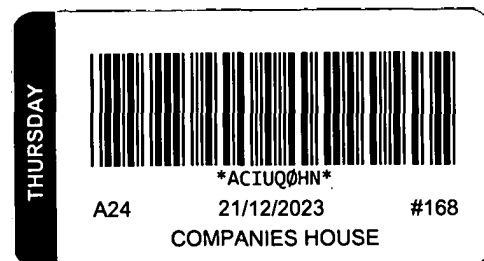


WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023



WADE DEACON TRUST (A company limited by guarantee)

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and administrative details	1 - 2
Trustees' report	3 - 31
Governance statement	32 - 37
Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance	38
Statement of trustees' responsibilities	39
Independent auditors' report on the financial statements	40 - 43
Independent reporting accountant's report on regularity	44 - 45
Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account	46 - 47
Balance sheet	48 - 49
Statement of cash flows	50
Notes to the financial statements	51 - 78

WADE DEACON TRUST (A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	I Hann P Wasley D Findon P A Wright G Lacey
Trustees	Paul Fowler, Chair Colin McLeod John Woodroffe (Resigned 1 June 2023) Michael Dickinson (Resigned 31 August 2023) Nicholas McGee Christine Marsland Derek Darlington Ian Hann Karen Highcock (Appointed 1 September 2023) Mary Murphy (Appointed 1 September 2023)
Company registered number	08278808
Company name	Wade Deacon Trust
Principal and registered office	Wade Deacon High School Birchfield Road Widnes WA8 7TD
Company secretary	I Kirkham
Chief executive officer	G Kelly
Independent internal auditor	Beever and Struthers Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors St George's House 215-219 Chester Road Manchester M15 4JE
Independent external auditors	WR Partners Chartered Accountants Drake House Gadbrook Park Northwich Cheshire CW9 7RA

WADE DEACON TRUST (A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Bankers	HSBC Bank Plc Vista St Davids Park Chester Cheshire CH5 3DT
Solicitors	Business Services Group Hill Dickinson LLP No. 1 St Paul's Square Liverpool L3 9SJ
Senior management team	G Kelly - Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer I Kirkham - Chief Operations Officer S Robertson - Chief Finance Officer S Corner - Lead Principal Secondary/Principal Wade Deacon High School J Brown - Lead Principal Primary A Ryan - Principal Hillside High School R Hicks - Principal The Grange Academy (Appointed 1 January 2023) I Critchley - Principal Halewood Academy (Appointed 1 September 2023) K Highcock - Principal Widnes Academy (Retired 31 August 2023) L Kirchin - Head of School Widnes Academy (Appointed 1 September 2023) I Cooper - Principal Whiston Willis Primary Academy R O'Hanlon - Principal Yew Tree Primary Academy R Harrison - Principal Sylvester Primary Academy

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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

For the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 the Trust operated as a Multi Academy Trust. The Trust currently serves the towns of Widnes and Runcorn in the Borough of Halton, Bootle in the Borough of Sefton and Huyton, Whiston & Halewood in the Borough of Knowsley.

The Trust as of September 2022 had a pupil capacity of 5,950 (excluding nursery & DSP provision) across its eight schools.

The membership of Wade Deacon Trust as at 31 August 2023 is:

- Wade Deacon High School, Widnes (Halton) 11-16 (converted 1 March 2013). Capacity 1,625 (Planned Admission Number 325). Number on roll Autumn Term census 2022 (Yr7-11) is 1,602 students.
- Widnes Academy, Widnes (Halton) 3-11 (converted 1 February 2015) Sponsored Academy. Capacity 210 plus 52 Nursery (Planned Admission Number 30). Number on roll Autumn Term census 2022 (Reception-Y6) is 143 students.
- Hillside High School, Bootle (Sefton) 11-16 (converted 1 March 2015) Sponsored Academy. Capacity 725 (Planned Admission Number 145). Number on roll Autumn Term census 2022 (Yr7-11) is 663 students.
- Sylvester Primary Academy, Huyton (Knowsley) 3-11 (converted 1 January 2017) Converter Academy. Capacity is 420 plus 52 Nursery (Planned Admission Number 60). Number on roll Autumn Term census 2022 (Reception – Y6) is 230 students.
- Halewood Academy, Halewood (Knowsley) y – 11-16 Sponsored Academy. Capacity is 1,200 (Planned Admission Number 240). Number on roll Autumn Term census 2022 (Yr7-11) is 1,107 students.
- The Grange Academy 3-16 (converted 1 January 2018) Converter Academy. This is an all through school with a capacity of 1,320 plus 52 Nursery and check numbers place resource base (Planned Admission Number Primary 60, Secondary 180). Number on Role Autumn Term census 2022 (Reception –Y11) is 1,101 students.
- Whiston Willis Primary Academy, Whiston (Knowsley) (converted 1 May 2018) Converter Academy. Capacity is 420 plus 52 Nursery (Planned Admission Number 60) Number on roll Autumn Term census 2022 (Reception –Y6) is 293 students.
- Yew Tree Primary Academy, Halewood (Knowsley) 3-11 (converted 1 September 2018) Converter Academy. Also has a Designated Specialist Provision (DSP). Capacity 210, plus 28 DSP. Number on roll Autumn Term census 2022 (Reception –Y6 & DSP) is 231 students.

WADE DEACON TRUST (A company limited by guarantee)
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity.

The charitable company's memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The charitable company is known as Wade Deacon Trust.

The Trustees of Wade Deacon Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

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

The Trustees undertake the strategic review of the Academy Trust and powers are delegated to local Governing Bodies; the levels of which are subject to the needs of each individual school.

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 2006 every Governor or other officer or Auditor of the Academy Trust shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Academy Trust 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 Academy Trust.

Professional Indemnity Insurance is in place to protect Trustees, Governors, and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring on Trust business.

d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

Consideration is given to the skills of Trustees and Governors which would enhance the effectiveness of the Trust in line with the Articles of Association.

The appointment of Trustees may be made by the Members passing a resolution as contained within the Articles of Association.

With regards to the appointment of parent and staff Governors, procedures are in place for their nomination, election and appointment.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Structure, governance and management (continued)

e. Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

New Trustees are inducted into the workings of the Trust, including details of policies and procedures, together with an appropriate training schedule depending upon their existing area of expertise.

f. Organisational structure

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the Trust and Academies by the use of financial management information, making strategic decisions about the direction of the Trust and capital expenditure, making senior appointments and approving the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

As at 31st August 2023 the MAT consists of eight Academies.

The Trustees delegate the leadership and management of the Trust to the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operations Officer, Executive/Lead Principals and Principals. Each Academy has a Senior Leadership Team (SLT) structure in place to support the delegation of responsibilities.

The level of delegation will be subject to assessment and review of performance and also the capacity of each Academy. A small focused central team supports the operation of the Trust. The Senior Leadership Team (SLT), as appropriate to each Academy, would normally consist of Principal, Vice Principals, Assistant Vice Principals and a Business Manager (or equivalent post holder). These leaders control the Trust and Academies at a senior level, implementing the policies laid down by the Trustees & Local Governing Bodies and reporting back to them. As a group the SLT is subject to relevant delegation being granted and responsibility for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff (excluding the appointment of a Principal).

Senior Leadership teams will operate at each Academy and are responsible for the day to day operation of the Trust and the Academies. In particular they are responsible for organising the staff (teaching and support), facilities and students.

The Wade Deacon Multi Academy Trust Board of Trustees has an Audit & Compliance Committee and a Standards Committee.

The role of the Audit and Compliance Committee is to advise the Board on matters relating to the Trust's finance and audit arrangements, systems of internal control, risk management and statutory compliance. The Committee will also advise and aid the Board in ensuring the sound management of the Trust's finances and resources. This will include proper planning, monitoring and probity. The Audit & Compliance Committee is responsible to the Trust Board.

The role of the Standards Committee is to advise the Board on matters relating to Trust's curriculum, quality and standards. The Committee will also advise and aid the Board in ensuring the standards of leadership and management is high. This will include proper planning, monitoring and probity. The Compliance Committee is responsible to the Trust Board.

Both the Board of Trustees and the Audit and Compliance group meet regularly throughout the year. Members meet on a termly basis. An appropriate meeting in each academic year being used to hold the Annual General Meeting following the submission of accounts.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Structure, governance and management (continued)

g. Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Academy Trustees (excluding the Chief Executive Officer) are non-salaried and therefore no pay and remuneration scales are applicable.

The Academy Trust continues to refer to School Teachers' Pay & Conditions Document (STPCD) and National Joint Council (NJC) to support relevant grade and pay range allocations.

The setting of salaries (and pay range) for Principals, Vice Principals and Assistant Vice Principals is undertaken using the STPCD Leadership Pay Group section guidance.

h. Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the year	7
Full-time equivalent employee number	7

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	6
1%-50%	1
51%-99%	-
100%	-
Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time	£
Total cost of facility time	189
Total pay bill	29,764,387
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	- %

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	- %
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i. Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The transactions with respect to related parties and other connected charities and organisations have been disclosed in note 28 to these financial statements.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Structure, governance and management (continued)

j. Engagement with employees

Key to the way we work and our success, are our colleagues and partners who collectively have the knowledge, skills and experience to continually improve the offer for our pupils. We work together to solve problems, overcome barriers, to test things out and continually improve.

Our expectation in all of our academies is that our colleagues are highly skilled, that they continue to develop and are as ambitious for themselves as well as our pupils.

Working within a common structure and bound by our vision of 'A Commitment to Excellence', our academies are supported and encouraged to maintain their own distinctive characteristics and to tailor their curriculum so that it meets the needs of their pupils and to best serve their communities. Our principals are responsible for the academy they lead and are accountable for the outcomes their pupils achieve. Being part of a partnership of academies brings with it challenge and support as well as opportunities to share ideas, share best practice and to share resources where this adds value.

One of Wade Deacon Trust's key objectives is to be a great employer and we are fully committed to our employee's continued professional development. The Trust offers strong CPD opportunities for all of our employees; we believe this is an essential part of our role as an employer and as educators.

With a range of exciting opportunities for aspiring teachers and educational leaders, Wade Deacon Trust provides the very best support and training to assist staff in achieving their goals.

We are passionate about providing tailored support from the journey to all levels of educational development. We offer a wide range of services from collaborative working through to training and support for school improvement and governance with the three key priorities focusing on:

- Initial Teacher Training
- Continuing Professional & Leadership Development
- School-to-School Support

At Wade Deacon Trust we know that having employees who are happy and enthusiastic is an extremely important part of creating successful schools that provide the first-class education that our students deserve. Therefore, we aim to provide a working environment that keeps our employees satisfied in their jobs.

The Wade Deacon Trust employs a diverse range of people in a variety of professions and sectors, who all work together to create wonderful community. Our Trust is about so much more than just teaching, and we strive to give opportunities to as many people, in as many fields, as possible.

Our Trust ensure the best possible facilities and provisions to keep our employees engaged and working hard for the benefit of our students. We appreciate the work of each and every person within Wade Deacon Trust, and recognise that everyone plays an equally valuable part in ensuring that The Wade Deacon Trust runs smoothly all year round for our students.

We have a number of options and benefits available for our employees that come as part of the employment package with Wade Deacon Trust. These include competitive salary and benefits and career progression opportunities. We are always evaluating the pay and benefits we offer our employees and taking account of the changing environment around us to ensure that we continue to be a first-choice employer for prospective and existing staff. We ensure that employees are paid fairly and well. To compliment this, we provide opportunities for salary progression and we take this opportunity very seriously. We know that our employees work hard and we do the best that we can to recognise, celebrate and reward hard work, dedication to our students and achievement.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Structure, governance and management (continued)

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

Wade Deacon Trust treats all of the suppliers it engages in business with as partners in realising the Trust's principles and aims to work together with them to adapt to both changing times and emerging demands from society. This is precisely why the entire Trust also works hard to ensure the practice of fair transactions and competition amongst its suppliers.

Wade Deacon Trust engages with a large number of suppliers across the Academies. We always look to be honest with our suppliers and aim to maintain strong dialogue with all of our suppliers. Strong buyer-supplier relationships are built on collaboration and as a Trust we look to be pro-active with our suppliers.

As a Trust, whilst following the clear guidelines set out by the Academies Financial Handbook with regards to obtaining value for money, we encourage our Academies to seek local suppliers where practical. Our Academies are an integral part of their communities and by adopting a policy of looking to support local businesses if possible we can provide support to those communities and benefit the stakeholders to the academies.

We report every six months on the prompt payment of suppliers (in line with government requirements) and work towards improving our payment terms and conditions wherever possible.

The main customers who use the Trust are based around the use of our facilities across the academies. During the last 18 months we have undertaken a policy across the Trust of prioritising the use of the facilities for local users as well as looking to prioritise use which aligns with our strategic goals. Examples of this include engaging with local youth sports teams to utilise 3-G sports facilities across our sites as well as making resources available for local groups to use however this has been severely limited by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Objectives and activities

a. Objects and aims

The main objectives of the Trust are summarised below:

- To facilitate a smooth transition to Academy status
- To raise the standard of educational achievements of all pupils in the Trust's academies
- To ensure that every child enjoys the same high-quality education in terms of resourcing, teaching and learning
- To improve the effectiveness of the Academies by keeping the curriculum and organisational structures under continual review
- To comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements
- To provide value for money for the funds expended
- To conduct the Trust and Academy business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

b. Objectives, strategies and activities

The Trusts' main strategy is to develop and maintain a culture of excellence across our organisation that continues to provide opportunities for our students.

Wade Deacon High School converted to 'Academy' status in March 2013 and founded the Wade Deacon Trust. This status was adopted because of our quest to continually improve the quality of learning and teaching for the benefit of all students. In addition, all the Trustees of the Trust are committed to training and the life-long learning of all our members of staff and the community.

Students and staff work side-by-side with the latest technological developments to enhance further the quality of our teaching and learning. We help students to develop real life solutions to real life problems, using industry standard equipment to achieve their goals.

As a major contributor to the concept of lifelong learning, we are a Trust that makes a difference within our school Academy communities. We achieve this by engaging in collaborative projects with our community partners and sharing our resources with them.

Throughout all the Trust's Academies, students are encouraged to take pride in themselves, their actions and their achievements. We have high expectations of students' academic work, the manner in which they conduct themselves around their Academy campus and their presence in the local community beyond. An orderly and disciplined environment is a key feature of our work in the Trust. The success of this is based on enhancing and maintaining excellent standards of self-discipline, school uniform and the promotion of a sense of pride and belonging to the Trust and its Academies.

High levels of attendance are expected throughout each year group so that everyone can take full advantage of the range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities available. Levels of attainment are most easily raised when students attend all lessons, allowing continuity of the teaching and learning environment.

Regular extended learning is an integral part of the learning culture of the school. Tasks set are intended to broaden and develop an individual's scope for independent learning as well as reinforcing work completed during the school day.

The Trust as a whole continues on its journey to becoming the finest education provider across the Merseyside region. Through careful management and development, the Trust has provided significant value added experience to both the pupils and staff at all eight of our academies.

c. Public benefit

The principal objective of the Trust is to advance, for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing the Academies, offering a broad and balanced curriculum. In setting the Trust's objectives and planning its activities, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

WADE DEACON TRUST (A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

d. Trust Development

The current Trust Board of Trustees are from a diverse range of backgrounds and each one has a different type of expertise to offer; however they all have one thing in common and that is a commitment to an exceptional education, where tradition is respected and innovation is encouraged. The vision is for every school in the Trust to be an outstanding school where every child receives an exceptional education.

As the Trust develops and grows, the Trustees will have regard for the operational processes of the schools within the Trust, and will make adjustments to both the structure and membership of the relevant bodies in order to ensure that the Trust can manage the schools in accordance within the required Ofsted framework and ensure that the core principles are sustained.

The Trust believes in giving every student the opportunity to develop his or her talents to the full and expects every student to work very hard in order to achieve this. The Trust is committed to an exceptional education where tradition is respected and innovation is encouraged. The Academy is committed to training and the life-long learning of all our members of staff and the community. Students and staff work side-by-side with the latest technological developments to further enhance the quality of our teaching and learning.

Students are helped to develop real life solutions to real life problems, using industry standard equipment to achieve their goals. As a major contributor to the concept of lifelong learning, all Trust schools make a difference within their communities. We achieve this by engaging in collaborative projects with our community partners and sharing our resources with them.

Throughout school, students are encouraged to take pride in themselves, their actions and their achievements. We have high expectations of students' academic work and the manner in which they conduct themselves around the school campus and in the community beyond. An orderly and disciplined environment is a key feature of work in our schools.

The success of the school is based on promoting and maintaining excellent standards of self-discipline and school uniform, along with the promotion of a sense of pride and belonging to the school.

High levels of attendance are expected throughout each year in school, so that everyone can take full advantage of the range of curricular and extracurricular opportunities available.

The success we achieve in the classroom is enhanced by a wide range of enrichment courses which are made available to all students. Everyone is encouraged to use part of their recreation time for participation in one or more of these opportunities. Clubs and societies, clinics and extra classes are all designed to broaden the experiences of the school's young people outside of their compulsory curriculum diet.

WADE DEACON TRUST;
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

WADE DEACON TRUST

The Trust has during the year focussed primarily on improving the outcomes within our eight academies. Our future growth and development strategy is based upon proving that we as a Trust have a track record of developing and improving the Academies within our Trust. This year has seen a series of Ofsted visits, all of which have seen Ofsted recognising improvement in the Schools they have visited. Key metrics show improvement across the board and the Trust is now in an excellent position to welcome and develop new Schools who are looking to join up with a dynamic improving Trust. The following is a table showing the current Ofsted judgements in each School:

School	Judgement	Date of Judgement
Wade Deacon High School	Outstanding	January 2023
Halewood Academy	Good	May 2022
Hillside High School	Good	October 2023
The Grange Academy	Good	July 2022
Sylvester Primary	Good	October 2019
Widnes Academy	Good	May 2023
Whiston Willis Primary	Good	October 2022
Yew Tree Primary	Good	March 2023

The Trust recognises below the individual achievements and performance of each of its constituent academies and is rightly proud of everything that they achieve.

WADE DEACON HIGH SCHOOL

Academy Performance and Improving Outcomes

Wade Deacon High School is celebrating another year of excellent results as students in the Class of 2023 received their GCSE grades.

With GCSE results this year expected to fall across the country as grading returns to pre-pandemic levels, students at Wade Deacon have achieved excellent outcomes across the curriculum. 57% students achieved a Grade 5 pass in both English and Maths, with 77% achieving Grade 4 or above and 19% students achieved a Grade 7 or higher in both of these subjects, giving them a strong foundation to progress onwards to Post-16 education places of their choice.

In total, almost three-quarters of all entries were awarded a Grade 5 or higher, with over 50 students achieving at least one top grade. A number of students achieved exceptional results with 119 top-level Grade 9s awarded in all. 24 students achieved a full set of results at Grade 7 and above.

The Academy's impact on the local community

The school continues to support the local community in a variety of ways. First and foremost, we provide very high standards of education to over 1600 students. The vast majority of our students remain in the borough for post 16 studies and achieve very well. Transition rates and ETT figures (Students entering education, employment or training) are higher than the local and national average.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Highlights and Successes

The way in which the school has been able to provide so many opportunities to students in the last year, considering the challenges we have faced, is a highlight. The opportunities for students to take part in so many clubs, trips, leadership opportunities, performances and events should be celebrated. This has been a priority so that students can once again have the full curriculum experience that has been lost in the two previous years. These opportunities were planned from the start of the year and have been pivotal in supporting students to re-engage with school and manage their own well-being.

The GCSE outcomes, especially for vulnerable groups of students is also a highlight. Students have been able to achieve very well, despite the many challenges they faced, and leave with very competitive qualifications. The dedication, expertise and commitment of our staff to should be highlighted as a major success.

The final success, should be the collaboration across the Trust. The quality assurance model and commitment across the secondary phase to support each other resulted in improved progress in all of the schools and with two schools securing a good judgement.

HALEWOOD ACADEMY

Academy Performance and Improving Outcomes

The results show improvement from the last full examination series in 2019 and when compared to 2022. Predictions were a close reflection of actual results and are largely accurate which demonstrates a strength in assessment and leadership / knowledge within subjects when compared to 2019 & 2022.

Progress when compared to 2019 has also improved with P8 currently -0.64. The Ebacc pool has improved significantly in terms of progress when compared to 2019 which is up from -1.04 to -0.51 showing half a grade improvement. This can be attributed to the much stronger attainment across the humanities subjects and improvements in combined sciences. Headline figures of 4+ in English and maths have grown to 52% an increase of 6% (2022) and 9% (2019) in comparison. There has been an increase in 5+ in English and maths to 25% which is up 5% when compared to 2019.

English Language have increased by 20% compared to 2019 and increased 7.1% compared to 2022. English Literature are down 10.8% (2019) and 2.6% (2022) so there is work to do in this area; this has already begun with the current Year 10.

Maths 4+ has shown an increase of 5.6% (2019) and 2.1% (2022) for the same measures. Still further work needs to be done to convert the high proportion of 3's in maths and English.

Separate science has remained stable and Combined Science continues to improve with an increase of 24.5% (2019) and a 6.8% (2022) at 4-4+ although they are still below the National Average.

Spanish, History and Geography show a significant upward trend when compared to 2019 with improvements at 4+ of 37.8% in Spanish, 23.1% in History and 40.1% in Geography. All three subjects have also improved when compared to 2022 – 9.5%, 5.5% and 16.4% respectively.

Ebacc pass rates have improved for both standard (2.8%%) and strong (1.9%) when compared to 2019 and when compared to 2022 these have improved by 12% (standard) and 5.1% (strong) with the % taking the Ebacc suit increasing by 21.3% to 32% overall taking the Ebacc suite of subjects.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Many open pool subjects continue to perform well and there is continued strength when compared to 2019 & 2022 in GCSE PE, Sports Science, Drama, Business an Enterprise, Child Development & Care and Health & Social.

The Academy's impact on the local community

Halewood Academy is an integral part of the local community and being oversubscribed in Year 7 shows how much the school is valued locally. Parents' evening attendance showed that our families work closely with the school with an average attendance of 70%.

The school continues to work closely with the local primary school and the schools collaborated on projects in both English, Drama and Music. We also recognise the significant challenges and have supported many families through the local authority household support fund and set up the Halewood Pantry for families to use should they need to.

Highlights and Successes

The highlight of 2022-23 would be Year 9 football team reaching the English schools final which was played at The Hawthorns in the summer term. They were narrowly beaten but to reach the final in such a prestigious event is excellent.

Halewood continues to benefit from the support and rigour of Challenge Partners and this provides excellent CPD for senior leaders to support and challenge other schools. Many leaders across the school have completed and currently undertaking a range of approved NPQs which demonstrates a commitment to ongoing CPD.

The extra-curricular programme continues to grow and sporting success continues to be a strength of the school. There are currently over 100 extra-curricular opportunities for students to engage in before, during and after school.

HILLSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Academy Performance and Improving Outcomes

The success continues in our 2023 results. Many students achieved excellent GCSE results. We are delighted that in some cases students have not only exceeded 2019 but have also exceeded 2022 results.

- Increasing student attainment at 7+ from 2022 results for maths, English Language, Design Technology and Spanish. This is particularly pleasing against the fact there have been 300,000 less top grades awarded this academic year.
- Headline figures demonstrate growth from 2019. 51.1% of students achieved 4+ in both English and maths, up by just over 1%.
- There is a 5% increase in students who achieved 5+ in both English and maths with this now being 26%.
- Progress 8 is -0.48.
- Attainment across curriculum continues to have strong performance, including the following which all exceeded national performance data for 4+ %: Art (+ 4%), Spanish (+9%), Religious Studies (+3%), Design Technology (+8%), Biology (+7%). Computer Science students outperformed national data at all key measures and Sports Science results continue to be strong.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

- Following a focus on improving provision we are pleased that progress of SEND pupils has improved from 2022 results with the gap significantly narrowing, between SEND and non-SEND pupils. EAL students continue to perform well.

Impact on the local community

Our community events continue to thrive, with a Christmas Market and community evening 'Around the World in 80 days' with an excess of 400 visitors. STEM events - World Space Week Evening and British Science Week welcomed many families from our local Primary schools.

Our Summer School welcomed over 120 Year 5 and Year 6 pupils from a range of Primary schools. Hillside Arts Showcase, Matilda, Remembrance Evening and our Christmas Pantomime have brought significant numbers of families and children into school and showcased a wealth of talent in the Arts. Last year our staff and pupils raised a significant sum for local and national charities and other local good causes such as local foodbanks.

A strong partnership with The Inclusive Hub has provided support with holiday workshops and projects such as 'Empowering Girls' and 'Boys CHOICE'. which have had a positive impact on attitudes, attendance and engagement.

We are incredibly proud to have witnessed significant growth and support from the local community in the last two years. The demand for places in our school has soared, and we now find ourselves oversubscribed (50% increase in demand for first places from 21-23) with a growing waiting list in most year groups. This surge in popularity is testament to the trust and confidence that our community places in us as a school.

Highlights and Successes

Beacon of learning: At the heart of all that we do is our mantra of 'putting staff first'. We plan and deliver 2 hours of professional development every week for our staff. Every member of staff has a coach and we built in time for quality one to one coaching conversations. 70% of our current staff teaching team have completed additional voluntary professional qualifications from coaching accreditations to NPQs. Our reputation across the North West has continued to gain momentum. Our Principal is now a Senior Partner for the Aspire Challenge Partners Hub and two members of our team facilitate for Best Practice and for Ambition Institute NPQs.

Prioritising support for the next generation of teachers: This year we expanded our commitment to training the next generation of teachers, providing a centre for learning and career progression for those aspiring to teach and Initial Teacher Training. We work with a range of ITT providers to offer a variety of routes. In addition to this we have worked with Step into Teaching to provide classroom assistant roles for those aspiring to go into a future of teaching. We have provided the opportunity for 7 colleagues to experience life at Hillside through this programme during this year alone and we are incredibly proud to support them in their transition to ITT.

Reading is Power: Our core purpose which underpins all our work is raising attainment in reading. We have devised our Reading is Power Framework based on EEF, DfE guidance, working with Blackpool Literacy Project and our cohort needs. We have transformed the culture of reading and how skilled we are as staff, leading to significant impacts on pupils reading attainment (on average pupils improving 10 points on standardised score across 6 months across the whole school, in Year 9, 19 pupils improved double this). This strategy has secured the improvements in English Literature.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company, limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

THE GRANGE ACADEMY

Academy Performance and Improving Outcomes

The Grange Academy continues to have high ambitions for learners. The 2021/2022 dataset saw the highest GCSE outcomes that The Grange has achieved to date – the modifications to examinations and the pre-released material was of huge benefit to our students. Despite there being a dip in GCSE results this academic year, there has still been improvements made from 2019, helping to evidence that the school is still improving compared to the pre-pandemic context. In the academic year of 18/19, the school's progress 8 score was -0.93 and in this academic year, the progress 8 score is at -0.72 . In terms of average total attainment 8, once more, there has been an increase from pre-pandemic levels where the average total attainment 8 sat at 34.20, whereas in the academic year of 22/23, this saw an increase of 35.05. The ambition for the academy now is to continue to go on an upwards trajectory to continue to improve results and to meet the National Average expectation across all subject areas.

Impact on the local community

In the context of the community and the large proportion of disadvantaged families we serve, the academy continued to provide the Uniform/School shop to provide uniform and equipment at an affordable price. In addition to this, the academy provided 25 vulnerable families with personalised Christmas hampers last academic year; the families in receipt of these were carefully selected to best support the community. An array of Student Leadership projects took place throughout the year, including visits to the local nursing home to once more strengthen community ties and ensure the school has a positive impact on the community as a whole.

Successes

We are delighted that The Grange Academy could offer all of the first-place options to parents and children last academic year.

Sports Day was also a great success. We held 3 separate events for pupils from Nursery to Year 6 and invited parents. Carers and family members to each event. At Christmas we entertained parents and carers (and the community) with 16 Christmas Concerts on the school Plaza. These were joyful and wonderful and were enjoyed by all. We completed the school year with Year 6 sharing their memories, skills and talents with parents and carers before they moved into the secondary phase of their education.

Primary staff have enjoyed some excellent CPD opportunities. A number of staff have signed up to complete NPQ's in Literacy, Headship and SEN. Other staff have pursued interests in SEN, speech and language. We were joined by a massage therapist to train and support our Resource Base staff in the skill of hand and foot massage which is a great benefit to our Resource Base children. We have been working with The Maths and English Hubs and have had many visitors to school to observe Maths in action and receive training from our own Maths specialist. Visiting schools have gained much from observing the good practice in school and our own staff have grown in confidence and expertise as they share their lessons and talk about teaching and learning.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

SYLVESTER PRIMARY

Academy Performance and Improving Outcomes

At Sylvester, we have continued to embed our whole school curriculum and personal development provision in order to achieve our aim of providing our children with an engaging, exciting and empowering curriculum, that equips them for today and tomorrow. We have clear statements of intent for all areas of the curriculum, have fully implemented all aspects and are continuing to look at the impact that this is having on our learners across school. The school's curriculum meets statutory requirements of the National Curriculum, ensuring full coverage. It reflects our school promises of Ready, Respectful and Safe effectively and embeds our context and ethos.

There has been a continued focus on ensuring teachers are confident and have good subject knowledge in all areas of the curriculum. All subject leaders have received subject specific training, with all being given the opportunity to feedback to all staff and monitor their subjects on a regular basis.

Progress of pupils in EYFS at Sylvester is exceptionally good, relative to their extremely low baseline assessments. In 2023, Sylvester pupils performed better than their LA and National peers (at GLD). In 2023, there was an increase in the percentage of pupils working at the required standard in phonics at the end of Year 1 (88%), way above national and local authority data. In combined reading/writing/mathematics in 2023, 56% of pupils achieved the expected standard at Key Stage 1, in line with National (56%) and above LA (11%). For combined reading/writing/mathematics at greater depth at Key Stage 1, attainment at Sylvester (19%) was significantly above LA (4%) and National (6%). In 2023, 63% of pupils achieved the expected standard in combined reading/writing/mathematics and 13% the higher standard above LA and national. Progress measures from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 were above national in reading, writing and mathematics in 2023.

Our whole school attendance last year was 94.4%, above national and local authority primary attendance.

The Academy's impact on the local community

Over the last year, links have been forged with the local community, though participation in community events and parents are invited to the school for various activities, such as coffee mornings, Christmas fayres, "Stay and Play" and "Meet the Teacher" sessions.

In the last parental survey, 94% believed their child is safe at school and that 92% believed behaviour is good or better and that the school deals well with poor behaviour.

Our "Toddler Group" is going from strength to strength with more prospective and current parents attending with younger children.

Our 30-hour Nursery provision offer has also been increased to meet the needs of more of our working parents and this has attracted families to our setting.

We work in co-operation with our local community hub and have a resource area there, where our families can access high quality second-hand school uniforms free of charge. We also have links with local food banks and a range of other charitable organisations, where we donate items, but are also able to refer families to.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Highlights and Successes

Sylvester Primary Academy currently has 271 pupils on roll (Nursery – Y6). In collaboration with Knowsley Local Authority, the PAN increased to 60 this year, to accommodate increasing demand for pupil places in the local area. In September 2023, 55 pupils joined the Reception cohort, compared to 36 in 2022.

Over the last two years, we have seen a steady growth in pupil numbers, in terms of entry into Reception and in-year admissions. In order to facilitate the future growth in PAN, we have had a substantial investment in building work from the Wade Deacon Trust. This has included the development of an area to house wraparound and extra-curricular provision, two new classrooms, refurbishment of toilet areas across school and most recently a school library. Work to further develop the outside area in Nursery will commence in Spring Term 2024.

In order to meet the increase in pupil numbers and the additional number of pupils with EHCPs in school, we have successfully recruited additional staff members including teachers, teaching assistants, midday supervisors and admin staff. We have continued to work successfully with other schools across the Trust on successful strategies, such as moderation and peer review. We currently have two teachers undertaking NPQ accreditations, one teacher who has recently been appointed as a Trust Primary Improvement Lead and another teacher who is leading The Ogden Trust science initiative across 25 schools in Knowsley.

WIDNES ACADEMY

Academy Performance and Improving Outcomes

Progress with reading, writing and maths has seen a huge improvement at Widnes Academy. From the previous year our progress scores highlight that we have moved from being in the bottom 75% nationally for mathematics to the top 40% nationally. Similarly, in writing we moved from being in the bottom 75% nationally to be in line with national average scores. Within reading we moved from being in the bottom 5% nationally to the bottom 40% nationally. Senior leaders recognise that reading is a priority for this year and have begun implementing strategies identified within the school development plan to drive improvements within this area. Our end of Key stage 1 and 2 data continues to be a strength, being inline with or slightly above the national average.

In March we had a successful OFSTED and received a good judgement. This along, with peer reviews and a SEND review, highlighted the strength of our provision at Widnes Academy.

The Academy's impact on the local community

Widnes Academy remains at the heart of the community. We have successfully worked alongside our EAL families to ensure that they feel welcome, not only within the school, but also within the community. We have introduced a food pantry within school which local families will use if they are struggling to buy food, clothes or toys. Throughout the past year the number of families using this has significantly increased.

Our offer of free bagels in the morning for all children ensures that children are starting the day having had a healthy breakfast and ready to learn.

We have Mental health support team attached to our school. This team offers help and support to children and families and has been a valuable resource for many of our families.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Highlights and Successes

We have now achieved the Wellbeing award which reflects the commitment that we make to ensure school is a happy and safe place for children, parents and staff.

It has been very pleasing that we are now able to compete in a range of competitive town sports activities such as curling, cricket, football, gymnastics and athletics. We have used our Sports premium funding to allocate specialist sports coaches who can support us in the delivery of these after school sessions which has ensured that children are upskilled when they attend these competitions.

It has been really special for us to have our families back into school supporting us. We had a fantastic attendance for both our Christmas and Summer fairs and as a result of this we have now set up a successful volunteer group of parents who will support the school with fundraising ideas.

Our parental questionnaires continually reflect the high regard in which the parents hold the school.

WHISTON WILLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Academy Performance and Improving Outcomes

Whiston Willis continues to offer pupils a high standard of education. This was verified in the school's ungraded inspection in October 2022 in which it the school remained a good school but evidence indicated that performance could be better than good. Further external verification has been completed that supports the view that the school offers high quality provision through ongoing work with both EY2P and St John Vianney English Hub and through WDT peer review processes.

Pupil outcomes remain strong with outcomes at the end of Early Years in line with national figures. Phonic outcomes are strong and demonstrate the work that has been completed over the last two years. 93% of pupils in Y1 met the expected standard which was significantly above national (79%) and placed school in the top 8% of schools nationally. Outcomes at the end of KS1 are all broadly in line with national averages and this represents good progress for this cohort of pupils.

Outcomes at the end of KS2 remain positive with 70% of pupils meeting the combined expected standard in reading, writing and maths (59% national). Reading standards remain high and in the top 25% nationally for attainment and top 12% in terms of progress in reading.

Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils remain positive in all statutory assessments and progress for disadvantaged pupils at the end of KS2 was strong.

The curriculum ambition for pupils with SEND is one of high expectation and outcomes for pupils with SEND are positive.

The Academy's impact on the local community

WWPA continue to support the local community and stakeholders throughout the academic year. Further fundraising was completed for local and national charity groups including The James Greenop Foundation, Children in Need and Macmillan Cancer Research. Donations were also made to local foodbanks and the church to support local families.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee),

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

The school has continued to work with Knowsley Council to use the 'Household Support Fund' to provide families from within the school community with uniform support and additional supermarket vouchers.

Our work to ensure the pupils are active future citizens within the local area is vital. The personal development offer of the school is key to developing well rounded citizens with a strong moral purpose and this is an area of work that has grown over the last twelve months so that the core PSHE offer is supplemented widely with additional opportunities and experiences that develop the pupils well beyond the academic curriculum.

Highlights and Successes

This year's highlights and successes include:

- Gold accreditation of the Rights Respecting School Award (one of 700 pupils nationally)
- Literacy Tree Flagship School Status
- School Sports Award (gold third year in succession)
- Shortlisted for 'School of The Year' in the Schools and Academies National Awards.
- 126 pupils graduating at Children's University for a commitment to extra-curricular provision at school. (83% of pupils across school attended extra-curricular activity)
- Extensive CPD offer for all staff including external work for 3 members of staff on NPQ programmes.

YEW TREE PRIMARY ACADEMY

Academy Performance and Improving Outcomes

Across academic year 2022-23, Yew Tree has continued its successful journey of improvement, and we were particularly delighted with the outcome of our OFSTED visit in January 2023. Following a rigorous two-day, section 5 inspection, inspectors graded the school as good in all areas. Inspectors commented on it being a well-deserved outcome, with leaders and staff had worked exceptionally hard over the last few years and their work had had a positive impact on the school community. Within school improvement plans, there has been a continued focus on subject leadership at all levels across school, driving change and improvement. OFSTED commenting that leadership was strong and changes to leadership across school had had a positive impact.

Academically, outcomes continue to improve in general. GLD at the end of Reception was 60%, an increase of 10% on previous year's results. Phonics at the end of Y1 showed a slight decline from previous years outcomes, but significant increase from baseline Y1 figures. There were significant improvements in End of KS1 outcomes, particularly in Maths with an overall increase of 9%, whilst disadvantaged and SEND cohorts improving by 20% and 29% respectively. This year's Y6 cohort consisted of 30 mainstream and 6 DSP children. Despite whole school, published KS2 outcomes being disappointing, both for attainment and progress, disaggregation of data shows clear improvement for our mainstream KS2 cohort. Children maintaining and improving on end of key stage outcomes from the previous year in Reading (76%), Writing (76%), Maths (66%) and Combined (66%) at age related expectations.

Providing greater levels of challenge for our most able learners had been a key element of our school improvement plan and outcomes reflected the significant progress on this for our core subjects in particular. At KS1, there was a 13% increase in Reading GDS, 7% increase in Writing and 3% in Maths. KS2 outcomes for GDS were also significantly higher- Reading at 24%, Writing at 10%, Maths at 14% meaning that combined GDS outcomes also rose by 10%, compared to 21-22.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

DSP outcomes continue to be strong with majority of children making good or outstanding progress based on individual plans. Further AAC* devices are in place across DSP, supporting pre-verbal children to express their needs and preferences. Work alongside Special Provision colleagues to further develop our bespoke curriculum for learners in the DSP has continued focusing on environment and communication. We are seeing the continued positive impact of the DSP outdoor area in physical development, communication and language and sensory regulation.

Speech, Language and communication continues to be a key area and successful delivery and outcomes from WellComm are evident across the year. Data shows significant increase in children working at age related expectations following intervention alongside continued intensive support from both private and NHS Speech and language therapist across EYFS and DSP. This has resulted in exceptional individual progress.

The Academy's impact on the local community

We continuously provide extended support for our families. Support is hugely varied and depends on the needs of the family. It can include listening to a family's fears and anxieties, providing practical and emotional support, support through bereavement and grief, wrap around care during stressful times, safeguarding welfare concerns, collecting those children, and their families, who are struggling with anxiety to come into school, and operating an open-door policy to our vulnerable families.

We also offer the following:

- 30-hour Nursery provision, to meet the needs of our working families.
- Funding provided to support individual needs of families eg food, clothing, heating, white goods, bedding, housing support etc through the Household Support Fund (KMBC) and Community Fund (Halewood Town Council)
- School library is open to families on a weekly basis.
- Increased Family Learning opportunities – face to face and online as needed – focus on mental health and anxiety, behaviour support, Autism awareness through Advanced Solutions. Also, academic focus of Reading, Phonics and Maths through Knowsley's Family Learning Team as well as members of our school staff team.
- Hosting Coffee Morning with Knowsley Parent Carer Voice for families of children with SEND across mainstream and DSP
- Hosted IQM (Inclusion Quality Mark) Regional Cluster Meeting for the first time, raising the profile of school.
- Fundraising was completed for local and national charity groups such as local foodbank, Children in Need, Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, MacMillan Coffee Morning etc
- A uniform donation system continued, alongside donations to Halewood Uniwise.
- Our school values are incorporated into all aspects of the school day, with a sharp focus on developing pupil's personally to enable them to be active citizens within the local community.

WADE DEACON TRUST (A company limited by guarantee)
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Highlights and Successes

- OFSTED 'GOOD' in all areas
- School won Knowsley's Inclusion and Diversity Award and were Runner's Up in the School of the Year (Primary) category.
- IQM Flagship Award for 5th consecutive year
- Children in Y5 performed The Tempest at The Shakespeare North Playhouse as part of the Shakespeare School's Festival.
- Children have accessed a variety of trips and visits, as well as cutting costs by having visitors come into school eg Altru Drama's Great Fire of London, Chester Roman Experience, etc
- Residential trip to Colomendy and Gulliver's World (Y2) - children representing the school exceptionally and positive feedback from staff at the centres/resorts.
- Science Club were asked to participate in The Royal Society Young People's Book Prize. This involved panel of 8-10 children reviewing a collection of books related to science. Children's feedback was so valued that they have asked us to participate again next year.
- Gardening Club allotment produced its first crops of carrots, beans, peppers, spring onions, potatoes, tomatoes etc
- Outdoor learning space created, with the support of local tree surgeons, in the woodland area on the main field.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

a. Key performance indicators

Primary Performance Statistics

2022-2023 KS2 SATs % pupils at/above expected - Pupils in Year 6

School	Reading	Writing	Maths	GPS
Sylvester Primary Academy	75%	75%	66%	69%
The Grange Academy	69%	64%	61%	67%
Whiston Willis Primary Academy	84%	79%	72%	72%
Widnes Academy	65%	71%	71%	76%
Yew Tree Primary Academy	63%	63%	54%	57%
Totals	72%	70%	64%	68%

☐ No Data
 ☒ HNMP/KF/etc
 ☐ WTS
 ☐ EXS
 ☐ GDS

YTPA (Mainstream only)

R - 76%

W - 76%

M - 66%

GPS - 69%

RWM Combined - 59% (inline with national)

Year 6 RWM Combined

	Sylvester Primary Academy	The Grange Academy	Whiston Willis Primary Academy	Widnes Academy	Yew Tree Primary Academy
Combined Attainment	63%	50%	70%	53%	49%

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Secondary Performance Statistics

KS4 Assessed Outcomes (2022 /23)	2023 Performance Data			
	Halewood Academy	Wade Deacon High	The Grange	Hillside High
Progress 8	-0.62	0.42	-0.68	-0.47
Attainment 8	38.49	52.18	35.33	38.1
Progress 8 Pupil Premium	-1.17	-0.18	-0.84	-0.74
Progress 8 Maths	-0.78	0.36	-0.49	-0.56
Progress 8 English	-0.61	0.6	-0.78	-0.48
Progress 8 EBacc	-0.51	0.27	-0.74	-0.61
Progress 8 Open	-0.71	0.49	-0.72	-0.35
% 4+ Maths	54.6	80	49%	54.1
% 5+ Maths	29.4	60	35%	31.1
% 4+ English	67	88	54%	64.4
% 5+ English	52.6	75	37%	45.2
% 4+ M & E Combined	51	77	38%	51.1
% 5+ M & E Combined	24.2	57	29%	25.9
EBacc Entries (% of cohort)	32	34	35%	40.7
% 4+ EBacc	18	28	19%	22.2
% 5+ EBacc	9.8	22	14%	8.9

Autumn 2022 Census

Year Group	Pupil Numbers								Year Totals
	HA	HHS	SPA	TGA	WDHS	WWPA	WA	YTPA	
N1			3	0		14	0	1	18
N2			17	23		31	6	14	91
R			36	50		45	23	32	186
1			34	55		43	17	32	181
2			37	55		44	21	33	190
3			34	52		41	16	30	173
4			31	45		43	25	33	177
5			25	60		40	22	36	183
6			33	63		37	19	35	187
7	242	148		169	330				889
8	210	121		178	325				834
9	236	138		116	329				819
10	223	125		136	308				792
11	196	131		122	310				759
School Totals	1107	663	250	1124	1602	338	149	246	5479

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

b. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue 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.

The Trust is confident that the financial position reported within the financial statements to 31 August 2023 and the projections made within the Trusts 3-year financial budget projections give the Trust the financial scope to be able to respond to the challenges which the whole education sector will face over the coming years. The Trust has married a fiscally prudent strategy alongside a use of reserves programme targeted at School improvement to ensure that it maintains best value with public funds.

c. Promoting the success of the company

The Trust makes all decisions based upon the best interests not only of the Trust itself but all of its key stakeholders. The Trust Board are fully involved in key decision-making processes and utilise information both from the Trust senior management team but also the School Local Governing Bodies in all decision making processes.

The sector is strongly regulated by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as well as other key legislation and the Trust ensures that all regulatory requirements are considered in all aspects of work conducted by the Trust.

As noted earlier within this report the above approach is reflected in the achievements and performance of the Trust as well as noted earlier in how the Trust interacts with, customers suppliers and other key stakeholders.

Financial review

Financial Performance

The majority of the Trust and Academy income is obtained from the Education and Skill Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA in the period ended 31st August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Trust also received grants from the ESFA and other organisations. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP FRS102), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the restricted general fund and fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic report (continued)

During the period ended 31 August 2023, total expenditure (excluding depreciation and actuarial pension adjustments) of £41,946,276 (2022: £37,700,889) was covered by recurrent grant income from the ESFA together with other incoming resources which totalled £43,273,848 (2022 £39,421,010). After transfers to capital funds of £941,524 (2022: £1,082,792), there is a net revenue surplus for the year of £394,431 (2022: £637,328). Total funds carried forward amount to £61,978,648 (2022: £57,226,731) which include revenue funds of £5,840,298 (2022: £5,445,867). This is in line with the Trust's strategy to build and maintain adequate reserves.

Ensuring Value for Money across the Trust and financial performance

During the year The Trust has provided a fully managed central services to its academies during the year. Each academy school pays a 'top slice' of their General Annual Grant income to The Trust's Central Services fund which pays for key staff, systems or services vital to the running of The Trust. This includes ensuring that wherever possible the Trust seeks best value across procurement and spending whilst also trying (within the prescribed framework) to support local providers and local businesses in order to support the wider local community.

The Trust continues to maintain a solid financial position moving forwards. Within the next 12-24 months there are a number of financial uncertainties facing the sector as a whole, most notably around potential funding constrictions with the increase in funding potentially not keeping pace with inflation pressures on all expenditure lines but most notably salaries, utility costs and under funding of SEN requirements.

The Trust is in a strong position to mitigate these with a strong reserves position and long term fixed contracts already in place in response to rising costs of utility and other areas of expenditure.

WADE DEACON TRUST'
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

a. Reserves policy

The Trustees and Governors review the level of reserves on an annual basis. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of the reserves. The Trust's current level of revenue reserves (total reserves less the amounts held in fixed asset reserve and the pension fund reserve) is £5,840,298 (2022: £5,445,867).

The Trustees have decided wherever possible to adopt a prudent approach to reserves and aim to build a group reserve of designated funds to safeguard against unforeseen circumstances, capital improvements or developments and other emergencies. This is sound commercial practice designed to safeguard the quality of education received at the academies within the Trust. The current financial position of the Trust is testament to this approach.

In addition, the net liability due to the Trust's participation in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) amounts to £2,519,000 (2022: £6,980,000) showing a significant reduction in the liability as at 31 August 2023. Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of Academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013. This guarantee provides comfort to the Trustees in the unlikely event of an Academy closure.

The free reserves of the Trust are £2,367,191 (2022: £2,557,146).

Utilisation of the surplus funds

The Trust has supplemented an element of its surplus to support projects using the schools' capital funding allocation. The Trust has undertaken a large capital project at Wade Deacon High School, being the construction of a School Inclusion Centre funded by a combination of capital grants and revenue funding as well as using revenue funds to support two Primary Schools (Whiston Willis Primary and Sylvester Primary) increasing their capacity following request from the LEA to provide additional places. This can all be done as a result of careful financial management of the Trust and the Trust's ongoing quest to seek value for money from public funds.

Although the Trust does not formally adopt a 'GAG pooling' policy the CEO and Principals work together to identify a use of reserves policy which each School contributes to based upon current reserve levels. These 'earmarked' funds are then redistributed by the Lead Principals to the areas of greatest need within the Trust. This therefore allows for focussed interventions across the Trust in areas such as over supply of staffing to improve outcomes and targeted measures to improve areas such as attendance.

b. Investment policy

In accordance with the Articles of Association, the Trustees can deposit or invest funds not immediately required. It has been decided that cash balances are to be safeguarded by investing them in interest bearing current and deposit accounts with HSBC, a recognised sound commercial bank.

In recent years the levels of returns available for depositing funds have never created a compelling argument to invest large sums in long term deposits however recent increases in the UK base rate of interest will allow the Trust to potentially take advantage of deposit activity to generate additional funds.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

c. Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks to the Trust are documented and managed using a risk management policy and a risk register which is regularly reviewed. The main risks are seen as the loss of reputation through failing standards at the Academies, falling student numbers, failure to safeguard our students, national budget constraints to all schools and failure on high profile school-to-school support commissions. Key controls in place to mitigate these risks are:

- An organisational structure with clearly defined roles, responsibilities and authorisation levels,
- Documented terms of reference for the committees and sub-committees of the Trust,
- Financial planning, budgeting and regular management reporting highlighting key areas of financial risk,
- Formal written and published policies for employees,
- Vetting procedures as required by legislation for the protection of the vulnerable, and
- Robust due diligence procedures in place for new contracts and commissions.
- Robust external reviews of the Trust estate ensuring it is well maintained and relevant regulations are met.

Estate Risk Management

In respect of compliance with relevant Health and Safety and estate management protocols the Trust engages the services of an independent third-party entity to perform regular reviews of compliance in all areas across the estate. The work undertaken includes annual audits of all School sites and monthly School visits providing premises and activity related risk assessments which are reported back to the Audit & Compliance Committee annually, or immediately if an issue is noted which requires remedial work.

Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The main financial risks are mitigated through the employment of sound financial management and internal control processes. Balanced budgets are set for each of the Academies within the Trust and limited budgets are further delegated to departments and faculties. Actual performance against agreed budgets is closely monitored by the Trust's central finance team and via regular (termly) meetings of the finance committee of each LGB. Bank and cash reconciliations are carried out routinely and signed by the authorised officers of the Trust's central finance team.

All orders and payments are signed off by the finance team with appropriate segregation of duties in place. An exercise to ensure fixed asset registers are in place is ongoing and there are processes in place for the acquisition, adaptation and disposal of assets. Payroll is outsourced and checked by more than one individual each month. The appropriateness and integrity of internal controls is assessed and reported to the Trustees by the responsible officer and external auditors.

The security of data is administered by an in-house team of IT professionals. Remaining risks are mitigated to a large extent via comprehensive insurance policies.

d. Utilisation of the surplus funds

Across the Trust behaviour management and Special Educational Needs (SEN) responses are currently some of the most challenging aspects. The Trust is committed to providing financial support to the Schools in excess of available funding to allow them to deal with these challenges and maintain a high quality educational output.

Although the Trust does not formally adopt a 'GAG pooling' policy the CEO and Principals work together to identify a use of reserves policy which each School contributes to based upon current reserve levels. These 'earmarked' funds are managed by the CEO and Lead Principals and distributed as educational support across the Trust where deemed necessary.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Fundraising

Under the provision of the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 the Trust should provide information on fundraising practices.

The Trust in its approach to fundraising follows undertakes the following:

- Voluntary Contributions - outlined in its charging and remissions policy Section 5, Voluntary contributions can be invited from parents towards the cost of the academy activities which are related to the life and work of the academy. Such contributions will be genuinely voluntary and no child whose parents feel unable to contribute will be treated differently from the rest.
- Charitable fundraising takes place at each school for charities nominated at each school.
- Other school organised events (fete's, bingo etc.) are undertaken through voluntary donations of prizes and time. Income raised is used to purchase resources that the school identify
- All charity and school fundraising is undertaken internally and we do not currently make use of commercial participators/professional fundraisers.
- All internal fundraising is monitored and reviewed with the Trust audit systems.
- Any complaints would be reviewed in line with the Trust complaints policy.
- All fundraising events are voluntary and undertaken in a manner to support local and national charities and for school based events to also support proactive community engagement.

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

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 ratio

Two intensity ratios are reported showing emissions (tCO₂e) per pupil and per square meter floor area. Emissions per pupil is the recommended ratio for the sector for consistency and comparability and pupil numbers are based on the Autumn 2022 Census. Emissions per square meter floor area is reported to reflect the energy efficiency of the buildings, which are the source of the majority of emissions.

Energy efficiency action during current financial year

This year, the Trust has continued to use video conferencing facilities to limit business travel. Two of the Academies within the Trust are housed within PFI buildings, and the Trust is working with the PFI teams to try to improve energy efficiency, such as monitoring data consumption. Across two Schools old inefficient boilers have been replaced with more energy efficient replacements. Regarding future action, the Trust is planning to replace lighting across the Trust primary schools with more efficient LED alternatives.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting (continued)

Breakdown of energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh):

Energy type	2021/22	2022/23
Mandatory requirements:		
Gas	6,231,214	5,554,158
Purchased electricity from the grid	2,939,707	3,193,763
Transport fuel	7,669	8,275
Total energy (mandatory)	9,178,589	8,756,197

NOTE: Figures may not sum due to rounding

Breakdown of emissions associated with the reported energy use (tCO₂e):

Emission source	2021/22	2022/23
Mandatory requirements:		
<u>Scope 1</u>		
Natural gas	1,137.4	1,016.0
Trust owned vehicles (minibuses)	0.6	0.6
<u>Scope 2</u>		
Purchased electricity (location-based)	568.5	661.3
<u>Scope 3</u>		
Category 6: Business travel (grey fleet)	1.3	1.4
Total gross emissions (mandatory)	1,707.8	1,679.4
Intensity ratios (mandatory emissions only)		
Tonnes of CO ₂ e per pupil	0.317	0.307
Tonnes of CO ₂ e per square meter floor area	0.029	0.029

NOTE: Figures may not sum due to rounding

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Plans for future periods

Implications for future Trust plans and risk

In the wake of the pandemic the importance of personalising the Trust's approach to meeting individual need is greater than ever. The return to full time education provision requires increased flexibility and contingency planning in responding to the challenges arising from the pandemic in order to ensure that pupils are supported to fulfil their potential academically, socially and emotionally.

The Trust is confident that the financial position reported within the financial statements to 31 August 2023 and the projections made within the Trust's 3 year financial budget projections give the Trust the financial scope to be able to respond to the challenges which the whole education sector will face as a result of the pandemic.

The Trust has a collaborative working approach across all of its academies and therefore has the ability to utilise resources across the whole Trust where required. The Trust is well positioned to deal with the cost of living crisis and is looking where possible to support staff, students and their families as part of the local community. Plans have also been enacted to deal with increased energy costs anticipated to take effect over the next few years.

Plans for future periods

The overall performance in this reporting period was extremely robust and as a consequence will directly reinforce the Trust's medium to long-term strategy. The Trust's main annual objectives for the next year are:

- To ensure the Academy Improvement Strategy that creates the culture, attitude and aspiration necessary to secure successful outcomes for young people is embedded into all Trust Schools.
- To build on the excellent reputation of our Academy.
- To seek options for growth of the Trust in line with its strategic development plan.
- To strive for continuous improvement in examinations results and all indicators of performance in all of the Trust's Academies.
- To seek to increase numbers on roll at undersubscribed schools.
- To build adequate financial reserves to fund building and other investment needs.
- Development of the roles and separation of duties at each layer of Governance.

Key to success is the leadership and management of the Trust, ensuring that high quality leaders are in place through a rigorous recruitment system. The Trust will also take steps to identify future leaders within the Academy staff members and support them to gain middle and senior leadership opportunities, thus adding to the strengths of the Trust and all its academies.

Excellent standards of behaviour will be maintained to create a well ordered community with the learning and the support of students at the heart.

Teaching and learning will continue to have pace, purpose, variety and rigour. Students will be able to progress as a result of a suitable curriculum and relevant personalised programmes of study.

Staff will be confident practitioners with appropriate professional development opportunities. Educational outcomes in all performance indicators will be well above national averages and the Academies will be in the "high performing" category. The strategic development of the Academies will be effectively planned, monitored and supported by well-equipped and committed local governing bodies and the main Board of Trustees.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Disclosure of information to auditors

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.

The auditors, WR Partners, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 6 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



P Fowler
(Chair of Trustees)

WADE DEACON TRUST (A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Wade Deacon 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 Wade Deacon Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Report of Trustees and in the Statement of trustees' responsibilities.

Attendance records for the trustees during the year to 31st August 2023 for meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Paul Fowler, Chair	6	6
Colin McLeod	6	6
John Woodroffe ~	5	5
Michael Dickinson	6	6
Nicholas McGee	5	6
Christine Marsland	6	6
Derek Darlington	6	6
Ian Hann	6	6

~ It was with great sadness that the Trust received the news that John Woodroffe had passed away on the 1st June 2023. John was one of the four founder Members of the Trust and a Trustee since the Trust was established in 2012. John had been Chair of Governors for over 25 years at Wade Deacon High School prior to stepping down to become a Trustee. His contributions will be sadly missed.

The main responsibilities of the Board and issues dealt with during the year were as follows:

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Hold the executive to account for the educational performance of the trust's academies and their pupils, and the performance management of staff;
- Oversee the financial performance of the trust and make sure its money is well spent.
- Ensure that appropriate and correct decision making is undertaken in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring that the Trust adequately meets its responsibilities to the Trusts' stakeholders.
- Provide a link to local School Governing bodies who meet on a regular basis to add an additional layer of governance challenge to the Trust Executive Team.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee);

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

The Trust completed the DfE's School resource management self-assessment checklist during the year.

The checklist helps governing bodies and trust boards to:

- check they have appropriate financial management and governance arrangements
- check they are meeting the right standards to achieve a good level of financial health and resource management
- Identify areas for change to make sure resources are used to support high-quality teaching and the best education outcomes for pupils.

The outcomes of the review were very positive. The Trust Board was subject to significant change just over two years ago. A significant amount of work was undertaken in ensuring that the Board structure was such that it was able to challenge and lead the Trust to ensure that it meets its strategic objectives.

The Trust Board will be looking to engage our newly appointed independent internal auditors to undertake a review of our governance procedures as part of next year's internal audit cycle and will welcome any recommendations which may come from this.

The Audit & Compliance Committee, which is a committee of the Trust Board, is responsible for overseeing the financial affairs of the Academy and reporting to the Trust Board. The Audit & Compliance Committee meets at least once a term or more frequently should the need arise. During the year to 31 August 2022 the Committee met formally 6 times.

In relation to the Audit & Compliance Committee the main responsibilities and issues dealt with during the year were as follows:

- The initial review and detailed analysis of the annual budget
- The regular monitoring of actual expenditure and income against budget
- Ensuring the annual financial statements are produced in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; the Charities SORP, the Academies Accounts Direction and other guidance issued by the ESFA;
- Ensuring that all of the financial returns required by the ESFA are correctly prepared and submitted on time;
- Capital project monitoring, procurement and reporting
- Authorising changes to the Trust's personnel establishment;
- Reviewing the reports of the internal auditors and ensuring all responsible officer requirements are met.

~ The fifth meeting of the year due to be held in June 2023 was cancelled following the unexpected passing of Mr John Woodroffe on 1 June 2023.

Committee Member	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Colin McLeod	4	4
Michael Dickinson	4	4
John Woodroffe ~	4	4

WADE DEACON TRUST (A company limited by guarantee)¹

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of value for money

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

The accounting officer considers how the 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 accounting officer for the Academy has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- The economic, efficient and effective use of all resources to produce better educational results.
- The avoidance of waste and extravagance.
- The prudent and economical administration of the organisation.
- The establishment and maintenance of a system of financial governance, including sound internal spending controls, keeping up to date financial records, continuous financial monitoring and timely reporting.
- Ensuring all financial transactions represent value for money.
- Ensuring that the Trust produces, manages and acts upon recommendations from property and health and safety risk assessments produced by competent parties.

The purpose of the system of internal control

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

The Trust maintains a detailed risk register and the controls in place to mitigate risk are reviewed on a regular basis in line with regulatory requirements and agreed good practice across the sector. The controls that the Trust maintains ensures that risks are managed as far as possible.

Capacity to handle risk

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

WADE DEACON TRUST (A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The risk and control framework

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

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

The Board of Trustees has decided to buy-in an internal audit service from Beever and Struthers

Following a tender process Beever and Struthers were appointed as our independent internal audit partners in January 2021, with their first year of review being the 12 months to 31 August 2021.

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

- Anti-Fraud Arrangements
- Due Diligence
- Exclusions and Suspensions

This is part of an ongoing three year contract with the internal auditors which will look at a number of areas across the Trust across this timeframe concluding at the end of the academic year (i.e. 31 August 2023). The internal audits undertaken each year are determined based upon consideration of the Trust Risk register and the key areas identified by the Audit and Compliance Committee.

On an annual basis, the internal auditor reports to the Board of Trustees through the Audit & Compliance Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities and annually prepares an annual summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

The internal audit reports provided noted some management actions in each area to undertake in order to further improve the systems and controls in place and the Senior Leadership Team are actioning all of the points raised in order to ensure improved systems and controls in these areas.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of effectiveness

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

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

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control and a plan to address areas for improvement and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 6 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



P Fowler
Chair of Trustees



G Kelly
Accounting Officer

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

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

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

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



G Kelly
Accounting Officer
Date: 6 December 2023

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee);

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial . 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 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 6 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



P Fowler
(Chair of Trustees)

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF WADE DEACON TRUST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Wade Deacon Trust (the 'academy') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 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 Academy'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 for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Academy'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.

WADE DEACON TRUST (A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF WADE DEACON TRUST (CONTINUED)

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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 Academy 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 are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

WADE DEACON TRUST (A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF WADE DEACON TRUST (CONTINUED)

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the Academy for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the 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 Academy's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Academy or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or 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 reviewed the susceptibility of the Trust's financial statements to material misstatement and identified the principal risks, implementing a series of testing procedures to provide us with sufficient comfort to issue our opinion.
- We reviewed the Trust's regulatory environment to ensure we could conclude that it had acted in accordance with the framework relevant to the Trust and its environment and identify any instances of non-compliance.
- We also assessed the Trust's internal control procedures to ensure we could appropriately scrutinise these controls and establish whether our understanding of the control environment was sufficient to supplement our additional testing procedures.
- The engagement team consisted of a team that the engagement partner believes is equipped with the relevant level of technical and Trust awareness to carry out our work to the required standard.

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. This description forms part of our Auditors' report.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF WADE DEACON TRUST (CONTINUED)

Use of our report

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



Fran Johnson BSc BFP FCA (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of
WR Partners

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors

Drake House

Gadbrook Park

Northwich

Cheshire

CW9 7RA

15 December 2023

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO WADE DEACON TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 7 December 2022 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 Wade Deacon 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 Wade Deacon Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Wade Deacon Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Wade Deacon Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Wade Deacon Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Wade Deacon Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 27 February 2013 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 Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO WADE
DEACON TRUST AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)**

Conclusion

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



Reporting Accountant
WR Partners
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors

Date: 15 December 2023

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
	Note					
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	259,011	-	1,467,172	1,726,183	1,669,255
Other trading activities		277,392	-	-	277,392	178,329
Charitable activities:						
Educational operations		103,853	42,641,974	-	42,745,827	39,010,578
Total income		640,256	42,641,974	1,467,172	44,749,402	40,858,162
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities		-	42,113,276	2,512,209	44,625,485	41,340,140
Total expenditure		-	42,113,276	2,512,209	44,625,485	41,340,140
Net income/(expenditure)		640,256	528,698	(1,045,037)	123,917	(481,978)
Transfers between funds	18	(830,211)	(111,312)	941,523	-	-
Total transfers		(830,211)	(111,312)	941,523	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains		(189,955)	417,386	(103,514)	123,917	(481,978)
Other recognised gains:						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	4,628,000	-	4,628,000	18,502,000
Net movement in funds		(189,955)	5,045,386	(103,514)	4,751,917	18,020,022

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
(CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	2,557,146	(4,091,279)	58,760,864	57,226,731	39,206,709
Net movement in funds	(189,955)	5,045,386	(103,514)	4,751,917	18,020,022
Total funds carried forward	2,367,191	954,107	58,657,350	61,978,648	57,226,731

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 51 to 78 form part of these financial statements.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER 08278808

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	57,581,359	57,622,992
		<u>57,581,359</u>	<u>57,622,992</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	15	2,033,887	1,771,472
Cash at bank and in hand		6,555,330	6,011,784
		<u>8,589,217</u>	<u>7,783,256</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(1,672,928)	(1,184,536)
Net current assets		<u>6,916,289</u>	<u>6,598,720</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>64,497,648</u>	<u>64,221,712</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	17	-	(14,981)
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>64,497,648</u>	<u>64,206,731</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	25	(2,519,000)	(6,980,000)
Total net assets		<u><u>61,978,648</u></u>	<u><u>57,226,731</u></u>
Funds of the Academy			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	18	58,657,350	58,760,864
Restricted income funds	18	3,473,107	2,888,721
		<u>62,130,457</u>	<u>61,649,585</u>
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	18	62,130,457	61,649,585
Pension reserve	18	(2,519,000)	(6,980,000)
Total restricted funds	18	<u>59,611,457</u>	<u>54,669,585</u>
Unrestricted income funds	18	<u>2,367,191</u>	<u>2,557,146</u>
Total funds		<u><u>61,978,648</u></u>	<u><u>57,226,731</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 46 to 78 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 08278808

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023



P Fowler
(Chair of Trustees)

Date: 6 December 2023

The notes on pages 51 to 78 form part of these financial statements.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	20	1,545,723	996,371
Cash flows from investing activities	22	(979,705)	(592,209)
Cash flows from financing activities	21	(22,472)	(14,981)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		543,546	389,181
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		6,011,784	5,622,603
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	23, 24	6,555,330	6,011,784

The notes on pages 51 to 78 form part of these financial statements

-WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

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 charitable company to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.3 Income

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

• **Grants**

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

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

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

• **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.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income (continued)

- **Other income**

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

- **Donated goods, facilities and services**

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

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.

- **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Taxation

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

Accordingly, the academy trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by 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.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £500 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.

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

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Land and Buildings	-	2% on cost
Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment-	20% on cost and 10% on cost	
Assets under construction	-	Not depreciated
Computer equipment	-	20% on cost and 10% on cost
Motor vehicles	-	25% on cost

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use.

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.

1.7 Leased Assets

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

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 academy trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

WADE DEACON TRUST,
(A company limited by guarantee),

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.9 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

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

1.10 Pensions

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

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

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

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.11 Fund accounting

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

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

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

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 25, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations and Capital Grants				
Capital Grants	-	1,475,554	1,475,554	1,437,152
Donations	259,011	-	259,011	232,103
Subtotal detailed disclosure	259,011	1,475,554	1,734,565	1,669,255
Donations	-	(8,382)	(8,382)	-
Subtotal	-	(8,382)	(8,382)	-
	259,011	1,467,172	1,726,183	1,669,255
<i>Total 2022</i>	232,103	1,437,152	1,669,255	

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

4. Funding for the Academy's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Educational operations				
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	33,755,823	33,755,823	32,222,919
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
ESFA - pupil premium	-	2,635,112	2,635,112	2,602,800
ESFA - free school meals	-	117,033	117,033	118,372
Others	-	2,830,789	2,830,789	1,481,136
	-	39,338,757	39,338,757	36,425,227
Other Government grants				
Other local authority grants	-	2,277,722	2,277,722	1,736,414
Other government grants	-	141,826	141,826	77,302
	-	2,419,548	2,419,548	1,813,716
Other income from the Academy's educational operations	103,853	883,669	987,522	771,635
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)				
Catch-up Premium	-	-	-	-
	103,853	42,641,974	42,745,827	39,010,578
	103,853	42,641,974	42,745,827	39,010,578
Total 2022	203,725	38,806,853	39,010,578	

WADE DEACON TRUST.
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Hire of facilities	97,324	97,324	86,344
Staff consultancy and other recharges	174,523	174,523	82,157
Other income	5,545	5,545	9,828
	<u>277,392</u>	<u>277,392</u>	<u>178,329</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>178,329</u>	<u>178,329</u>	

6. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2023 £	Premises 2023 £	Other 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Educational operations:					
Direct costs	24,061,938	1,428,005	3,201,761	28,691,704	29,069,669
Allocated support costs	8,375,839	1,077,267	6,480,675	15,933,781	12,270,471
	<u>32,437,777</u>	<u>2,505,272</u>	<u>9,682,436</u>	<u>44,625,485</u>	<u>41,340,140</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>30,756,831</u>	<u>6,114,002</u>	<u>4,469,307</u>	<u>41,340,140</u>	

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Educational operations	28,691,704	15,933,781	44,625,485	41,340,140
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>29,069,669</i>	<i>12,270,471</i>	<i>41,340,140</i>	

Analysis of support costs

	Educational operations 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Staff costs	8,375,838	8,375,838	5,372,120
Depreciation	594,470	594,470	538,910
Technology costs	92,923	92,923	137,499
Other costs	739,708	739,708	669,111
Rates	187,669	187,669	273,083
Energy	1,030,093	1,030,093	657,821
Insurance	149,962	149,962	90,588
Maintenance of premises	953,075	953,075	963,732
Operating leases	53,142	53,142	52,777
Security	31,419	31,419	41,588
Transport	15,098	15,098	9,737
Catering	933,388	933,388	867,778
Rent (including PFI charges)	2,586,036	2,586,036	2,391,115
Legal and professional	145,926	145,926	162,875
Governance costs	45,034	45,034	41,737
	15,933,781	15,933,781	12,270,471
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>12,270,471</i>	<i>12,270,471</i>	

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

8. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Operating lease rentals	981,933	853,706
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	2,494,787	2,262,001
PFI charges	1,687,986	1,550,397
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	1,819	21,373
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	22,300	20,940
- other services	3,970	5,895
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	279,000	404,000

9. Auditors' remuneration

The auditors' remuneration amounts to an auditor fee of £22,300 (2022 - £20,940), and other services of £3,970 (2022 - £5,895).

10. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	22,211,100	20,093,683
Social security costs	2,223,721	2,054,384
Pension costs	5,228,327	6,494,749
	<u>29,663,148</u>	<u>28,642,816</u>
Agency staff costs	2,360,023	1,752,130
Staff restructuring & other costs	414,606	361,885
	<u>32,437,777</u>	<u>30,756,831</u>

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

10. Staff (continued)

a. Staff costs (continued)

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	2023 £	2022 £
Severance payments	13,330	48,597
Development and other staff costs	401,276	313,288
	<u>414,606</u>	<u>361,885</u>

b. Severance payments

Included in the above payments are two non-statutory/non-contractual payments totalling £13,330. Individual payments were £9,500 and £3,830.

	2023 No.	2022 No.
£0 - £25,000	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>

c. Staff numbers

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Teachers and teaching support	538	530
Administration and support	178	168
Management	14	14
	<u>730</u>	<u>712</u>

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

10. Staff (continued)

d. Higher paid staff

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	26	14
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	11	9
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	5	2
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	3
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	2	-
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	-	1
In the band £120,001 - £130,000	1	-
In the band £130,001 - £140,000	-	1
In the band £140,001 - £150,000	1	-

e. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy was £1,459,906 (2022 - £1,390,656).

**WADE DEACON TRUST,
(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

11. Central services

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

- Human Resources
- Financial Services
- Legal Services
- Educational Support Services

The Academy charges for these services on the following basis:

- 4% of GAG income.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
The Grange Academy	269,735	245,258
Whiston Willis Primary Academy	56,101	54,251
Wade Deacon High School	370,646	360,035
Yew Tree Primary Academy	54,657	53,665
Hillside High School	181,275	171,579
Widnes Academy	29,367	32,567
Sylvester Primary Academy	44,204	41,792
Halewood Academy	344,248	329,769
Total	1,350,233	1,288,916

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

There are no Trustees who receive remuneration or other benefits from employment within the academy.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2022 - £NIL).

13. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Academy has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £2,420 (2022 - £2,200). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Long leasehold £	Assets under construction £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost or valuation						
At 1 September 2022	61,144,829	714,962	6,743,835	4,576,055	110,648	73,290,329
Additions	1,275,600	243,371	618,566	317,722	-	2,455,259
Disposals	-	-	-	(36,133)	-	(36,133)
Transfers between classes	714,962	(714,962)	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2023	63,135,391	243,371	7,362,401	4,857,644	110,648	75,709,455
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2022	8,784,225	-	3,874,782	2,959,587	48,744	15,667,338
Charge for the year	1,214,379	-	693,376	566,782	20,250	2,494,787
On disposals	-	-	-	(34,029)	-	(34,029)
At 31 August 2023	9,998,604	-	4,568,158	3,492,340	68,994	18,128,096
Net book value						
At 31 August 2023	53,136,787	243,371	2,794,243	1,365,304	41,654	57,581,359
At 31 August 2022	52,360,604	714,962	2,869,054	1,616,468	61,904	57,622,992

Long leasehold includes land of £1,587,000 which is not depreciated.

15. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	199,807	341,055
Other debtors	845,210	663,765
Prepayments and accrued income	988,870	766,652
	<u>2,033,887</u>	<u>1,771,472</u>

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee);

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

16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other loans	7,490	14,981
Trade creditors	928,722	410,430
Other creditors	94,027	12,338
Accruals and deferred income	642,689	746,787
	<u>1,672,928</u>	<u>1,184,536</u>
	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	139,405	140,223
Resources deferred during the year	192,629	139,405
Amounts released from previous periods	(139,405)	(140,223)
	<u>192,629</u>	<u>139,405</u>

Deferred income includes future funding in respect of UIFSM and non domestic rates claims.

17. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other loans	-	14,981
	<u>-</u>	<u>14,981</u>
Included within the above are amounts falling due as follows:		
	2023 £	2022 £
Between one and two years		
Other loans	-	14,981
	<u>-</u>	<u>14,981</u>

Loans of £74,904 from Salix for the provision of energy efficient lighting were provided in the year ended 31 August 2019 on the following terms - interest free and repayable over 5 years.

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

18. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	2,557,146	640,256	-	(830,211)	-	2,367,191
	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted general funds						
General annual grant	-	33,755,823	(33,755,823)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	1,828,386	5,574,552	(5,438,308)	-	-	1,964,630
Teaching school	111,312	-	-	(111,312)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	2,635,112	(2,635,112)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	117,033	(117,033)	-	-	-
Other restricted funds	949,023	559,454	-	-	-	1,508,477
Pension reserve	(6,980,000)	-	(167,000)	-	4,628,000	(2,519,000)
	(4,091,279)	42,641,974	(42,113,276)	(111,312)	4,628,000	954,107
Restricted fixed asset funds						
DfE group capital grants	58,760,864	1,467,172	(2,512,209)	941,523	-	58,657,350
Total Restricted funds	54,669,585	44,109,146	(44,625,485)	830,211	4,628,000	59,611,457
Total funds	57,226,731	44,749,402	(44,625,485)	-	4,628,000	61,978,648

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**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:

General fund

Represents amounts derived from the hire of facilities, other trading activities and investment income.

General Annual Grant

This represents the balance remaining from core funding provided by the EFSA for the schools core educational activities.

Other Restricted General Funds

This represents the balance remaining from other funding provided by the EFSA/DfE and local authorities for the academy trust's educational activities.

Pupil Premium

Pupil premium is funding to improve education outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.

UIFSM

Universal infant free school meals (UIFSM) provides funding for all government funded schools to offer free school meals to pupils in reception, year 1, and year 2.

Pension Reserve

This is the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit attributable to the school and is derived from the report of the actuary produced as at 31 August 2023.

Fixed Asset Restricted Funds

This represents the value of fixed assets shown on the balance sheet plus any other assets and liabilities (including cash) relating to the Trust's capital projects. Transfers between restricted and fixed asset funds represent authorised purchases of fixed assets from revenue funds.

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

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

18. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2021 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2022 £</i>
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	1,834,019	723,127	-	-	-	2,557,146
Restricted general funds						
General annual grant	2,515,957	32,222,919	(33,656,084)	(1,082,792)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	347,250	1,481,136	-	-	-	1,828,386
Teaching school	111,312	-	-	-	-	111,312
Pupil premium	-	2,602,800	(2,602,800)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	118,372	(118,372)	-	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	2,272,656	(1,323,633)	-	-	949,023
Pension reserve	(23,671,000)	-	(1,811,000)	-	18,502,000	(6,980,000)
	<u>(20,696,481)</u>	<u>38,697,883</u>	<u>(39,511,889)</u>	<u>(1,082,792)</u>	<u>18,502,000</u>	<u>(4,091,279)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
DfE group capital grants	58,069,171	1,437,152	(1,828,251)	1,082,792	-	58,760,864
Total Restricted funds	<u>37,372,690</u>	<u>40,135,035</u>	<u>(41,340,140)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,502,000</u>	<u>54,669,585</u>
Total funds	<u><u>39,206,709</u></u>	<u><u>40,858,162</u></u>	<u><u>(41,340,140)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>18,502,000</u></u>	<u><u>57,226,731</u></u>

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

18. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wade Deacon High School	1,845,803	1,997,205
Hillside High School	266,683	164,440
Widnes Academy	24,397	122,614
Halewood Academy	1,362,896	1,201,718
The Grange Academy	1,915,968	1,607,798
Sylvester Primary Academy	2,078	39,318
Whiston Willis Primary Academy	21,426	93,531
Yew Tree Primary Academy	64,608	102,808
Central Services	336,439	116,435
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	5,840,298	5,445,867
Restricted fixed asset fund	58,657,350	58,760,864
Pension reserve	(2,519,000)	(6,980,000)
Total	61,978,648	57,226,731

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

18. Statement of funds (continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Wade Deacon High School	6,321,611	1,940,467	860,142	898,524	10,020,744	9,262,912
Hillside High School	3,125,322	1,160,904	359,877	861,056	5,507,159	4,948,768
Widnes Academy	530,164	315,499	67,435	212,625	1,125,723	1,061,603
Halewood Academy	5,123,991	1,400,588	710,840	2,077,951	9,313,370	8,252,453
The Grange Academy	4,523,191	1,629,653	466,277	1,601,587	8,220,708	7,174,043
Sylvester Primary Academy	937,761	418,486	53,444	263,335	1,673,026	1,364,190
Whiston Willis Primary Academy	1,111,490	457,148	102,269	350,640	2,021,547	1,879,371
Yew Tree Primary Academy	1,496,205	457,243	92,781	276,892	2,323,121	2,111,075
Central Services	892,202	428,851	93,164	327,940	1,742,157	1,736,409
Academy	24,061,937	8,208,839	2,806,229	6,870,550	41,947,555	37,790,824

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

19. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	57,581,360	57,581,360
Current assets	2,367,192	5,146,035	1,075,990	8,589,217
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,672,928)	-	(1,672,928)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(2,519,000)	-	(2,519,000)
Total	2,367,191	954,107	58,657,350	61,978,648

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	57,622,992	57,622,992
Current assets	2,557,146	4,058,276	1,167,834	7,783,256
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,169,555)	(14,981)	(1,184,536)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	-	(14,981)	(14,981)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(6,980,000)	-	(6,980,000)
Total	2,557,146	(4,091,279)	58,760,864	57,226,731

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**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 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the year (as per Statement of financial activities)	123,917	(481,978)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	2,494,787	1,830,001
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(1,475,554)	(1,438,902)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(112,000)	1,407,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	279,000	404,000
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(262,415)	(611,336)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	496,169	(110,664)
(Profit)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	1,819	(1,750)
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,545,723	996,371

21. Cash flows from financing activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Repayments of loans	(22,472)	(14,981)
Net cash used in financing activities	(22,472)	(14,981)

22. Cash flows from investing activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(2,455,259)	(2,032,861)
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets	-	1,750
Capital grants from DfE Group	1,475,554	1,438,902
Net cash used in investing activities	(979,705)	(592,209)

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

23. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand and at bank	6,555,330	6,011,784
Total cash and cash equivalents	6,555,330	6,011,784

24. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	6,011,784	543,546	6,555,330
Debt due within 1 year	(14,981)	7,491	(7,490)
Debt due after 1 year	(14,981)	14,981	-
	5,981,822	566,018	6,547,840

25. Pension commitments

The Academy's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and Local Government Pension Schemes (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Cheshire & Merseyside Pension Funds. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or the end of the financial year.

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 full-time 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.

WADE DEACON TRUST (A company limited by guarantee)

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

28. Related party transactions

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

Expenditure related party transactions Mr C McLeod is a trustee of the trust and in a previous period a close family member was employed as a teacher at one of the Trust's schools. During the year to 31 August 2023 this employee remains in post. The appointment was made in open competition and Mr McLeod was not involved in the decision-making process regarding their appointment. The close family member is paid within the normal pay scale for their role and receives no special treatment as a result of their relationship to a trustee. This appointment was made prior to the 1 April 2019 deadline noted above and therefore not reported to the ESFA.

29. Capital Commitments

At 31 August 2023, the Trust was committed to future capital expenditure of £1,267,094 (2022 - £700,000).

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

25. Pension commitments (continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £3,331,082 (2022 - £2,932,201).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2019/04/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx>).

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £2,183,000 (2022 - £1,934,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £1,759,000 (2022 - £1,571,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 424,000 (2022 - £363,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 18.1 - 21.8 per cent for employers and 5.5 - 12.5 per cent for employees.

As described in note the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Academy, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Academy at the balance sheet date.

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

WADE DEACON TRUST,
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

25. Pension commitments (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2023	2022
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	4.2	4.2
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.9	3.0
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.4	4.3
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.8	2.9
Commutation of pensions to lump sums		50.0

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

	2023	2022
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	20.2	21.0
Females	23.3	24.0
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.0	22.3
Females	25.0	25.8

Sensitivity analysis

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Discount rate +0.1%	(517)	(623)
Discount rate -0.1%	520	629
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	734	803
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(730)	(796)
CPI rate +0.1%	477	584
CPI rate -0.1%	(472)	(578)

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

25. Pension commitments (continued)

Share of scheme assets

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

	At 31 August 2023 £	At 31 August 2022 £
Equities	11,393,040	9,897,190
Property	2,906,280	2,489,030
Cash and other liquid assets	227,520	957,860
Other	2,208,000	1,790,000
Bonds	5,176,160	5,177,920
Total market value of assets	21,911,000	20,312,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £565,229 (2022 - £(1,308,584)).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Current service cost	1,632,000	2,964,000
Interest income	(889,000)	(342,000)
Interest cost	1,168,000	746,000
Administrative expenses	15,000	14,000
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	1,926,000	3,382,000

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

	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 September	26,980,000	43,512,000
Current service cost	1,632,000	2,964,000
Interest cost	1,168,000	746,000
Employee contributions	424,000	363,000
Benefits paid	(500,000)	(429,000)
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(5,274,000)	(20,176,000)
At 31 August	24,430,000	26,980,000

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

25. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 September	20,000,000	19,841,000
Interest income	889,000	342,000
Actuarial losses	(646,000)	(1,674,000)
Employee contributions	424,000	363,000
Benefits paid	(500,000)	(429,000)
Employer contributions	1,759,000	1,571,000
Administration Expenses	(15,000)	(14,000)
At 31 August	21,911,000	20,000,000

26. Operating lease commitments

At 31 August 2023 the Academy had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Not later than 1 year	2,783,505	2,665,723
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	12,940,579	11,336,496
Later than 5 years	37,572,604	28,747,697
	53,296,688	42,749,916

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.