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 year 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 Accountants of Academy Trusts issued by the 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.

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY
TO CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY**
(continued)

APPROACH (continued)

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- review management reporting documents;
- review trustees/governors meeting minutes;
- confirm compliance with the Trust's Scheme of Delegation;
- confirm compliance with delegated authorities;
- consideration of whether any personal benefit has been derived from the Trust's transactions by staff or related parties; and
- adherence to tendering policies.

CONCLUSION

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

BKL Audit LLP

Reporting Accountant

BKL Audit LLP

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditors

35 Ballards Lane, London N3 1XW

Date: 12 December 2023

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2023 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

		Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	2022/23 Total £000	2021/22 Total £000
	Note					
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	6	-	129	135	61
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	4	-	15,754	-	15,754	15,287
Trading activities	5	2	272	-	274	116
Investments	6	-	69	-	69	4
Total		8	16,095	129	16,232	15,468
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	7	205	-	212	82
Charitable activities:						
Academy trust's educational operations	7	-	15,280	861	16,141	16,076
Other		-	-	-	-	-
Total		7	15,485	861	16,353	16,158
Net income / (expenditure)		1	610	(732)	(121)	(690)
Transfers between funds	18	-	(1,216)	1,216	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses):						
Actuarial (losses) / gains on defined benefit pension schemes	18,24	-	1,921	-	1,921	4,516
Net movement in funds		1	1,315	484	1,800	3,826
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		27	(3,978)	33,987	30,036	26,210
Total funds carried forward		28	(2,663)	34,471	31,836	30,036

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Company Number: 08179498

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

	Note	2023 £000	2023 £000	2022 £000	2022 £000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		34,333		33,956
Current assets					
Debtors	14	465		493	
Cash at bank and in hand		3,217		2,634	
		<u>3,682</u>		<u>3,127</u>	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	15	(2,364)		(1,446)	
Net current assets			1,318		1,681
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>35,651</u>		<u>35,637</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than 1 year	16		(95)		(146)
Net assets excluding pension scheme liabilities			<u>35,556</u>		<u>35,491</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	24		(3,720)		(5,455)
Total net assets			<u>31,836</u>		<u>30,036</u>
Funds of the academy trust					
Restricted funds:					
Fixed asset fund	18	34,471		33,987	
Restricted income fund	18	1,057		1,477	
Pension reserve	18	(3,720)		(5,455)	
Total restricted funds			31,808		30,009
Unrestricted income funds	18		<u>28</u>		<u>27</u>
Total funds			<u>31,836</u>		<u>30,036</u>

The financial statements on pages 25 to 48 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue, on 12 December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

A Young

Anthony Young

Chair of the Board of Trustees

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Note	2023 £000	2022 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	20	1,674	1,694
Cash flows from financing activities	21	(51)	(49)
Cash flows from investing activities	22	(1,040)	(131)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		583	1,514
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		2,634	1,120
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	23	3,217	2,634

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

1 Statement of Accounting Policies

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

1.1 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), 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 (FRS102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Chingford Academies Trust ("the Trust") meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Going Concern

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

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

Sponsorship Income

Sponsorship income provided to the 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.

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

1 Statement of Accounting Policies

Other Income

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

Interest Receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Trust; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the banks.

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 financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'.

Donated Fixed Assets (excluding transfers on conversion / into the academy trust)

Where the donated good is a fixed asset it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the 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 allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on Raising Funds

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

Expenditure on Charitable Activities

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Tangible Fixed Assets

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 requiring the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

1 Statement of Accounting Policies

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:

Freehold buildings	33 - 50 years
Long leasehold buildings	30 years
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	5 years
Catering equipment	10 years
ICT hardware	3 years
Motor Vehicles	4 years

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

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

1.6 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at their settlement amount after any trade discount offered and less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of trade discount due.

1.7 Cash at Bank and in Hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments, with a short maturity of 3 months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.8 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 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.

1.9 Provisions

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

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

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

1 Statement of Accounting Policies

1.10 Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 14. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 15 and 16. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.11 Taxation

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

1.12 Pensions Benefits

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. 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 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 Trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

1.14 Fund Accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the 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.

1.15 Critical Accounting Estimates and Areas of Judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 25, will impact the carrying amount of the pensions 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 net book value of tangible fixed assets is based on the original cost of the assets, net of provision for depreciation. The depreciation provision to-date is based on the trustees' assessment of the estimated useful economic lives of such assets.

Critical areas of judgement

Other than the estimates discussed above, the trustees do not consider that there are any key judgements made in the preparation of these financial statements.

1.16 Agency Arrangements

The Trust acts as an agent in distributing post 16 bursary funds from the ESFA. Payments received from the ESFA and disbursements to students are included in the Statement of Financial Activities. To the extent that bursary funds had not been fully disbursed at each 31 August, expenditure was accrued and the unspent bursary funds included as other creditors in the Balance Sheet.

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

2 General Annual Grant (GAG)

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State the academy trust is not subject to limits on the amount of GAG that could be carried forward from one year to the next.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Capital grants	-	129	129	56
Other donations	6	-	6	5
	6	129	135	61
Total 2022	5	56		61

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
DfE / ESFA grants				
. General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	13,476	13,476	13,258
. Rates Relief	-	-	-	41
. Pupil Premium	-	577	577	578
. Teachers Pay Grant	-	65	65	84
. Supplementary Grant	-	395	395	152
. Mainstream School Additional Grant	-	152	152	-
. Other ESFA Grants	-	23	23	4
. Post 16 Bursary Funds	-	15	15	13
	-	14,703	14,703	14,130
Other government grants				
. SEN top-up funding	-	778	778	815
. Other local authority grants	-	108	108	55
	-	886	886	870
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	-	79	79	75
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)				
. Recovery / COVID catch-up premium	-	163	163	93
. National Tutoring Programme	-	(77)	(77)	89
. Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	-	-	(4)
COVID-19 additional funding (non-DfE/ESFA)				
. Other COVID-19 funding: Mass testing & Vaccination	-	-	-	34
Total	-	15,754	15,754	15,287
Total 2022	-	15,287		15,287

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

5 Trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Hire of facilities	-	39	39	33
Catering income	-	-	-	-
Music fees income	-	14	14	13
Teacher training	-	10	10	21
Income from clubs	-	-	-	-
Income from trips and activities	-	179	179	32
Insurance receipts	-	9	9	-
Other income	2	21	23	17
	2	272	274	116
Total 2022	1	115		116

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Short term deposits	-	69	69	4
	-	69	69	4
Total 2022	-	4		4

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023****7 Expenditure**

	Staff Costs	Non Pay Expenditure		Total	Total
		Premises	Other	2023	2022
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Expenditure on raising funds:					
- Direct costs	-	-	212	212	82
- Support costs	-	-	-	-	-
Academy trust's educational operations:					
- Direct costs (Note 8)	10,132	-	1,841	11,973	11,807
- Support costs (Note 8)	2,591	730	847	4,168	4,269
	12,723	730	2,900	16,353	16,158

Of the total expenditure, £7,000 (2022: £5,000) was to unrestricted funds and £16,346,000 (2022: £16,153,000) was to restricted funds.

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes:	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Depreciation	861	879
(Profit)/Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	(1)
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- audit	14	11
- other services	-	-

Severance payments to members of staff upon termination of their employment, as disclosed in Note 9 (b), are included within expenditure above.

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

8 Charitable activities

	Educational operations	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£000	£000	£000
Direct costs			
Educational supplies	294	294	418
Educational consultancy	352	352	346
Examination fees	180	180	166
Technology costs	97	97	157
Other direct costs	59	59	86
Staff development and training	40	40	28
Depreciation	819	819	823
Staff restructuring costs	6	6	-
Agency supply teaching and educational support	734	734	534
Wages and salaries	7,190	7,190	6,940
National Insurance	785	785	771
Pension costs	1,417	1,417	1,538
	11,973	11,973	11,807
Support costs			
Maintenance of premises	62	62	79
Cleaning	269	269	301
Water and sewerage	28	28	36
Energy costs	207	207	208
Rent and rates	-	-	38
Insurance	49	49	45
Other occupancy costs	115	115	87
Security and transport	15	15	15
Catering costs	136	136	197
Professional fees	81	81	86
Other support costs	89	89	65
Technology costs	126	126	90
Legal costs - conversion	-	-	-
Legal costs - other	20	20	9
Governance costs	22	22	24
Recruitment and staff support	74	74	58
Depreciation	42	42	56
(Profit) on disposal of motor vehicle	-	-	(1)
Staff restructuring costs	-	-	-
Agency supply non-teaching	106	106	46
Wages and salaries	1,854	1,854	1,788
National Insurance	193	193	189
Pension costs	438	438	688
LGPS scheme net interest cost	219	219	150
LGPS scheme admin expenses	23	23	15
	4,168	4,168	4,269

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023****9 Staff****a. Staff costs**

Staff costs during the period were:	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Wages and salaries	9,044	8,728
Social security costs	948	931
Apprenticeship levy	30	29
Pension costs	1,855	2,226
	11,877	11,914
Agency staff costs	840	580
Staff restructuring costs	6	-
	12,723	12,494
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Redundancy payments	-	-
Severance payments: non-contractual payments	6	-
Other restructuring costs: Pension strain costs	-	-
	6	-

The Trust made 1 severance payment during the year (2022: none) in the band of £0 - £25,000.

b. Non statutory/non contractual staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs above is a single payment of non-statutory/non-contractual severance pay of £6,000 (2022: £Nil), paid to one individual.

c. Staff numbers

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

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Teachers	132	134
Educational and other support staff	119	117
Senior management team	11	13
	262	264

d Higher paid staff

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

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
in the band £60,001 - £70,000	8	6
in the band £70,001 - £80,000	4	4
in the band £80,001 - £90,000	3	3
in the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	-
in the band £100,001 - £110,000	1	-
in the band £110,001 - £120,000	1	-
in the band £130,001 - £140,000	-	1

e Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on Page 1 of the financial statements. 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 £1,415,954 (2022: £1,567,841).

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

10 Related Party Transactions - Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

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

Robert Mammen (Executive Principal and CEO) - from 01.01.2023

- Remuneration £115,000 - £120,000 (2022: £Nil)
- Employer's pension contributions paid £25,000 - £30,000 (2022: £Nil)

Jane Benton (Executive Principal and CEO) - left 31.08.2022

- Remuneration £Nil (2022: £130,000 - £135,000)
- Employer's pension contributions paid £Nil (2022: £30,000 - £35,000)

During the year, no trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (2022: £Nil).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 26.

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 business. The insurance provides cover up to £10 million on any one claim and the cost for the year was included in the total RPA insurance cost.

12 Central services

No central services were provided by the academy trust to its academies during the year and no central charges arose.

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Property	Long-term Leasehold Property	Fixtures & Fittings	Computer Equipment	Catering Equipment	Motor Vehicles
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost						
At 1 September 2022	27,742	11,546	447	1,905	290	48
Additions	838	173	41	186	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2023	28,580	11,719	488	2,091	290	48
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2022	4,612	1,016	400	1,759	210	25
Charged in year	558	153	19	108	13	10
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2023	5,170	1,169	419	1,867	223	35
Net book values						
At 31 August 2023	23,410	10,550	69	224	67	13
At 31 August 2022	23,130	10,530	47	146	80	23

Tangible fixed assets (continued)

	Total £000
Cost	
At 1 September 2022	41,978
Additions	1,238
Disposals	-
At 31 August 2023	43,216
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2022	8,022
Charged in year	861
Disposals	-
At 31 August 2023	8,883
Net book values	
At 31 August 2023	34,333
At 31 August 2022	33,956

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023****14 Debtors**

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Trade debtors	32	6
VAT recoverable	142	74
Other debtors	17	6
LGPS pension prepayment	-	114
Prepayments	158	178
Accrued income	116	115
	465	493

The LGPS pension prepayment at 31 August 2022 was in respect of projected employer pension contributions covering the period to 31 March 2023.

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Trade creditors	789	306
Other taxation and social security	247	242
Salix loans	63	63
Other creditors	868	533
Accruals	217	209
Deferred income	180	93
	2,364	1,446

Deferred income	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	93	57
Released from previous years	(93)	(57)
Resources deferred in the year	180	93
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	180	93

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance for rental income £21,481 (2022: £15,248), SEN High Needs and Spot Placement £83,632 (2022: £Nil), Growth Fund £10,284 (2022: £Nil), School Games income £Nil (2022: £13,884) and school trips of £64,219 (2022: £64,350).

Included within creditors are the following Salix loans, each loan is repayable in half-yearly instalments due on 1 March and 1 September each year:

- £31,029 loan repayable over 8 years at £1,939.31 from Mar 2017, repayments collected from Sep 2018
- £10,328 loan repayable over 8 years at £645.50 from Mar 2018, repayments collected from Mar 2018
- £17,840 loan repayable over 8 years at £1,115 from Mar 2019 but no instalments collected to-date
- £149,835 loan repayable over 6 years at £12,486.25 from Sep 2020, repayments collected from Sep 2020
- £108,061 loan repayable over 6 years at £9,005 from Sep 2020, repayments collected from Sep 2020

16 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Salix loans	95	146

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

17 Agency arrangements

The academy trust distributes post 16 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. During the year, the academy received £14,764 (2022: £13,359) and disbursed £21,055 (2022: £19,886) from accumulated bursary funds. At 31 Aug 2023, an amount of £72,504 (2022: £78,795) is included in other creditors relating to undistributed bursary funds to-date.

18 Statement of funds

	Brought forward 1 Sep 2022 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains, losses & transfers £000	Carried forward 31 Aug 2023 £000
Restricted general funds					
General funds	1,477	16,095	(15,299)	(1,216)	1,057
Pension reserve	(5,455)	-	(186)	1,921	(3,720)
	(3,978)	16,095	(15,485)	705	(2,663)
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Assets transferred on conversion	28,079	-	(480)	-	27,599
DfE/ESFA capital grants	5,908	129	(381)	1,216	6,872
	33,987	129	(861)	1,216	34,471
Total restricted funds	30,009	16,224	(16,346)	1,921	31,808
Total unrestricted funds					
General funds	-	6	(6)	-	-
Private funds	27	2	(1)	-	28
	27	8	(7)	-	28
Total funds	30,036	16,232	(16,353)	1,921	31,836

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

	Brought forward 1 Sep 2021 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains, losses & transfers £000	Carried forward 31 Aug 2022 £000
Restricted general funds					
General funds	823	15,406	(14,616)	(136)	1,477
COVID catch-up premium	104	-	(104)	-	-
Pension reserve	(9,416)	-	(555)	4,516	(5,455)
	(8,489)	15,406	(15,275)	4,380	(3,978)
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Assets transferred on conversion	28,574	-	(495)	-	28,079
DfE/ESFA capital grants	6,099	56	(383)	136	5,908
	34,673	56	(878)	136	33,987
Total restricted funds	26,184	15,462	(16,153)	4,516	30,009
Total unrestricted funds					
General funds	-	5	(5)	-	-
Private funds	26	1	-	-	27
	26	6	(5)	-	27
Total funds	26,210	15,468	(16,158)	4,516	30,036

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

18 Statement of funds (continued)

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

- Restricted general funds are resources for educational purposes.
- Restricted fixed asset funds are resources to be applied to specific capital purposes.
- Unrestricted 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.

a. Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August were allocated as follows:

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Chingford Foundation School	1,031	1,429
South Chingford Foundation School	54	75
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	1,085	1,504
Restricted fixed asset fund	34,471	33,987
Pension reserve	(3,720)	(5,455)
Total	31,836	30,036

b. Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching & Educational Support Staff Costs £000	Other Support Staff Costs £000	Educational Supplies £000	Other Costs (excluding Depreciation) £000	2023 £000
Chingford Foundation School	7,417	2,059	227	1,798	11,501
South Chingford Foundation School	2,715	532	67	852	4,166
Inter-academy charges				(175)	(175)
Academy Trust	10,132	2,591	294	2,475	15,492

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

	Teaching & Educational Support Staff Costs £000	Other Support Staff Costs £000	Educational Supplies £000	Other Costs (excluding Depreciation) £000	2022 £000
Chingford Foundation School	7,086	2,128	333	1,782	11,329
South Chingford Foundation School	2,697	583	85	949	4,314
Inter-academy charges	-	-	-	(363)	(363)
Academy Trust	9,783	2,711	418	2,368	15,280

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted	Total Funds
	Funds	General Funds	Fixed Asset Funds	2023
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	34,333	34,333
Current assets	28	3,516	138	3,682
Current liabilities	-	(2,364)	-	(2,364)
Non-current liabilities	-	(95)	-	(95)
Pension scheme liability	-	(3,720)	-	(3,720)
Total net assets	28	(2,663)	34,471	31,836

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

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted	Total Funds
	Funds	General Funds	Fixed Asset Funds	2022
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	33,956	33,956
Current assets	27	3,069	31	3,127
Current liabilities	-	(1,446)	-	(1,446)
Non-current liabilities	-	(146)	-	(146)
Pension scheme liability	-	(5,455)	-	(5,455)
Total net assets	27	(3,978)	33,987	30,036

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

20 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(121)	(690)
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation (note 13)	861	879
(Profit) on disposal of fixed assets (note 7)	-	(1)
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(129)	(56)
Interest receivable (note 6)	(69)	(4)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 25)	(56)	390
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 25)	242	165
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	28	628
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	918	383
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	1,674	1,694
21 Cash flows from financing activities	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Repayments of borrowing	(51)	(49)
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	-
Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities	(51)	(49)
22 Cash flows from investing activities	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	69	4
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets	-	1
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,238)	(192)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	129	56
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	-	-
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities	(1,040)	(131)
23 Analysis cash and cash equivalents	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Cash in hand and at bank	3,217	2,634
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	-	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	3,217	2,634

24 Analysis of changes in net debt	At 1 Sep	Acquisition/	New	Other	At 31 Aug
	2022	Cash	Disposal of	non-cash	2023
	£000	flows	subsidiaries	changes	£000
Cash	2,634	583	-	-	3,217
Overdraft facility repayable on demand	-	-	-	-	-
	2,634	583	-	-	3,217
Loans falling due within 1 year	(63)	-	-	-	(63)
Loans falling due after more than 1 year	(146)	51	-	-	(95)
Finance lease obligations	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2,425	634	-	-	3,059

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

25 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 London Borough of Waltham Forest. Both are multi-employer defined benefit pension schemes.

The latest valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020 and the latest triennial valuation for LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2022. The Trust has received an actuarial report relating to the valuation of the LGPS as at 31 August 2023.

At the balance sheet date, employer contributions amounting to £Nil were prepaid to the LGPS (2022: £114,348 prepaid to 31 March 2023 and were included in debtors).

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £1,267,794 (2022: £1,266,099).

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 trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £755,000 (2022: £700,000), of which employer contributions totalled £614,000 (2022: £555,000) and employee contributions totalled £141,000 (2022: £145,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 28.4% for employers and tiered rates between 5.5% and 12.5% for employees.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions	At 31 Aug 2023	At 31 Aug 2022
Rate of increase in salaries	4.30%	4.40%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/deferment	2.90%	3.00%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.40%	4.30%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.80%	2.90%

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

	At 31 Aug 2023	At 31 Aug 2022
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.4	22.6
Females	23.7	25.1
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.5	24.1
Females	25.4	27.0

Sensitivity analysis	At 31 Aug	Sensitivity 1 Discount Rate + 0.5% p.a.	Sensitivity 2 Inflation Rate + 0.25% p.a.	Sensitivity 3 Pay Growth + 0.25% p.a.	Sensitivity 4 Life Expectancy + 1 year	Sensitivity 5 Change in 2022/23 Investment Returns +1%	Sensitivity 5 Change in 2022/23 Investment Returns -1%
At 31 Aug 2023:	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Liabilities	10,499	9,715	10,914	10,569	10,714	10,499	10,499
Assets	(6,779)	(6,779)	(6,779)	(6,779)	(6,779)	(6,849)	(6,709)
Deficit	3,720	2,936	4,135	3,790	3,935	3,650	3,790
Projected service cost for next year	402	355	426	402	412	402	402
Projected net interest cost for next year	183	157	206	187	195	180	187
At 31 Aug 2022:	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Liabilities	11,712	11,512	11,915	11,730	11,951	11,712	11,712
Assets	(6,371)	(6,371)	(6,371)	(6,371)	(6,371)	(6,434)	(6,308)
Deficit	5,341	5,141	5,544	5,359	5,580	5,278	5,404
Projected service cost for next year	524	511	537	524	536	524	524
Projected net interest cost for next year	230	226	238	230	240	227	232

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

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

	Fair value at 31 Aug 2023 £000	Fair value at 31 Aug 2022 £000
Equities	4,393	3,917
Non-government bonds	1,024	1,071
Property	712	714
Cash and other liquid assets	298	198
Other	352	471
Total market value of assets	6,779	6,371

Actual return on scheme assets	14	(561)
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Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Current service cost	558	945
Net interest cost	219	150
Admin expenses	23	15
Past service cost (gain)	-	-
Effect of curtailments	-	-
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	800	1,110

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations

	2023 £000	2022 £000
At 1 September	11,712	15,673
Current service cost	558	945
Interest cost	500	268
Employee contributions	141	145
Past service cost (gain)	-	-
Actuarial (gain)/loss - experience	707	890
Actuarial (gain)/loss - assumptions	(2,805)	(6,084)
Effects of curtailments	-	-
Benefits paid	(314)	(125)
At 31 August	10,499	11,712

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

	2023 £000	2022 £000
At 1 September	6,371	6,926
Interest income	281	118
Actuarial gain/(loss)	(177)	(678)
Admin expenses	(23)	(15)
Employer contributions	500	-
Employee contributions	141	145
Benefits paid	(314)	(125)
At 31 August	6,779	6,371
Employer contributions prepaid at 31 Aug (see Note 14)	-	(114)
At 31 August excluding prepaid contributions	6,779	6,257

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

26 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trust has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length, in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in Note 10.

27 Members' liability

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