

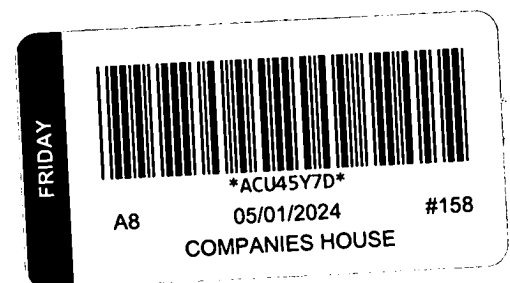
Waterton Academy Trust

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Forrester Boyd Chartered Accountants
Waynflete House
139 Eastgate
Louth
Lincolnshire
LN11 9QQ





Waterton Academy Trust

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Waterton Academy Trust



Reference and Administrative Details

Members

A Buckley
E R Greensides (resigned 20 September 2022)
H R Honeyman
B Nixon (resigned 17 November 2023)
A Warboys

Trustees (Directors)

S Johnson, Chair
S Bates
K Davies
A G Goudie
J C Henson
J M Shaw
N A Shaw (resigned 20 October 2022)
J P Wathen (appointed 29 September 2022)
L Harrison (appointed 25 April 2023)

Company Secretary L Clark

Principal and Registered Office

Walton Primary Academy
The Grove
Walton
Wakefield
West Yorkshire
WF2 6LD

Company Registration Number 09124782

Auditors

Forrester Boyd Chartered Accountants
Waynflete House
139 Eastgate
Louth
Lincolnshire
LN11 9QQ
9 October 2023



Waterton Academy Trust

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 year ended 31/08/2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report and strategic report under company law.

The Trust currently consists of fourteen schools and four Pre-Schools; seven converter primary schools, one converter junior school, two converter infant schools, one sponsored junior school and two sponsored primary schools and one special academy. Its academies have a combined pupil capacity of 3680, excluding nursery, and had a roll of 3397 pupils in the Autumn Census in 2022.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

Waterton Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and is an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the trust. The Trustees of Waterton Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Waterton Academy Trust and the company registration number is 09124782.

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

Members' liability

Each member of the 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.

Trustees' indemnities

Through its articles, the academy trust has fully indemnified its trustees permissible by law. The Academy Trust Handbook (ATH) states 'an academy must have adequate insurance cover in compliance with its legal obligations or be a member of the academies risk protection arrangement (RPA)' to protect governors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business. During 2022/23 the trust was a member of the RPA scheme providing cover up to £5 million on any one claim. However, in September 2023, alternative cover with Zurich Municipal, which is comparable to the RPA, but offers best value has been arranged.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

Trustees and Governors are elected via the following arrangements:

- Trustees are appointed to the Trust board by the Members;
- The Local Hub Board (LHB) Chairs are independent and appointed by trustees;
- Each Academy Standards Committee (ASC) elects an LHB representative;
- The Headteacher's Group elects two members to each LHB;
- Media platforms and existing networks;
- There are no trustees who are employed by the Trust.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for each new trustee will depend on their prior experience of governance and their knowledge of the education sector. The Head of Governance delivers the induction, through a combination of face-to-face meetings and over teams, for all new Trustees and provides regular follow-ups and further training in specific areas, as required. The induction process includes an introduction to the statutory framework, trustee responsibilities in relation to compliance with Company and Charity Law, Nolan principles, good governance practice and the Waterton governance structure.

Key material and resources such as The Governance Handbook, Scheme of Delegation, Code of Conduct, Charity Commission Essential Trustee, the ATH, and KCSIE (Keeping Children Safe in Education) are uploaded onto Teams into 'Governance resource hub.'

The Trust also provides the NGA (National Governance Association) learning link to assist trustees in their role.



Waterton Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Organisational structure

The governance structure consists of the following levels; the Members, the Board of Trustees, the Local Hub Boards (LHBs) (West Hub and East Hub) and the Academy Standards Committees (ASCs).

The Trustees are responsible for the strategic direction, financial and health and safety compliance, monitoring individual academy performance and appointment of academy Headteachers.

Trustees meet as a full board at least three times per year. Where exceptional circumstances dictate, Trustees will meet more than three times and have shown their agility in holding meetings virtually or using a hybrid model. To be able to scrutinise finances and standards across all fourteen academies in a nuanced manner, the Resources and Standards Committees sit within the Local Hub Boards. The Hub Boards each meet three times per year, are chaired by a Trustee and include a representative from each ASC. The Hub Boards scrutinise finances in detail and make decisions or recommendations to the Trust Board as per the Scheme of Delegation. The Risk and Audit Committee, also meet three times a year, is made up of Trustees and reports directly back to the main board.

Due to the numbers of academies now in the Trust, and the continued requirement for appropriate scrutiny, each LHB and ASC receive delegated authority from the Trust Board to support the Board in fulfilling its obligations.

As with different layers of governance, the CEO is delegated clear responsibilities through the auspices of the Scheme of Delegation. The CEO, leading the Executive Team, and individual academy Headteachers, is responsible for the overall performance of the Trust. The Trust Executive work to meet clear strategic objectives set out by Trustees. Leaders are held to account to ensure delivery of these, and also the implementation of policy to meet the Trust's statutory obligations.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Other than Trustees who have a substantive role within the Trust, no remuneration is paid to Trustees who are volunteers, under any circumstances.

All academy senior leaders and teachers are subject to annual appraisal reviews in accordance with STPCD (School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document) which is applied consistently across the Trust. There have been few occasions where the complexity and challenge of the headteacher role is such that it was necessary to offer remuneration above the indicative range for a school, but this is fully reviewed by the Trust Executive and reported to Trustees, for transparency. The outcomes of all leadership appraisals are presented to Trustees for approval and appropriately recorded in minutes of meetings.

The Trust Executive and Senior Leaders are also subject to annual appraisal reviews, which are delivered by the Trust Executive (where appropriate) and Trustees. All outcomes are reported to Trustees as above. In accordance with the requirements of the ATH, a robust process is in place for determining the remuneration of all senior leaders, including the Executive Team. Appraisal and remuneration decisions are made by the Trust Board and appropriately approved and recorded. To further strengthen both compliance and practice, the appraisal of Headteachers and the Trust Executive, is scrutinised by the Remuneration Committee.

Trade union facility time

Facilities time arrangements with unions continue to operate well. The trust does not buy into the Local Authority arrangement, choosing instead to create one tailored for its needs. Each union has a Trust Representative, released in accordance with the facilities time agreement. Trust union representatives are released on a weekly basis, half a day per week, to carry out union duties. The trust meets with union representatives, both trust and union employed, on a once per term basis as part of the JCNC arrangements.

Connected organisations, including related party relationships

The Trust is the member of Waterton Pre-School. The Pre-School is currently operating in four settings, the most recent opening in September 2023. The Trust is not a member of any soft federations.

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The Trustees recognise the importance of employee engagement in all aspects of its work. The Trust has a robust appraisal system throughout all levels of the organisation. Staff wellbeing is a major focus, with a trust Charter now well established and a Wellbeing Group continuing to shape the Trust offer. Formal meetings with Trade Unions through the JCNC are held on a termly basis. Staff surveys on a range of matters take place regularly and feed into the Wellbeing Group, JCNC and Trust Board meetings.



Waterton Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

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

The Trustees recognise the importance of developing relationships with suppliers, customers, and other stakeholders. Using established procurement frameworks, whole trust agreements are now in place for major contracts such as school meals provision, caretaking and cleaning, estates compliance and supply agency cover. Operational and cost efficiencies have been achieved for the benefit of all our family of schools. Contract oversight is supported by the COFO (Chief Operations & Finance Officer) and the central team and requires regular review meetings to ensure service delivery and monitoring of contract KPIs (Key Performance Indicators).

In addition to this, we work alongside local and smaller businesses and have developed excellent relationships with all our stakeholders.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The strategic aims of the Trust are documented in the three-year strategic plan. The principal objective of the Trust is to improve the educational outcomes for all children within the Trust and wherever possible beyond. This will be achieved through working in partnership with our schools to implement a wide range of school improvement initiatives.

The aims of the Trust during the year ended 31 August 2023 are summarised below:

- Raise educational outcomes across all Waterton Schools and for all children;
- Create a culture of excellence throughout;
- Build on strong and valuable system leadership partnerships;
- Continue to strengthen governance across the trust;
- Ensure the financial stability of the organisation;
- Create organisational structures that facilitate efficient operations;
- Deliver appropriate growth in line with conditions of care;
- Create and deliver a wellbeing strategy;
- Ensure our estate is compliant and fit for purpose;
- Ensure all Waterton academies are graded good or better;
- Develop SEND and Inclusion provision;
- Create and deliver a trust wide communication strategy.

Objectives, strategies and activities

Key priorities for the year are contained within the School Development Plan for each academy and the Strategic Plan for the Trust. Areas for improvement are identified through external and internal monitoring and evaluation processes.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charities Commission in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred this to their guidance when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and planning its future activities.

The primary public benefit delivered by Waterton Academy Trust is the provision of education in the academies that it is responsible for, as evidenced in the Strategic Report below. We are working to support all the schools in the Trust to develop a culture of mutual support and development across these schools.



Waterton Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance

It is important when comparing standards that the national context is considered. A consolidated picture at all key stage assessment points is presented below:

- For pupils completing the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) in Waterton schools. 69.6% of pupils achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD), which is above the national average for 2022 (65.2%) and represents a 2% increase in trust outcomes compared to 2022.
- Outcomes from the Phonics Screening Check (PSC) in 2023 remain extremely strong, with 87% of pupils passing the check in Year 1, which is significantly higher than the national average for 2022 (75%) and represents a 1% increase in trust outcomes compared to 2022. By the end of Year 2, 93% of our pupils have passed the check, which is 6% above the National.
- Outcomes at the end of KS1 (Key Stage 1) remain above national averages in all three subjects (Reading, Writing and Maths). Key Stage 1 continues to improve year on year in all three subjects. By the end of KS1, our pupils achieved 71% in reading, against a national of 68%(TBC), 63% in writing, against a national of 59%(TBC), and 76% in maths, against a national of 70% (TBC).
- Outcomes in 2023 at the end of KS2 (Key Stage 2) across the trust were in line with what we were expecting for most schools and subjects. Overall, 55% of pupils achieved the combined standard in Waterton schools (National 59%). 6% of pupils achieved the combined higher standard (National 8%). By the end of KS2, our pupils achieved 75% in writing, against a national of 71%, 62% in reading, against a national of 73%, and 68% in maths, against a national of 72% (TBC).

Groups Headlines

Outcomes for SEND pupils across the trust were as follows.

- 64% of SEN (Special Educational Needs) Support pupils in Waterton passed the phonics screening check, which is 20% higher than SEN Support pupils nationally (44%). 23% of pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan, passed the check, which again is 4% higher than EHCP (Education, Health, and Care Plan) pupils nationally (19%).
- At the end of KS1, 40% of pupils working at SEN Support in Waterton achieved the expected standard in Reading, 23% in Writing, and 53% in Maths. The compares favourably to SEN Support pupils nationally with pupils in Waterton 10% higher in Reading, 2% higher in Writing and 20% higher in Maths. More pupils in Waterton with an EHCP achieved the expected standard in Reading (22%), Writing (11%) and Maths (33%) than pupils with an EHCP Nationally (Reading: 12%; Writing 9%; and Maths 14%).
- At the end of KS2, 16% of pupils working at SEN Support in Waterton achieved the combined standard in Reading, Writing and Maths, compared to 24% of pupils with SEN Support nationally, a gap of 8%. More pupils in Waterton with an EHCP achieved the combined standard in Reading, Writing and Maths (17%) than pupils with an EHCP Nationally (8%).

Outcomes Disadvantaged pupils across the trust were as follows.

- In EYFS, 51% of disadvantaged pupils in Waterton achieved GLD in 2023, which is 23% lower than pupils who are not disadvantaged in Waterton (74%). This is a gap of 23%, and a larger gap than the gap seen Nationally in 2022 (which was 20%). However, 51% disadvantaged pupils in Waterton achieved GLD, which is 2% higher when compared to pupils who are disadvantaged nationally in 2022 (49%). In most schools, a similar proportion of disadvantaged pupils achieve GLD, as the proportion seen nationally.
- At the end of KS1, 62% of disadvantaged pupils in Waterton reached the expected standard in Reading; 52% in Writing and 64% in Maths. The gap between disadvantaged pupils in Waterton, and their non-disadvantaged peers is 11% in Reading (compared to 21% nationally), 13% in Writing (compared to 22% nationally) and 16% in Maths (compared to 21% nationally). Based on this, there is evidence that the gap is continuing to close across Waterton.
- Nationally 30% of pupils in KS2 in 2023 were identified as disadvantaged, which is similar to the demographic in Waterton, where 33% of pupils were identified as disadvantaged at the end of Key Stage 2. The Waterton profile varies between schools, with CTA (60%), CPA (52%), KMA (50%), having the highest proportion of disadvantaged pupils against such as WPA and WA with 9%. Disappointingly 37% of disadvantaged pupils in Waterton achieved the combined standard in Reading, Writing and Maths, compared to 66% of pupils who are not disadvantaged, a gap of 29%. The gap seen Nationally is smaller (22%), with 44% of disadvantaged pupils achieving the combined standard.



Waterton Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Attendance

Our aim is to ensure that our schools are places where children attend regularly. We employ a full-time Education Welfare Officer who supports all our schools with evaluating the impact of the schools' policies, procedures, and strategies to improve attendance. The data below gives an indication of the rates of attendance, persistent absence, and severe absence in 2022-23 for the trust.

- Attendance across Waterton is 93.5%, which is above the national average of 92.5%.
- Attendance improved overall in Waterton by 0.3%, from 93.5% in 2021-22, to 93.8% in 2022-23.
- 77% of our schools (10/13) were above the estimated national average⁷ for 2022-23.
- 77% of our schools (10/13) improved their attendance between 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- Persistent absence in Waterton is lower (18%) than the estimated national average (22.3%).
- 77% of our schools (10/13) have persistent absence below the estimated national.
- Severe absence in Waterton (i.e., pupils missing more than 50% of school) is lower (1.1%) than the national estimate (1.7%).
- 77% of our schools (10/13) have rates of severe absence that are lower than the national estimate.

Ofsted Outcomes

Trust academies have been visited three times by Ofsted during the 2022/23 academic year. There has been one section eight, monitoring inspection at Normanton Junior Academy, and two section five, graded inspections at South Kirby Academy and Kings Meadow Academy.

Kings Meadow Academy: September 2022 Grade: Requires Improvement

Although we had hoped that the school would be deemed to be a good school by Ofsted at this inspection, we are pleased that the inspectorate recognised that much has been achieved. The school was deemed to be inadequate at the time of joining the trust and it is now well on its way to achieving a good rating at its next inspection.

South Kirby Academy: April 2023 Grade: Good

We are extremely proud of the work carried out at South Kirby Academy to deliver a good outcome. The school was judged Requires Improvement in 2019 and to return to good at the first attempt is testimony to the hard work of the staff at school and the support supplied by the central team.

Normanton Junior Academy: July 2023 Grade: Good

NJA was the first academy to join the Trust under a sponsored arrangement. The school was graded inadequate when it joined the Trust in 2015. Since then, standards have continued to improve, with the school first being judged Good in 2018 and maintaining this standard in 2023.



Waterton Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Achievements

Specialist Provision

The Trust has continued to develop its partnership with Barnsley LA (Local Authority) around SEND provision. The Special Resource at Cudworth continues to provide excellent provision. A second Special Academy has now been opened on Newstead Road in Athersley. Newstead Academy opened for transition in June 2023 and now caters for 40 children that have communication and interaction needs.

Apprenticeships

The trust has developed a partnership with Nexus Multi-Academy Trust to deliver the Teaching Assistant Level 3 Apprenticeship program to their teaching assistants who specialise in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We will delivery this alongside our own Waterton programme in 23-24. This initiative has been undertaken to expand our apprenticeship programme beyond Waterton, generating income for the trust, as well as developing our apprenticeship portfolio. The partnership also allows us to leverage the expertise of Nexus in delivering SEND-focused training, which will benefit us in the longer term as we develop the workforce to serve our specialist provision, as well as meet the needs of SEND pupils in our mainstream schools.

Trust Wellbeing

A Wellbeing charter has been established, and the Wellbeing Group continue to meet and promote wellbeing across the trust. A wellbeing offer, including counselling, medical support, cycle to work scheme and other benefits, is now widely accessed. There are now mental health practitioners in every school.

De-Carbonisation

The Trust has worked in partnership throughout the year to deliver one of only seven de-carbonisation projects across the country. The conversion of West End Academy has cost in the region of £3M, funded by the DfE (Department for Education). Although there is more work to do over the coming months, the project is deemed a huge success and sets the standard for energy use for the future.

SRP (Schools Rebuilding Programme)

Waterton Academy Trust has successfully bid to be selected for the Schools Rebuilding Programme (SRP). Sharlston school has been selected from thousands of applications to be in the first phase of the programme. A feasibility study is currently underway and will determine whether a substantial refurbishment is carried out or a new school built. Early indications would suggest that the latter will be the most likely outcome.

Key performance indicators

The Trust Board considers that the following are KPI's for the Academy Trust:

- Leadership and Governance is strong, and members/trustees have the appropriate skillset to effectively challenge;
- The Trust Strategic Plan remains on track and is reviewed on a regular basis by trustees;
- MAT growth is considered and in line with our vision and conditions of care;
- Risk is managed effectively, and a risk register is in place to identify and manage all appropriate risks;
- Financial solvency - 3year, medium-term financial plans are realistic, robust, and sustainable;
- All member academies set balanced annual budgets agreed at both trust and local level, with final budget ratification by the Trust Board;
- Pupil numbers are closely monitored to ensure that falling rolls are identified to plan for a reduction in grant income;
- Capital investment is made in line with the Asset Management Plan and use of Capital grants is in accordance with agreed terms and conditions;
- Statutory accounts and other returns are prepared and submitted to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in line with agreed timescales;
- Strong professional central team with capacity to support academies;
- Professional development and retention of high-quality staff to promote and enable succession planning.

Going concern

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



Waterton Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Promoting the success of the academy

As a charitable organisation, the Trustees note their obligations to the requirement of section 172(1) (a) to (f) of the Companies Act 2006. The vision and values of Waterton Academy Trust indicate its desire to ensure that all decisions are taken regarding the community which it serves.

The principal objective of the Trust is to improve the outcomes for all children within the Trust. The areas that are used to benchmark success are to be found within sections of this document, namely the strategic report and financial indicators.

Financial review

The trust remains in a strong financial position having managed the most challenging years in the education sector, due to unprecedented pay awards for both teaching and support staff, falling pupil rolls, shortfalls in Early years funding, and the cost-of-living crisis. As a result, the trust has suffered a reduction in our consolidated reserves, the first since the trust was established. Prior to this, our reserves increased year on year, and this has enabled the trust to invest further in the IT infrastructure, building maintenance and capital projects.

The majority of the Trust's income is received from the DfE via the ESFA in the form of the General Annual Grant (GAG). Individual academies also receive additional government grants such as Pupil Premium, Sports Premium, Universal Infant Free School Meals, and others. Early Years funding, SEN top up and payments for Looked After Children are received directly from Local Authorities. All grants received during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activity (SOFA), as use of these funds is restricted to the provision of education. Additional income from out of school activities such as room hire, consultancy fees and school clubs etc are shown as unrestricted income.

The Trust also receives grants for capital projects through Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) the School Condition Allocation (SCA) programme. In accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022/23, such grants are shown in the SOFA as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected life of the assets and the movement in tangible fixed assets is shown in note 13 of the financial statements. SCA funding is spent on maintaining and improving the condition of school buildings and grounds. To prioritise spending and target those schools most in need, condition surveys were commissioned, and these reports provided us with a full understanding of the trust estate and any areas of risk. Proposed capital works and larger scale projects are included in the trust Asset Management Plan (AMP) in the short, medium, and longer term.

As at 31st August 2023, the net book value of tangible fixed assets was £29,995,408. During the period, the assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Trust.

The deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) in respect of its non-teaching staff, is recognised on the Balance Sheet in accordance with the provisions of FRS 102.

The total funds are as follows:

- Restricted general funds £282,090
- Unrestricted general funds £1,829,254
- Restricted pension fund £658,000
- Restricted fixed asset funds £30,365,169



Waterton Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Reserves policy

The Board of Trustees consider it prudent to retain an appropriate level of reserves designed to meet the long-term needs of facilities and equipment renewal and any other unforeseen expenditure and liabilities. A Reserves Policy, which is reviewed annually, has been developed to provide a framework for strategic planning and decision-making and to protect the Trust's activities.

The target level for consolidated reserves is approximately 8% of GAG. However, given recent unpredicted external cost pressures, this level is an ambition and should always be seen as such. It is expected that all academies within the Trust will also hold approximately 8% reserves and set a balanced Educational Budget for the year. Where this has not been achievable due to unavoidable overspend, a deficit recovery plan will be created, and the academy classified as requiring intensive support. Any in-year surplus will be profiled to the academy whilst also being allocated to the Pooled Reserves. Historical reserves will also be profiled to individual academies whilst being pooled into the consolidated reserves. Trustees will review the levels of consolidated and locally held reserves on an annual basis.

Trust reserves are pooled for the benefit of the Trust but profiled to each academy. Academies can access reserves by submitting Access to Reserves bids to the LHB to fund development plans, be it educational resources or capital projects. Only in exceptional circumstances can reserves be allocated to fund ongoing revenue expenditure. Repayment plans over the short and medium term are put in place.

Planned expenditure against reserves can include but is not limited to:

- short term fluctuations in income e.g. lagged funding in relation to pupil numbers;
- the investment in buildings, IT, and other capital projects;
- funding of unforeseen emergency maintenance/works;
- funding of capital projects e.g. building improvement works
- Delivering a robust programme for renewal and replacement of Academy assets e.g. ICT hardware
- funding of staffing restructures, compromise payments and redundancies etc to promote future cost savings; and;
- funding of educational priorities

As at the period ending 31 August 2023, total reserves (excluding pension reserve and restricted fixed asset funds) were £2,111,344 of which £282,090 are restricted and not available for general purposes of the Academy Trust. This is in line with current policy.

Investment policy

The Trust board seeks to reach a balance between investment return and risk, to realise a reasonable return on the funds available, whilst adopting a risk averse approach. As such, the Board does not consider the investment of surplus funds as a primary activity, but rather a requirement for the effective management of the various funds entrusted to the Board.

Trust funds are held in current accounts. Due to the nature of the funding cycle, the Trust may at times hold large cash balances which may not be required for immediate use. Where cash flow allows, sums are invested under instruction from the Trustees in an investment account which sits alongside the Trust current account and is always accessible but at no time exposes those funds to any risk.



Waterton Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the trust is exposed. The Trust ELT (Executive Leadership Team) has undertaken further work to develop and embed the system of internal control into operational practice, including financial, operational and risk management designed to protect the trust's assets and reputation.

The Trust Board manages risk through the auspices of Audit and Risk committee (A&RC), and by applying a two-form approach to risk management and control of the risks to which the trust is exposed. Risk management is embedded within a robust framework and continues to strengthen governance across the trust by ensuring that we understand categories of risk and more importantly are aware of emerging risks at the earliest opportunity.

The Audit & Risk Committee meet once a term with trust leaders to review the level of risk currently being managed by the trust. This entails referring to the risk management policy, matrix procedure, and risk register to ensure that all elements of risk are managed in line with statutory guidelines and trust operational arrangements. Annual external and internal audits are commissioned to ensure that risk in areas such as finance, estates, HR procedures and cyber security are managed well.

Identified key areas for potential risks in the current year have been determined as:

- Financial – the continuing financial stability of the trust is reliant on Government funding streams. In this political climate, there can be no assurance that Government policy will remain the same or that funding will continue at the same level. The risk is managed by robust budget management procedures are in place to ensure that all individual school budgets remain on target and monthly management accounts are provided for trustees. Budgets are reforecast during the year, as necessary.
- Capital - the compliant management of the Trust estate is becoming increasingly difficult due to insufficient capital income and there is a real risk that, over time, the Trust will be unable to maintain appropriate learning spaces in some of our academies. The Estates Team ensure Trustees are well informed regards this issue.
- Safeguarding and child protection - the Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety, and discipline. To mitigate any risk, regular safeguarding audits are undertaken and a programme of training for staff is in place.
- Recruitment – the success of the Trust is reliant on the quality of its staff. However, recruitment across the education sector has remained difficult in some key areas. Training and development for all staff is key and trustees are seeking to ensure that appropriate succession planning is in place.
- Cash Flow: there is no significant risk that the Trust will be unable to finance its day-to-day operations. Cash flow is monitored daily at Trust level, to ensure that all financial commitments are met and movement of funds between academies is undertaken, as necessary.
- Failures in governance and/or management: the potential failure to effectively manage the Trust's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns, etc is an identified risk.
- Reputational: the continuing success of the Trust is dependent on implementing rapid and sustained educational achievement in its academies and continuing to attract applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards.
- Fraud and mismanagement of funds: all appropriate staff receive training to keep them updated with best financial practice and further develop their skills.
- Outcomes – the ongoing success of the Trust is dependent on securing sustained improvement and strong educational outcomes in each of its academies and Ofsted judgements of at least 'good.'

Fundraising

The Trust only participates in low level fundraising events throughout the school year. The purpose of this is not to fund the Trust's principal provision of education but to support related activities and charities. This fundraising does not involve any professional fundraisers or commercial organisations and funds raised for a specific purpose are restricted to expenditure against the same.

Many of our academies have parent groups who raise funds for school activities and equipment, but these sit outside the trust operations and are not administered by trust employees.



Waterton Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period	1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023	1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	3,742,072	3,979,610
Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e		
Gas consumption	517.73	557.63
Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e		
Purchased electricity	175.17	178.84
Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e		
Total scope 3	0.00	0.00
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e	692.90	736.47
Intensity ratio		
Tonnes CO2e per pupil	0.20	0.22

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 2022 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

Intensity measurement

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

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

Smart meters have been introduced across all sites to manage and monitor energy usage. Additional capital funding received from central government was received during the year and the trust is currently completing the final works to convert all lighting systems to LED. The aim is to have a trust wide lighting system that is low energy and cost efficient, built around the use of LEDs. It is envisaged that this will be completed by the end of 2023.

The Central Operations team were previously accommodated in three separate offices across the estate and are now together in a suite of offices which promotes efficient working practices and reduces the need for travel from site to site. The trust promotes hybrid working and uses 'teams' technology and SharePoint, a web-based platform for file sharing. This operational transformation is both energy and cost efficient and has revolutionised the back-office function.

The trust has been part of the DfE's de-carbonisation pilot project. West End Academy is one of only six pilot schools in phase one of the project. The school initially operated a coke fire heating system and was extremely inefficient in relation to energy usage and retention of heat. The project will include the installation of a state of the art ground source heat pump, new windows and doors, LED lighting and a full insulation system.

A Sustainability Strategy is currently under construction, and it is hoped that many of the initiatives will commence during the coming academic year. Waterton is committed to the ambition of becoming an ultra-low carbon organisation by 2030, with six priority action areas driving this change. We are committed to creating low carbon buildings, reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, investigating our supply chains and operations, reducing wastage, encouraging sustainable travel, and educating the next generation around sustainable practices.



Waterton Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Plans for future periods

The trust plans to continue to grow, both in size and diversity of offer. Kings Oak Learning Community will be joining the trust this academic year, and we will look to continue to add to our mainstream offer across our partnership areas. We are also in discussions to further extend the work that we have done in the specialist sector, hopefully opening new settings, and adding more capacity in both Wakefield and Barnsley.

The ELT and Trustees are keen to develop a People Strategy that will provide a framework designed to attract, retain, and grow the talent we need for our organisational needs, today and in the future. The plan will be presented to Trustees and stakeholders in the early part of 2024.

The trust is keen to develop its adult education offer from a revenue generating perspective, especially the apprenticeship work. We are currently working in partnership with a trust in Rotherham and are exploring how best to extend our offer into other parts of our partnership area.

The rebuilding of Sharlston Community School will be an important and exciting development for the trust over the coming couple of years. A great deal of work will be required to ensure that we deliver a school that is fit for purpose and meets the needs of our school community.

Funds held as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others

The Trust and its Trustees do not act as the custodian trustees of any other Charity.

Auditor

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a Strategic Report, was approved by order of the members of the Trustees on 6 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

S Johnson
Chair of Trustees



Waterton Academy Trust

Governance Statement

Scope of responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Waterton Academy Trust has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss. As trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to D Dickinson, 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 Waterton Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Trustees have formally met 5 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
S Bates	2	5
A G Goudie	5	5
J M Shaw	3	5
J C Henson	1	5
K Davies	3	5
N A Shaw (resigned 20 October 2022)	0	1
J P Wathen (appointed 29 September 2022)	5	5
S Johnson, Chair	5	5
L Harrison (appointed 25 April 2023)	2	2

During the year, the trust board identified the need to recruit a new trustee and had a particular focus on adding to the educational expertise of the board. Lorraine Harrison was appointed.

The LHBs (Local Hub Boards) continue to be delegated the work of the Standards and Resources Committee through the Scheme of Delegation. All those Governors who serve on either the West Hub Board or the East Hub Board have, within their remit, the full breadth of the work of the Resources Committee and the Standards Committee of their respective Hub Board, to ensure full knowledge and understanding of the respective Hub's academies.

Trustees are appointed by the trust board to Chair each of the LHBs and there are feedback mechanisms in place for communication between the trust board and LHBs, and to and from ASCs. The trust board and LHBs receive similar detailed reports and have considered the quality and nature of the reports during the year and confirmed that they are appropriate, include good quality data, and enable them to effectively discharge their responsibilities. Agendas, documents, and reports are shared in advance of meetings via secure teams' folders etc minimising prints/copies, with all involved in governance having a secure Waterton email address.

The trust board met five times during the year, and the LHBs met three times during the year. This enables detailed review of performance data and effective oversight of funds.

The trust maintains an up-to-date and complete register of interests which is regularly reviewed. There is an agenda item at every meeting of all levels of governance to review any additional declarations of interest.

The trust board and members commissioned an external review of governance, as is good practice to review the governance structure and governance processes, which was undertaken during 2022-23. The review was very positive, and the final report shared. Recommendations from the external review have been collated, prioritised, and progressed and the Audit and Risk Committee, as part of their work on internal scrutiny, have reviewed the work to date.



Waterton Academy Trust

Governance Statement (continued)

Local Hub Boards

The Local Hub Boards act, in part, as a finance committee for the board of trustees to provide detailed financial scrutiny and make recommendations for approval by the trust board, for example on budget setting. Each are chaired by a trustee appointed by the trust board.

Attendance at meetings during the year was as follows:

Local Hub Board East	Meetings attended	Of a possible
S Bates	2	3
H Shaw (resigned 20/06/23)	2	2
D Dickinson	3	3
H Challenger	-	2
Y Gray	1	2
R Cochrane (resigned 31/08/23)	-	1
S Nunns	2	3
L Ward	3	3
J Grayston (resigned 31/08/23)	2	2
J Mann-Tighe	2	2
N Leeder	2	3
Local Hub Board West	Meetings attended	Of a possible
L Harrison (resigned 24/04/23)	1	3
D Dickinson	3	3
A Goudie	3	3
C Holloway	3	3
S Gordon (resigned 04/01/23)	1	1
M Elliot	3	3
J Alton	3	3
J Simpkins	3	3
N Godfrey	2	3
A-Marie Glover (resigned 28/09/22)	-	1
E King	-	3
N DeVere	2	2
L Welsh	1	2
A Eggleston	1	3

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the main Trustees. Its purpose is to maintain an oversight of the Academy Trust's financial, governance, risk management and internal control systems, ensuring compliance with the requirements of the ESFA, the Academy Trust Handbook and other statutory legislation. The Committee approves the appointment of the internal and external auditors and considers all reports provided to ensure that any material control issues are identified and reported to the Trust Board. The Chair of Trustees does not sit on the Audit & Risk Committee.

Attendance at meetings during the year was as follows:



Waterton Academy Trust

Governance Statement (continued)

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
J M Shaw	3	4
J P Wathen (appointed 29 September 2022)	4	4
A G Goudie	4	4
K Davies	2	4

Review of value for money

As Accounting Officer, the CEO (Chief Executive Officer) has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, 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 Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- obtaining best value, reviewing SLAs/Contracts, and agreeing economies of scale reductions with suppliers;
- ensuring that procurement regulations were followed, and DfE approved national and local frameworks were used;
- reviewing staffing structures to ensure staffing levels are appropriate;
- use of consolidated reserves to enhance and update the ICT infrastructure and transform teaching and learning space;
- use of capital funds to ensure all our schools are adequately maintained, safe and compliant;
- working in partnership with Barnsley MBC to open Newstead Academy to create specialist provision for SEND pupils;
- further development of the Apprenticeship Programme to train our own staff and those of external partners;
- identifying opportunities for income generation across the Trust; and
- ongoing self-evaluation to drive improvement and create operational and cost efficiencies.

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 ongoing 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 Waterton Academy Trust for the year ended 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The Trustees have 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 Trustees are 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 year ended 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Trustees.



Waterton Academy Trust

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. It includes:

- comprehensive budgeting and financial monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports, which are reviewed and agreed by the Trust Board;
- LHB (Local Hub Board) scrutiny of financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programs;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties; and
- identification and management of risks.

To fulfil the requirements of the ESFA and the Academy Trust Handbook, the programme to deliver internal scrutiny is agreed by the Audit and Risk Committee. During the academic year 2022-23 five key areas were identified to further strengthen the governance and internal control framework. These key elements are:

- Procurement
- Governance
- Cyber Security
- Safeguarding
- Health & Safety

GBAC, our former external auditor, was commissioned to undertake a review of procurement, with a focus on larger scale contracts and capital works to ensure that financial delegation limits were adhered to. The use of purchasing cards and online purchasing was also identified as a key aspect of this review.

Non-financial reviews were conducted by external professionals appointed for their expertise in a particular discipline.

All internal audit reports have been shared with the Audit & Risk Committee who meet on a termly basis. Feedback is provided to the Trust Board and a summary report submitted to the ESFA on an annual basis. The Committee ensure that all recommendations from previous internal scrutiny reviews have been implemented.

Based on the work undertaken within the year, the overall audit opinion is that the Trust has reasonable and effective procedures in place to address risk management, controls, and governance. An Action Plan has been prepared to identify areas for improvement and recommendations.



Waterton Academy Trust

Governance Statement (continued)

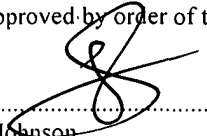
Review of effectiveness

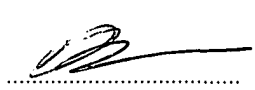
As Accounting Officer, the CEO has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the Audit & Risk Committee;
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework; and
- the work of the external auditor;

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

Approved by order of the members of the Trustees on 6th December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
S Johnson
Chair of Trustees


.....
D Dickinson
Accounting Officer



Waterton Academy Trust

Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As Accounting Officer of Waterton Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust 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 Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

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

D Dickinson, Chief Executive Officer
Accounting Officer

6 December 2023



Waterton Academy Trust

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the 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 year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the 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 on 6 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

S Johnson
Chair of Trustees



Waterton Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Waterton Academy Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Waterton Academy Trust (the 'Trust') and its subsidiaries (the 'Group') for the year ended 31 August 2023, which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, Consolidated Balance Sheet, Balance Sheet, Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information (covers the Reference and Administrative Details, the Trustees' Report and Strategic Report and the Governance Statement)

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.



Waterton Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Waterton Academy Trust (continued)

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 Strategic Report and Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and Trustees' 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 Group and the parent Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic Report and the Trustees' Report.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent Trust, 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.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 19, the Trustees 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 Group's and the parent Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Group or the parent Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Discussions with management, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance held.
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made within significant accounting estimates and judgements such as depreciation and the local government pension scheme liability.
- Testing of income, bank, purchases and payroll, systems and controls and providing conclusions on the regularity of samples chosen.
- Identification of key laws and regulations central to the Academies operations and review of compliance with such laws including a review of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022 and correspondence with solicitors to identify any on-going litigation.
- Testing of journal entries and potential override of systems.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. The risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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



Waterton Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Waterton Academy Trust (continued)

Use of our report

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

Adam Millson ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Forrester Boyd Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor

Waynflete House
139 Eastgate
Louth
Lincolnshire
LN11 9QQ

6 December 2023



Waterton Academy Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Waterton Academy Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 9 October 2023 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Waterton Academy Trust during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of the Trustees's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 28 August 2014 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 from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- evaluating the systems and control environment;
- assessing the risk of irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance;
- confirming the activities of the Academy are in keeping with the Academy's framework and the charitable objectives; and
- obtaining representations from the Accounting Officer and Key Management Personnel.



Waterton Academy Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Waterton Academy Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (continued)

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year from 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.

Adam Millson ACA

For and on behalf of Forrester Boyd Chartered Accountants, Chartered Accountants

Waynflete House
139 Eastgate
Louth
Lincolnshire
LN11 9QQ

6 December 2023



Waterton Academy Trust

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2022/23 Total £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	2	225,816	-	1,165,257	1,391,073
Other trading activities	4	710,580	226,186	-	936,766
Investments	5	349	1,021	-	1,370
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	-	21,040,445	-	21,040,445
Total		936,745	21,267,652	1,165,257	23,369,654
Expenditure on:					
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Academy trust educational operations		860,035	22,166,633	664,924	23,691,592
Total		860,035	22,166,633	664,924	23,691,592
Net income/(expenditure)		76,710	(898,981)	500,333	(321,938)
Other recognised gains and losses					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	28	-	1,834,000	-	1,834,000
Net movement in funds		76,710	935,019	500,333	1,512,062
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward at 1 September 2022		1,752,544	5,071	29,864,836	31,622,451
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2023		1,829,254	940,090	30,365,169	33,134,513



Waterton Academy Trust

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2021/22 Total £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	2	218,232	-	816,276	1,034,508
Other trading activities	4	497,243	214,691	23,620	735,554
Investments	5	366	-	-	366
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	-	19,616,939	-	19,616,939
Total		715,841	19,831,630	839,896	21,387,367
Expenditure on:					
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Academy trust educational operations		472,105	21,968,174	605,917	23,046,196
Net income/(expenditure)		243,736	(2,136,544)	233,979	(1,658,829)
Transfers between funds		(56,682)	56,682	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	28	-	14,518,000	-	14,518,000
Gains/losses on revaluation of fixed assets		-	-	(1,674,802)	(1,674,802)
Net movement in funds/(deficit)		187,054	12,438,138	(1,440,823)	11,184,369
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2021		1,565,490	(12,433,067)	31,305,659	20,438,082
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2022		1,752,544	5,071	29,864,836	31,622,451



Waterton Academy Trust

(Registration number: 09124782) Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	29,975,041	29,561,291
Current assets			
Stocks	14	41,396	37,036
Debtors	15	1,148,804	724,777
Cash at bank and in hand		2,340,298	3,245,232
		<u>3,530,498</u>	<u>4,007,045</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	(1,017,776)	(1,133,615)
Net current assets		<u>2,512,722</u>	<u>2,873,430</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		32,487,763	32,434,721
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	17	(11,250)	(27,270)
Net assets excluding pension asset		32,476,513	32,407,451
Defined benefit pension scheme asset/(liability)	28	658,000	(785,000)
Total net assets		<u>33,134,513</u>	<u>31,622,451</u>
Funds of the Academy:			
Restricted funds			
Restricted general fund	18	282,090	790,071
Restricted fixed asset fund	18	30,365,169	29,864,836
Pension reserve	18	658,000	(785,000)
		<u>31,305,259</u>	<u>29,869,907</u>
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted general fund	18	1,829,254	1,752,544
Total funds		<u>33,134,513</u>	<u>31,622,451</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 6 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

S Johnson
Chair of Trustees



Waterton Academy Trust
(Registration number: 09124782)
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	29,957,908	29,560,184
Current assets			
Stocks	14	41,396	37,036
Debtors	15	1,200,508	766,790
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>2,103,512</u>	<u>2,867,012</u>
		3,345,416	3,670,838
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(994,049)</u>	<u>(1,085,695)</u>
Net current assets		<u>2,351,367</u>	<u>2,585,143</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		32,309,275	32,145,327
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	17	<u>(11,250)</u>	<u>(27,270)</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset		32,298,025	32,118,057
Defined benefit pension scheme asset/(liability)	28	<u>658,000</u>	<u>(785,000)</u>
Total net assets		<u>32,956,025</u>	<u>31,333,057</u>
Funds of the Academy:			
Restricted funds			
Restricted general fund	18	103,602	500,677
Restricted fixed asset fund	18	30,365,169	29,864,836
Pension reserve	18	<u>658,000</u>	<u>(785,000)</u>
		31,126,771	29,580,513
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted general fund	18	<u>1,829,254</u>	<u>1,752,544</u>
Total funds		<u>32,956,025</u>	<u>31,333,057</u>

No separate Academy Statement of Financial Position has been prepared in line with section 408 of the Companies Act 2006. The Academy made a surplus for the financial year of £1,622,968 (2022: £11,257,021).

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 6 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

S Johnson
Chair of Trustees



Waterton Academy Trust

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash used in operating activities	22	(1,448,373)	(133,465)
Cash flows from investing activities	24	117,279	(96,286)
Cash flows from financing activities	23	<u>16,020</u>	<u>15,210</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(1,315,074)	(214,541)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		<u>2,340,298</u>	<u>3,245,232</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	25	<u><u>1,025,224</u></u>	<u><u>3,030,691</u></u>



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

1 Accounting policies

General Information

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and is an exempt charity incorporated in England and Wales. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Trust. The company registration number is 09124782.

The address of its registered and principal office is:

Walton Primary Academy
The Grove
Walton
Wakefield
West Yorkshire
WF2 6LD

These financial statements cover the group comprising Waterton Academy Trust and Waterton Pre Schools.

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

Going concern

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

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the financial statements of the company and its sole subsidiary undertaking. These are adjusted, where appropriate, to conform to group accounting policies. As a consolidated group profit and loss account is published, a separate profit and loss account for the parent company is omitted from the group financial statements by virtue of section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

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 year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Sponsorship income

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

Donations

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

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

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

Transfer on conversion

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

Transfer of existing academies into the trust

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

Donated fixed assets

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



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

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.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

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 and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line or reducing balance basis over its expected useful life, per the table below. Where an asset comprises of two or more components which have substantially different useful lives, each component is depreciated separately over its useful economic life.

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

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.

Asset class

Land and buildings

Leasehold improvements

Computer equipment

Fixtures, fittings & equipment

Depreciation method and rate

Straight line over 125 years

Straight line over 10 years

33% / 50% straight line

25% / 30% / 50% reducing balance

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.



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Provisions

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

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

Leased assets

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Stock

Unsold uniforms and catering stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

Taxation

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

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

Pension benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the academy trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes. The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary based on of 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/(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.



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Fund accounting

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

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

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 28 will impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31st 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.

Subsidiary undertaking

The financial statements include the results of , a wholly controlled subsidiary. Further details of the subsidiary and its results are set out in note .

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Educational trips and visits	168,280	-	168,280	158,449
Capital grants	-	1,165,257	1,165,257	816,276
Other donations	57,536	-	57,536	59,783
	<u>225,816</u>	<u>1,165,257</u>	<u>1,391,073</u>	<u>1,034,508</u>

The income from donations and capital grants was £1,391,073 (2022: £1,034,508) which was allocated between the funds as follows; £225,816 unrestricted funds (2022: £218,232), £Nil restricted funds (2022: £Nil), £1,165,257 restricted fixed asset funds (2022: £816,276).



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

3 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Restricted General Funds £	2022/23 Total £	(As restated) 2021/22 Total £
DfE/ESFA revenue grants			
General Annual Grant	15,565,878	15,565,878	15,224,962
Pupil Premium	1,329,688	1,329,688	1,252,042
Universal Infant Free School Meals	380,178	380,178	453,907
Other DfE Group Grants	1,192,781	1,192,781	658,298
	<u>18,468,525</u>	<u>18,468,525</u>	<u>17,589,209</u>
Other government grants			
LA - SEN Income	728,200	728,200	467,824
Other Local Authority Income	1,193,588	1,193,588	1,047,168
Other Income	456,299	456,299	341,440
	<u>2,378,087</u>	<u>2,378,087</u>	<u>1,856,432</u>
Non-government grants and other income			
Other Income	61,936	61,936	31,072
Covid-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)			
Catch-up Premium	131,897	131,897	139,698
Covid-19 additional funding (non-DfE/ESFA)			
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Grant	-	-	528
Total grants	<u>21,040,445</u>	<u>21,040,445</u>	<u>19,616,939</u>

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Hire of facilities	3,030	-	3,030	8,241
Catering income	247,335	-	247,335	232,372
School shop sales	751	-	751	1,742
Insurance claims	-	51,613	51,613	14,916
Other sales	459,464	174,573	634,037	478,283
	<u>710,580</u>	<u>226,186</u>	<u>936,766</u>	<u>735,554</u>

The income from other trading activities was £936,766 (2022: £735,554) which was allocated between the funds as follows; £710,580 unrestricted funds (2022: £497,243), £226,186 restricted funds (2022: £214,691), £Nil restricted fixed asset funds (2022: £23,620).



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Bank interest	349	1,021	1,370	366

6 Expenditure

	Non Pay Expenditure			2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
	Staff costs £	Premises £	Other £		
Academy's educational operations					
Direct costs	10,744,390	-	1,372,836	12,117,226	11,501,123
Allocated support costs	7,456,225	2,117,913	2,000,228	11,574,366	11,545,073
	<u>18,200,615</u>	<u>2,117,913</u>	<u>3,373,064</u>	<u>23,691,592</u>	<u>23,046,196</u>



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

6 Expenditure (continued)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	45,288	47,697
Depreciation	633,180	573,636
Fees payable to auditor - audit	20,551	23,139
- other audit services	<u>13,846</u>	<u>15,635</u>

7 Charitable activities

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Direct costs - educational operations		
Teaching and educational support staff costs	10,744,390	10,189,050
Educational supplies	620,925	554,662
Staff development	115,461	101,321
Educational consultancy	446,847	379,201
Other direct costs	61,636	72,973
Technology costs	<u>127,967</u>	<u>203,916</u>
	<u>12,117,226</u>	<u>11,501,123</u>

Allocated support costs - educational operations

Support staff costs	7,082,225	6,114,227
Defined benefit pension scheme service cost adjustment	374,000	1,585,000
Depreciation	635,598	573,635
Maintenance of premises and equipment	472,145	388,099
Cleaning	412,543	362,118
Rent, rates and utilities	520,667	458,142
Insurance	76,960	68,068
Recruitment and support	13,771	19,879
Security and transport	5,637	1,902
Catering	1,096,210	1,006,372
Bank interest and charges	4,791	9,235
Interest on defined benefit pension scheme	17,000	225,000
Professional fees	70,189	95,854
Other support costs	338,213	356,405
Technology costs	418,575	247,343
Governance costs	<u>35,842</u>	<u>33,794</u>
	<u>11,574,366</u>	<u>11,545,073</u>
	<u>23,691,592</u>	<u>23,046,196</u>



Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

8 Staff

Staff costs

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	12,934,288	12,033,999
Social security costs	1,187,989	1,061,027
Pension costs	2,957,693	4,035,561
	<u>17,079,970</u>	<u>17,130,587</u>
Supply staff costs	1,026,346	721,477
Staff restructuring costs	94,299	36,213
	<u>18,200,615</u>	<u>17,888,277</u>
	2022/23 £	2021/22 £

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Severance payments	<u>94,299</u>	<u>36,213</u>
--------------------	---------------	---------------

Severance payments

The Trust trust paid 6 severance payments in the year disclosed in the following bands:

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
0 - £25,000	5	3
£25,001 - £50,000	1	-
	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>

Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £94,299 (2022: £36,213).

Individually, the payments were:

Non-contractual payments £21,700

Non-contractual payments £10,160

Non-contractual payments £10,500

Non-contractual payments £18,760

Non-contractual payments £5,998

Non-contractual payments £27,181



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

8 Staff (continued)

Staff numbers

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	No	No
Teachers	163	169
Administration and support	408	381
Management	21	19
	<u>592</u>	<u>569</u>

Higher paid staff

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	No	No
£60,001 - £70,000	5	7
£70,001 - £80,000	5	5
£130,001 - £140,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £1,709,286 (2022: £1,675,132).

9 Central services

The academy trust charges for these services on the following basis:

The Academy Trust has moved to a GAG pooling arrangement, whereby an operational budget is retained and managed centrally. This provides all constituent schools with leadership, financial and business services to maintain and improve educational standards across the Trust, promoting stronger outcomes for pupils.

The operational budget is funded by contributions from each academy, and reviewed annually at the beginning of the budget setting process. All schools manage their own Educational budget which is essentially staffing, curriculum resources and local agreements.

Wherever possible, contracts and SLA's are agreed as a trust wide arrangement, rather than individual schools, thereby promoting cost and operational efficiencies. Resources provided by Waterton Academy Trust from within the operational budget include the following:

- Leadership support - CEO
- School Improvement support - CESO and School Improvement Team
- Finance & Procurement Support - COFO and the central Finance team
- HR Support - COFO and the central HR team
- Premises Support - COFO and the central Estates team
- Governance Support - DCEO and Head of Governance
- Supplies and services include but not exclusively:



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

9 Central services (continued)

- Pupil Information and Data MIS
- HR, Finance and Estates Management Information Systems,
- Premises Compliance and Statutory Inspections
- IT support and Website maintenance services
- Telephony service operating lease,
- Recruitment, Payroll and HR advisory services
- Educational Psychology Services

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Walton Primary Academy	152,145	146,300
Normanton Common Primary Academy	152,145	146,300
Normanton Junior Academy	158,760	159,600
Crofton Infants School	85,995	79,800
Lee Brigg Infant School	72,765	66,500
Sharlston Community School	152,145	146,300
South Kirkby Academy	105,840	106,400
Wrenthorpe Academy	145,530	146,300
Cherry Tree Academy	145,530	146,300
Ackworth Mill Dam School	99,225	93,100
West End Academy	99,225	93,100
Kings Meadow Academy	145,530	146,300
Churchfield Primary School	221,220	186,200
	<u>1,736,055</u>	<u>1,662,500</u>

10 Related party transactions - trustees' remuneration and expenses

No Trustees have been paid remuneration or have received other benefits from employment with the Academy Trust for the year ended 31st August 2023.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £500 (2022 - 653) were reimbursed or paid directly to 2 trustees (2022 - 2).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 29.

11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on business. The academies in the trust have opted into the Department for Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA) for academy trusts. This scheme provides unlimited cover. It is not possible to quantify the trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

12 Connected charities

Waterton Pre Schools is a connected charity and it is related to the academy as follows: Waterton Academy Trust is the parent of Waterton Pre Schools. There are currently two Pre School locations open at two of the Academies, with a further two locations opening on 1st September 2023..

- The aggregate amount of the entity's assets is £259,523
- The aggregate amount of the entity's liabilities is £81,035
- The aggregate amount of the entity's funds is £178,488
- The total turnover of the entity is £469,290
- The total expenditure of the entity is £580,196
- Loss for the year is £110,906



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

13 Tangible fixed assets

Group

	Freehold land and buildings £	Leasehold land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	2022/23 Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2022	28,368,030	1,355,039	501,234	790,118	31,014,421
Additions	-	815,810	138,298	95,240	1,049,348
At 31 August 2023	28,368,030	2,170,849	639,532	885,358	32,063,769
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	407,221	142,288	391,485	512,136	1,453,130
Charge for the year	234,341	153,161	68,351	179,745	635,598
At 31 August 2023	641,562	295,449	459,836	691,881	2,088,728
Net book value					
At 31 August 2023	27,726,468	1,875,400	179,696	193,477	29,975,041
At 31 August 2022	27,960,809	1,212,751	109,749	277,982	29,561,291

Academy Trust

	Freehold land and buildings £	Leasehold land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	2022/23 Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2022	28,368,030	1,355,039	501,234	788,188	31,012,491
Additions	-	815,810	124,678	90,416	1,030,904
At 31 August 2023	28,368,030	2,170,849	625,912	878,604	32,043,395
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	407,221	142,288	391,485	511,313	1,452,307
Charge for the year	234,341	153,161	66,695	178,983	633,180
At 31 August 2023	641,562	295,449	458,180	690,296	2,085,487
Net book value					
At 31 August 2023	27,726,468	1,875,400	167,732	188,308	29,957,908
At 31 August 2022	27,960,809	1,212,751	109,749	276,875	29,560,184



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

13 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Analysis of cost or valuation of land and buildings:

14 Stock

	Group		Academy Trust	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Books and stationery	41,396	37,036	41,396	37,036

15 Debtors

	Group		Academy Trust	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	66,754	57,000	62,095	99,013
VAT recoverable	120,455	152,566	120,455	152,566
Prepayments	226,335	251,381	225,390	251,381
Accrued grant and other income	735,260	263,830	792,568	263,830
	<u>1,148,804</u>	<u>724,777</u>	<u>1,200,508</u>	<u>766,790</u>

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Academy Trust	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	76,552	103,358	60,514	100,461
Other taxation and social security	258,963	256,901	255,856	254,426
Loans	16,020	16,020	16,020	16,020
Accruals	366,350	474,136	361,768	432,219
Deferred income	5,654	1,900	5,654	1,900
Pension scheme creditor	294,237	281,300	294,237	280,669
	<u>1,017,776</u>	<u>1,133,615</u>	<u>994,049</u>	<u>1,085,695</u>

Group

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deferred income		
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	1,900	3,501
Resources deferred in the period	5,654	1,900
Amounts released from previous periods	<u>(1,900)</u>	<u>(3,501)</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	<u>5,654</u>	<u>1,900</u>

Deferred income in 2023 relates to school trip income received in advance (2022: £1,900).



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (continued)

Academy Trust

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income		
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	1,900	3,501
Resources deferred in the period	5,654	1,900
Amounts released from previous periods	<u>(1,900)</u>	<u>(3,501)</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	<u>5,654</u>	<u>1,900</u>

Amounts totalling £5,654 (2022: £1,900) was received for educational trips and visits in advance during the year.

17 Creditors: amounts falling due in greater than one year

	Group		Academy Trust	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Loans	11,250	27,270	11,250	27,270

Loans of £11,250 from DFE - Salix Loans which is provided on the following terms: An interest free loan was granted at the following school's within the Trust:

- Crofton Infant School - interest free loan for a period of 4 years from March 2022 with biannual repayments.
- Cherry Tree Academy - interest free loan for a period of 4 years from March 2020 with biannual repayments.
- Walton Primary Academy - interest free loan for a period of 4 years from March 2020 with biannual repayments.



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

18 Funds

Group

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted funds					
<i>Restricted general funds</i>					
General annual grant (GAG)	23,227	15,565,878	(15,936,009)	-	(346,904)
Pupil premium	220,084	1,329,688	(1,321,037)	-	228,735
Universal Infant Free School Meals	257,366	380,178	(415,773)	-	221,771
Other DFE/ESFA grants	-	1,192,781	(1,192,781)	-	-
Other government grants	-	1,921,789	(1,921,789)	-	-
Other restricted funds - Pre School	289,394	469,290	(580,196)	-	178,488
Other restricted funds	-	408,048	(408,048)	-	-
Total restricted general funds	790,071	21,267,652	(21,775,633)	-	282,090
<i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i>					
Inherited on conversion	25,331,594	-	(633,180)	-	24,698,414
DFE group capital grants	3,317,339	1,165,257	(31,744)	-	4,450,852
Capital expenditure from GAG	1,215,903	-	-	-	1,215,903
Total restricted fixed asset funds	29,864,836	1,165,257	(664,924)	-	30,365,169
<i>Pension reserve funds</i>					
LGPS fund	(785,000)	-	(391,000)	1,834,000	658,000
Total restricted funds	29,869,907	22,432,909	(22,831,557)	1,834,000	31,305,259
<i>Unrestricted general funds</i>					
General funds	1,752,544	936,745	(860,035)	-	1,829,254
Total unrestricted funds	1,752,544	936,745	(860,035)	-	1,829,254
Total endowment funds	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds	31,622,451	23,369,654	(23,691,592)	1,834,000	33,134,513



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

18 Funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Restricted funds					
<i>Restricted general funds</i>					
General annual grant (GAG)	228,697	15,224,962	(15,533,318)	102,886	23,227
Pupil premium	203,213	1,252,042	(1,235,171)	-	220,084
Universal Infant Free School Meals	265,977	593,605	(602,216)	-	257,366
Other DFE/ESFA grants	-	658,298	(658,298)	-	-
Other government grants	-	1,696,882	(1,696,882)	-	-
Other restricted funds - Pre School	362,046	428,479	(454,927)	(46,204)	289,394
Total restricted general funds	1,059,933	19,854,268	(20,180,812)	56,682	790,071
<i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i>					
Inherited on conversion	27,579,550	-	(573,154)	(1,674,802)	25,331,594
DFE group capital grants	2,510,206	839,896	(32,763)	-	3,317,339
Capital expenditure from GAG	1,215,903	-	-	-	1,215,903
Total restricted fixed asset funds	31,305,659	839,896	(605,917)	(1,674,802)	29,864,836
<i>Pension reserve funds</i>					
LGPS fund	(13,493,000)	-	(1,810,000)	14,518,000	(785,000)
Total restricted funds	18,872,592	20,694,164	(22,596,729)	12,899,880	29,869,907
<i>Unrestricted general funds</i>					
General funds	1,565,490	715,841	(472,105)	(56,682)	1,752,544
Total unrestricted funds	1,565,490	715,841	(472,105)	(56,682)	1,752,544
Total endowment funds	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds	20,438,082	21,410,005	(23,068,834)	12,843,198	31,622,451



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

18 Funds (continued)

Academy Trust

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted funds					
<i>Restricted general funds</i>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	23,227	15,565,878	(15,936,009)	-	(346,904)
Pupil Premium	220,084	1,329,688	(1,321,037)	-	228,735
Universal Infant Free School Meals	257,366	380,178	(415,773)	-	221,771
Other DFE/ESFA grants	-	1,192,781	(1,192,781)	-	-
Other government grants	-	1,921,789	(1,921,789)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	408,048	(408,048)	-	-
Total restricted general funds	500,677	20,798,362	(21,195,437)	-	103,602
<i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i>					
Inherited on conversion	25,331,594	-	(633,180)	-	24,698,414
DFE Group Capital Grants	3,317,339	1,165,257	(31,744)	-	4,450,852
Capital expenditure from GAG	1,215,903	-	-	-	1,215,903
Total restricted fixed asset funds	29,864,836	1,165,257	(664,924)	-	30,365,169
<i>Pension reserve funds</i>					
Pension reserve	(785,000)	-	(391,000)	1,834,000	658,000
Total restricted funds	29,580,513	21,963,619	(22,251,361)	1,834,000	31,126,771
<i>Unrestricted general funds</i>					
General funds	1,752,544	936,745	(860,035)	-	1,829,254
Total unrestricted funds	1,752,544	936,745	(860,035)	-	1,829,254
Total endowment funds	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds	31,333,057	22,900,364	(23,111,396)	1,834,000	32,956,025



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

18 Funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Restricted funds					
<i>Restricted general funds</i>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	228,697	15,224,962	(15,487,114)	56,682	23,227
Pupil Premium	203,213	1,252,042	(1,235,171)	-	220,084
Universal Infant Free School Meals	265,977	593,605	(602,216)	-	257,366
Other DFE/ESFA grants	-	658,298	(658,298)	-	-
Other government grants	-	1,696,882	(1,696,882)	-	-
Total restricted general funds	697,887	19,425,789	(19,679,681)	56,682	500,677
<i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i>					
Inherited on conversion	27,579,550	-	(573,154)	(1,674,802)	25,331,594
DFE Group Capital Grants	2,510,206	839,896	(32,763)	-	3,317,339
Capital expenditure from GAG	1,215,903	-	-	-	1,215,903
Total restricted fixed asset funds	31,305,659	839,896	(605,917)	(1,674,802)	29,864,836
<i>Pension reserve funds</i>					
Pension reserve	(13,493,000)	-	(1,810,000)	14,518,000	(785,000)
Total restricted funds	18,510,546	20,265,685	(22,095,598)	12,899,880	29,580,513
<i>Unrestricted general funds</i>					
General funds	1,565,490	715,841	(472,105)	(56,682)	1,752,544
Total unrestricted funds	1,565,490	715,841	(472,105)	(56,682)	1,752,544
Total endowment funds	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds	20,076,036	20,981,526	(22,567,703)	12,843,198	31,333,057



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

18 Funds (continued)

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

Restricted General Funds

General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running costs of the Trust.

Other DfE / ESFA grants is made up of income for insurance costs, rates relief, teachers' pay, teachers' pensions and Free School Meal supplementary grant (FSM).

Pupil Premium may be spent for the educational benefit of pupils registered at that Academy, or for the benefit of pupils registered at other Academies; and on community facilities i.e. services whose provision furthers any charitable purpose for the benefit of pupils at the Academy or their families, or people who live or work in the locality in which the Academy is situated. The grant does not have to be completely spent by Academies in the period.

Universal Infant Free School Meals income must be used to provide all pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 with a free school lunch.

Restricted Fixed Asset funds

Fixed asset funds are used solely for capital purposes in line with the strategic objectives of the Trust. The capital grant conditions allow the funds to be used for improvement to buildings and other facilities, including ICT, or capital repairs / refurbishment in accordance with priorities set by each school. Where the grant is used for expenditure to repair and maintain schools or non-capital ICT this expenditure is allocated in the year.

Condition Improvement Funding is allocated to the Trust from the DfE. Its primary purpose is to address significant building condition need and keeping Academy buildings safe and in good working order.

Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) either allocated direct by the DfE or transferred on conversion from the Local Authority must be spent on capital purposes.

The inherited assets consist of the fixed assets transferred to the Trust on conversion from the Local Authority. The expenditure is the depreciation of these assets during the year.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds will be used towards meeting the charitable objectives of the Trust at the discretion of the Trustees.

A transfer of £56,682 was made in 2022 to represent self-generated funds transferred to restricted income funds.



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

18 Funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Ackworth Mill Dam School	35,380	95,395
Cherry Tree Academy	(47,755)	(20,759)
Churchfield Primary School	157,452	330,993
Crofton Infants School	329,343	272,459
Kings Meadow Academy	171,035	162,874
Lee Brigg Infant School	34,030	34,493
Normanton Common Primary Academy	192,889	236,834
Normanton Junior Academy	90,851	129,044
Sharlston Community School	(50,298)	50,809
South Kirkby Academy	440,846	423,504
Walton Primary Academy	(47,631)	(15,199)
Waterton Pre School	178,488	289,394
West End Academy	207,093	176,428
Wrenthorpe Academy	255,119	219,622
Central services	164,502	156,724
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	2,111,344	2,542,615
Restricted fixed asset fund	30,365,169	29,864,836
Pension reserve	658,000	(785,000)
Total	<u>33,134,513</u>	<u>31,622,451</u>
Funds in deficit		

Walton Primary Academy

Walton Primary Academy is carrying a net deficit of £47,631. The school continues to carry a deficit, having done so for several years. During 2022/23 the school was expected to return to surplus but two long-term absences, one being the Headteacher, did not allow this to happen, hence the ongoing deficit. A new Headteacher has been appointed for January 2024 and the budget position continues to be closely monitored by the central team with the hope that the school will return a surplus.

Sharlston Community School

The school experienced a significant drop in pupil numbers, resulting in reduction in funding, whilst being overstaffed. Long term absence and maternity cover further exacerbated this resulting in a substantial in-year deficit and the resulting year-end position. A full staff restructure has been implemented and the school should return to surplus.

Cherry Tree Academy

Cherry Tree Academy is carrying a net deficit of £47,755 which has slightly worsened since 2021/22. The school has seen considerable turbulence in staffing resulting in a huge spend on supply cover, but staffing is now stable. Behaviour continues to be a challenge and the trust school improvement team are providing support to secure outcomes for pupils and prepare for Ofsted. Trustees remain confident that the investment provided to date will hugely benefit the school which will return to surplus in 2023/24.



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

18 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 £
Ackworth Mill Dam School	619,014	330,445	27,064	221,823	1,198,346
Cherry Tree Academy	879,962	528,840	43,057	239,748	1,691,607
Churchfield Primary School	1,161,519	814,134	82,628	395,853	2,454,134
Crofton Infants School	477,048	316,820	23,511	167,425	984,804
Kings Meadow Academy	825,952	424,515	56,736	318,036	1,625,239
Lee Brigg Infant School	419,722	268,619	14,519	128,953	831,813
Normanton Common Primary Academy	878,208	572,157	50,452	233,967	1,734,784
Normanton Junior Academy	1,002,732	481,054	81,616	333,301	1,898,703
Sharlston Community School	815,553	500,524	40,543	324,669	1,681,289
South Kirkby Academy	678,149	406,245	40,743	224,729	1,349,866
Walton Primary Academy	914,011	427,095	47,924	292,981	1,682,011
Waterton Pre School - Wrenthorpe	-	430,858	19,300	93,893	544,051
West End Academy	531,590	272,799	40,781	172,786	1,017,956
Wrenthorpe Academy	808,067	389,576	31,510	260,948	1,490,101
Central services	732,860	919,565	21,485	808,798	2,482,708
Academy Trust	<u>10,744,387</u>	<u>7,083,246</u>	<u>621,869</u>	<u>4,217,910</u>	<u>22,667,412</u>



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

18 Funds (continued)

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs (excluding depreciation) £	Total 2022 £
Ackworth Mill Dam School	697,572	95,082	14,279	187,448	994,381
Cherry Tree Academy	1,228,951	163,216	20,448	236,215	1,648,830
Churchfield Primary School	1,378,026	258,402	47,953	297,038	1,981,419
Crofton Infants School	694,632	77,431	12,490	140,577	925,130
Kings Meadow Academy	1,045,882	146,473	30,082	195,971	1,418,408
Lee Brigg Infant School	574,746	74,147	12,123	135,930	796,946
Normanton Common Primary Academy	1,222,139	165,422	16,738	251,940	1,656,239
Normanton Junior Academy	1,150,797	204,304	42,434	323,148	1,720,683
Sharlston Community School	1,064,533	169,969	17,923	274,044	1,526,469
South Kirkby Academy	892,135	115,564	24,934	250,081	1,282,714
Walton Primary Academy	1,071,469	177,099	26,143	288,102	1,562,813
Waterton Pre School - Wrenthorpe	-	344,662	23,232	41,682	409,576
West End Academy	641,379	89,078	21,824	198,770	951,051
Wrenthorpe Academy	991,081	124,993	15,489	331,250	1,462,813
Central services	686,942	2,567,292	7,479	873,374	4,135,087
Academy Trust	<u>13,340,284</u>	<u>4,773,134</u>	<u>333,571</u>	<u>4,025,570</u>	<u>22,472,559</u>

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

Group

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	17,133	29,957,908	29,975,041
Current assets	1,829,254	1,293,983	407,261	3,530,498
Current liabilities	-	(1,017,776)	-	(1,017,776)
Creditors over 1 year	-	(11,250)	-	(11,250)
Pension scheme liability	-	658,000	-	658,000
Total net assets	<u>1,829,254</u>	<u>940,090</u>	<u>30,365,169</u>	<u>33,134,513</u>



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

19 Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

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

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	1,107	29,560,184	29,561,291
Current assets	1,752,544	1,995,646	304,652	4,052,842
Current liabilities	-	(1,179,412)	-	(1,179,412)
Creditors over 1 year	-	(27,270)	-	(27,270)
Pension scheme liability	-	(785,000)	-	(785,000)
Total net assets	<u>1,752,544</u>	<u>5,071</u>	<u>29,864,836</u>	<u>31,622,451</u>

20 Capital commitments

Group

	2023 £	2022 £
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	<u>16,393</u>	<u>-</u>

21 Long-term commitments, including operating leases

Group

Operating leases

At 31 August 2023 the Group had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts due within one year	37,624	40,335
Amounts due between one and five years	<u>26,451</u>	<u>40,839</u>
	<u>64,075</u>	<u>81,174</u>



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

21 Long-term commitments, including operating leases (continued)

Academy Trust

Operating leases

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

	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	37,624	40,335
Amounts due between one and five years	26,451	40,839
	<u>64,075</u>	<u>81,174</u>

22 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net expenditure	(321,938)	(1,658,829)
Depreciation	635,598	573,636
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(1,218,283)	(816,276)
Interest receivable	(1,370)	(366)
Defined benefit pension scheme service cost adjustment	374,000	1,585,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	17,000	225,000
Increase in stocks	(4,360)	(12,311)
Increase in debtors	(424,027)	(13,423)
Decrease in creditors	<u>(115,839)</u>	<u>(15,896)</u>
Net cash used in Operating Activities	<u>(1,059,219)</u>	<u>(133,465)</u>

23 Cash flows from financing activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Repayments of borrowing	<u>16,020</u>	<u>15,210</u>
Net cash provided by financing activities	<u>16,020</u>	<u>15,210</u>



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

24 Cash flows from investing activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Interest received	1,370	366
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,049,348)	(912,928)
Capital funding received from DfE / ESFA	1,165,257	816,276
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	<u>117,279</u>	<u>(96,286)</u>

25 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand and at bank	<u>2,340,298</u>	<u>3,245,232</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>2,340,298</u>	<u>3,245,232</u>

26 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash	3,245,232	(904,934)	2,340,298
Loans falling due within one year	(1,133,615)	115,839	(1,017,776)
Loans falling due after more than one year	<u>(27,270)</u>	<u>16,020</u>	<u>(11,250)</u>
	<u>(1,160,885)</u>	<u>131,859</u>	<u>(1,029,026)</u>
Total	<u>2,084,347</u>	<u>(773,075)</u>	<u>1,311,272</u>

27 Member 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.

28 Pension and similar obligations

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020 and of the LGPS to the period ended 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £(294,237) (2022 - £(281,300)) were payable to the schemes at 31 August and are included within creditors.



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

28 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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 2027.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £1,758,056 (2022: £1,654,584).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website. (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2023/10/valuation-result.aspx>)

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

Local government pension schemes South Yorkshire Pension Fund

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £144,000 (2022 - £119,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £35,000 (2022 - £29,000) and employees' contributions totalled £109,000 (2022 - £90,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are per cent for employers and per cent for employees. The scheme is managed by South Yorkshire Pension Fund.

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



Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

28 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2023	2022
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.60	4.10
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.00	3.10
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.20	4.30
Inflation assumptions (CPI)	<u>3.00</u>	<u>3.10</u>

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

	2023	2022
Retiring today		
Males retiring today	20.60	22.60
Females retiring today	23.60	25.40
Retiring in 20 years		
Males retiring in 20 years	21.40	24.10
Females retiring in 20 years	<u>25.00</u>	<u>27.30</u>

Sensitivity analysis

	2023	2022
	£	£
Discount rate -0.1%	42,000	45,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	64,000	57,000
CPI rate +0.1%	<u>37,000</u>	<u>36,000</u>

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

	2023	2022
	£	£
Equities	1,221,990	1,076,600
Other bonds	371,910	307,600
Property	159,390	138,420
Cash and other liquid assets	<u>17,710</u>	<u>15,380</u>
Total market value of assets	<u>1,771,000</u>	<u>1,538,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was (£45,000) (2022 - (£25,000)).



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

28 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Current service cost	128,000	262,000
Total amount recognized in the SOFA	<u>128,000</u>	<u>262,000</u>

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

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
At start of period	1,416,000	2,707,000
Current service cost	128,000	262,000
Interest cost	64,000	48,000
Employee contributions	35,000	29,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(45,000)	(1,630,000)
Benefits paid	(2,000)	-
At 31 August	<u>1,596,000</u>	<u>1,416,000</u>

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

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
At start of period	1,538,000	1,444,000
Interest income	68,000	26,000
Actuarial gain/(loss)	23,000	(51,000)
Employer contributions	109,000	90,000
Employee contributions	35,000	29,000
Benefits paid	(2,000)	-
Asset ceiling adjustment	(175,000)	-
At 31 August	<u>1,596,000</u>	<u>1,538,000</u>

West Yorkshire Pension Fund

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £1,051,000 (2022 - £866,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £259,000 (2022 - £219,000) and employees' contributions totalled £792,000 (2022 - £647,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are per cent for employers and per cent for employees. The scheme is managed by West Yorkshire Pension Fund.

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



Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

28 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2023	2022
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.90	4.00
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.60	2.70
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.10	4.10
Inflation assumptions (CPI)	<u>2.60</u>	<u>2.70</u>

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

	2023	2022
Retiring today		
Males retiring today	21.00	22.50
Females retiring today	24.10	24.60
Retiring in 20 years		
Males retiring in 20 years	24.10	21.80
Females retiring in 20 years	<u>25.10</u>	<u>25.70</u>

Sensitivity analysis

	2023	2022
	£	£
Discount rate +0.1%	(338,000)	(409,000)
Discount rate -0.1%	355,000	409,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	422,000	458,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	(422,000)	(458,000)
CPI rate +0.1%	321,000	343,000
CPI rate -0.1%	<u>(304,000)</u>	<u>(343,000)</u>

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

	2023	2022
	£	£
Equities	14,058,000	12,335,000
Government bonds	1,299,000	988,000
Other bonds	790,000	664,000
Property	579,000	602,000
Cash and other liquid assets	684,000	618,000
Other	<u>140,000</u>	<u>232,000</u>
Total market value of assets	<u>17,550,000</u>	<u>15,439,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £1,278,000 (2022 - £273,000).



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

28 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Current service cost	1,147,000	2,060,000
Total amount recognized in the SOFA	1,147,000	2,060,000

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

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
At start of period	16,346,000	26,628,000
Current service cost	1,147,000	2,060,000
Interest cost	671,000	452,000
Employee contributions	259,000	219,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(1,313,000)	(12,666,000)
Benefits paid	(218,000)	(347,000)
At 31 August	16,892,000	16,346,000

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

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
At start of period	15,439,000	14,398,000
Interest income	650,000	249,000
Actuarial gain/(loss)	628,000	273,000
Employer contributions	792,000	647,000
Employee contributions	259,000	219,000
Benefits paid	(218,000)	(347,000)
At 31 August	17,550,000	15,439,000



Waterton Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

29 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. The following related party transactions took place in the financial period.

Expenditure related party transactions

During the year the academy made the following related party transactions:

Learner's First Schools Partnership Limited

(K Davies (Trustee) is a Director of this company)

During the year, the Trust paid £nil (2022: £200) to the company for services provided.

Omnibus Education Ltd

(D Dickinson's (CEO) brother has a material interest in this company)

During the year, the Trust paid £5,027 (2022: £36,144) to the company for consultancy services delivered to train both internal and external trainees as part of the Apprenticeship Programmes in the Centre for Excellence.

H Beaman

(H Beaman, spouse of P C Beaman (Trustee resigned 31/12/21), is employed by the Academy Trust as a School Admin Officer)

H Beaman's appointment was made in open competition and P C Beaman was not involved in the decision making process regarding appointment. H Beaman is paid within the normal pay scale for her role and receives no special treatment as a result of her relationship with the Trustee.

All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook, including notifying ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

30 Subsidiary undertakings

Waterton Pre Schools - 10860302

These financial statements include Waterton Academy Trust and Waterton Pre School. The Pre School is controlled by the Trust by virtue of the Trust being the only member of the Pre School.

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