

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 10084743 (England and Wales)

TURNER SCHOOLS
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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TURNER SCHOOLS
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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TURNER SCHOOLS
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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Members

M Alcock
J Fingerhut
A Oliver
T Coultas-Pitman
Dr A Sharman

Trustees

G Cottle*
T Luke MBE
M Buchanan (Chair of the Board of Trustees)
Prof H James OBE
J Bushby*
S Murphy (staff trustee)
M Taylor*
L Turner
G Ward*
D Jones
J Hynes

**Appointment at Companies
House**

- appointed 01.02.18
- appointed 01.09.18
- appointed 09.07.19
- appointed 09.07.19

- appointed 23.03.20
- appointed 07.10.20
- appointed 01.02.21
- appointed 13.07.22
- appointed 19.12.22
- appointed 13.12.22

**Resignation at Companies
House**

- resigned 31.10.22

*members of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

Secretary

C Southern

Senior Management Team:

Chief Executive
Executive Principal
Chief People Officer
Chief Finance Officer

S Murphy
K Yates
R Fuller
D Bowles

Company Name

Turner Schools

Principal and Registered Office

Folkestone Academy, Academy Lane, Folkestone, Kent,
England CT19 5FP

Registered Company Number

10084743 (England and Wales)

Independent Auditor

RSM UK Audit LLP
Portland
25 High Street
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 1BG

Bankers

Lloyds Bank Plc
70-71 Cheapside
London
EC2V 6EN

Solicitors

Stone King
Boundary House, 91 Charterhouse Street
Clerkenwell, London, EC1M 6HR

TURNER SCHOOLS
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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

During the year the multi-academy trust operated five academy schools for pupils aged 2 to 19 within the town of Folkestone, Kent. From 1 September 2023 Dover Christ Church, an academy for pupils aged 11 to 19, joined the trust and as of October 2023 the trust has 3,656 pupils on roll at its schools in Folkestone and Dover, Kent.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. The trustees of Turner Schools are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as Turner Schools. The charitable company operates Folkestone Academy, Folkestone Primary, Martello Primary, Morehall Primary and Turner Free School.

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

Members' Liability

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

Trustees' Indemnities

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, every trustee/director, officer or auditor of the trust shall be indemnified out of the assets of the trust against any liability incurred by them in that capacity in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgement is given in favour or in which they are acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to him by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the trust.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the trust's Articles of Association. At the end of year the Board comprised ten trustees which included the CEO.

Recruitment needs are identified by reviewing the annual skills audit and annual self-evaluation against our trust vision and priorities to ensure the Board has the necessary skills and knowledge. Suitability of trustees is determined by their interest in the work of an Educational Charity, eligibility, expertise and skills.

The Chair of Trustees or nominated trustee meets with interested parties in the first instance. Potential candidates are invited to observe trustee meetings.

The term of office for any trustee is four years, save that this time limit shall not apply to any post which is held ex-officio. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of trustee, any trustee may be reappointed.

Appointment to the Finance, Audit and Risk committee is based on financial, accounting or auditing expertise and knowledge.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT - continued

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

We are committed to ensuring that new governors are given the necessary information and support to fulfil their role with confidence. New governors receive a comprehensive induction which includes:

- a meeting with the CEO to explain the governance structure
- a meeting with the Chair to review the strategic plan and trust priorities
- basic safeguarding and child protection training
- invitation to attend the Confederation of School Trust's Essential Trustee Programme
- Annual report and accounts, audit report
- latest self-evaluation and risk register
- The Turner Schools Governance Handbook and information relevant to their remit
- reference to the Governance Handbook and Academies Trust Handbook, updates are shared with our governors as they are published
- a mentor to support them for the first 3-6 months

New appointments are registered with Companies House and the Department of Education's Get Information About Schools in a timely manner.

Training needs are identified through an annual skills audit and self-review using the National Governance Association's 'Twenty-One Questions for Multi Academy Trusts'.

Annual training includes needs identified in the skills analysis and self-review, safeguarding and the Prevent duty and those set out in the Governor CPD and Development plan.

The trust offers ongoing support and development from the Confederation of School Trusts and access to the National Governance Association Gold line which offers bespoke advice and guidance.

Organisational Structure

Turner Schools is a Multi-Academy Trust, the structure is in line with requirements of the Governance Handbook and Articles.

The Academy Trust has three layers of governance:

- members who oversee the Academy Trust
- trustees who are responsible for the overall strategic direction and control of the Academy Trust
- local governors (Challenge and Community Boards)

A scheme of delegation details the decisions that have been delegated to Executive Leaders and governance committees, responsibilities are laid out in the Terms of Reference.

The Board of Trustees is the accountable body. The trustees are the directors of the charity, they give their time freely and receive no remuneration or other financial benefits, other than the Trust Chief Executive who also serves as a trustee.

Trustees' key responsibilities include:

- setting the vision, values and objectives
- approving the trust strategic plan and reviewing performance
- ensuring good financial health and probity
- making senior appointments
- holding the Chief Executive to account
- approving the Scheme of Delegation

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT – continued

Trustees annually review the committee structure, Terms of Reference and membership to ensure continued effectiveness and appropriately qualified and experienced membership.

The Trust Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

- Ensure compliance with the Academy Trust Handbook
- Provide oversight on internal controls and monitor financial performance of the trust and ensure its money is well spent
- Ensure that risks are being addressed appropriately through internal scrutiny
- Advise the Board on the effectiveness of the trust's risk management, control and governance processes and any significant matters arising from audits
- Agree the Capital Development Plan and monitoring progress

Challenge and Community Boards provide local governance. They:

- are the local point of consultation and review on matters such as policy, vision and strategy
- represent the views of the school and stakeholders to the trust (including pupils, staff and parents)
- are advocates for pupils and parents
- monitor the progress of key groups
- provide internal assurance
- monitor key policies, such as safeguarding, for their effectiveness
- ensure a broad and balanced curriculum

The Chief Executive Officer, Chief People Officer, Chief Finance Officer and Principals, supported by the wider central team, implement policies, guidelines and targets agreed by the Board, and report back to them on progress. The Chief Executive Officer is the Accounting Officer.

The trust's central services provide specialist business and academic support.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The trust appoints teaching staff with reference to the Standard Teachers Pay and Conditions Document pay scales, and support staff with reference to the Kent Ranges via a bespoke Academy Range for non-teaching staff. Where these scales are not suitable, in the case of a minority of staff, the trust can appoint on spot salaries in accordance with benchmarked terms via information sharing with other equivalent trusts or to independent benchmarking evidence. Consideration for key management personnel by the trust board is done by using national benchmarks including school group sizes and cost per pupil data. We have also considered the rationale between executive pay and the average pay of teaching staff across the trust and other factors. We make sure that pay awards are closely linked to performance. Trustees consider executive pay in the context of wider leadership pay across our trust and the contribution this wider leadership make together.

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT - continued

Trade Union Facility Time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
1	1

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	
1% - 50%	1
51% - 99%	
100%	

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Provide the total cost of facility time	£869
Provide the total pay bill	£15,323,000
Provide the percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (total cost of facility time ÷ total pay bill) × 100	0.00006%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours calculated as: (total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period ÷ total paid facility time hours) × 100	100%
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Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

The trust applies the policies of 'at-cost' and full disclosure of any related-party transactions, which are summarised below. It is the trust's intention to keep any related-party transactions to a minimum unless they represent greater value for money than the alternative.

This financial year they consisted of two related parties. The first with Jonathan Fingerhut, a member of Turner Schools who provided consultancy and mentoring services. The trust also received services from Beyond Autism who's CEO, Tracie Coultas-Pitman is also a member of Turner Schools.

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The trust is passionate about staff wellbeing and engagement and there are a variety of mechanisms to capture staff feedback which include a bi-annual staff survey, regular employee focus groups and a number of policies and procedures that support effective engagement and communication. The Executive Leaders run termly roadshows with regular updates on trust strategic priorities which are delivered to all staff along with weekly update blogs from the CEO with key messages for all staff. There is a new staff portal of information where trust staff can access all available policies and key information in addition to a faculty handbook which is revised and shared with staff annually. There is also a wellbeing platform that has been introduced so that staff and line managers can access support for wellbeing, counselling and other services.

The trust pays into the local Trade Union facilities agreement and this provides opportunity to consult with employee representatives, as well as inclusion of representatives on matters concerning individual's employment.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT – continued

There are trust, school and central services strategic plans in place which are reviewed annually and communicated widely across the trust through a variety of communication mechanisms. This ensures everybody across the organisation is clear on the key priorities and deliverables. Our annual employee appraisal utilises the trust priorities to link individual's objectives to our strategic priorities, ensuring everybody is working towards a shared goal.

The trust is an equal opportunities employer and our recruitment policies and processes clearly set out the provision that is made for disabled candidates. Career and development opportunities are open to all staff equally and our robust support for staff wellbeing through occupational health, private healthcare and risk assessment ensure reasonable adjustments are made where necessary. The trust also supports staff via access to work funding for those individuals who require additional funded adjustments.

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

The trust continues to be committed to ensuring it retains a good relationship with its supply chain, as it is vital that staff and pupils have access to all key resources in a timely manner in order to deliver education. The aim is to increase the strength of the supply base by using 'preferred suppliers'. Consolidating the supply chain with a focus on best value can offer economies of scale. There have been internal and external efforts towards achieving this:

- A Senior Finance Assistant that liaises with suppliers and ensures that best value is achieved and that our three quote policy on larger items of expenditure is adhered to.
- Agreements with key suppliers that provide maximum discounts.
- Using an internal requisition system that provides a streamline process from requisition to goods received.
- Longer term trust-wide contracts procured, with current providers of catering, grounds maintenance, security, and school MIS. To ensure value for money is achieved these services are all subject to renewal and retendering.
- The trust uses government procurement frameworks such as the Crescent Purchasing Consortium and the schools commercial team to provide assurance that value for money is being achieved.
- All of the schools electricity and gas supplies are on, or being transferred over to the government utilities framework, which allows the trust to subscribe to procurement expertise in this area with enhanced purchasing power.

Our finance policy also sets out clear guidance for trust staff in our engagement with suppliers, approved suppliers and suppliers that the trust will not engage with. The trust has a robust procurement process and key supplier decisions are approved by both SLT and trustees. This decision making process involved the centralised leadership team and professional advice from the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

The trust employs a Community Hub Manager to build stronger relationships with pupils, parents and the local community. Our engagement with our beneficiaries and the wider community is covered elsewhere in this report, as part of the commentary on the achievements and performance of the trust in the year.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT – continued

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and Aims

The principal object and activity of the charitable company is the operation of five schools – Folkestone Academy, Folkestone Primary, Martello Primary, Morehall Primary and Turner Free School, to provide education for pupils of all abilities between the ages of 2 and 19. The objects as specified in the trust's Articles of Association are as follows:

To advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum ("the Mainstream Academies") or educational institutions which are principally concerned with providing full-time or part-time education for children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless alternative education is made for them ("the alternative provision Academies") or 16 to 19 Academies offering a curriculum appropriate to the needs of its students ("the 16 to 19 Academies") or schools specially organised to make special educational provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) ("the Special Academies").

In accordance with the Articles of Association the charitable company has entered into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education. The Funding Agreement specifies, amongst other things, the basis for admitting students to the schools, arrangements for pupils with SEN and disabilities and that the curriculum provided to pupils up to the age of 19 shall be broad and balanced.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The trust is committed to overcoming disadvantage and educational underperformance by running schools where children thrive and knowledge matters. We exist to add educational and social value:

Transforming children's futures

Working effectively in socially and economically challenging areas and having an unflinching focus on improving outcomes for the pupils we serve.

Empowering families

Working transparently and closely with families as joint partners, providing support so that our children are successful.

Strengthening communities

Expecting our academies to contribute strongly to their communities and society in general. Creating young citizens who can increasingly change society, including their community, for the better.

Our ambitions

Better outcomes for more children in challenging communities in the South East. By 2030 we want to serve over 8,000 pupils, based in the south east region and predominantly located in Kent. The trust will aim to serve communities that have significant challenges, but not be restricted to coastal areas.

A broader range of schools so that we can support as many children as possible. By 2030 we will have a balanced mix of primary and secondary schools, with up to 15 schools across the trust, including alternative and post 16 provision.

Stronger connections with employers, higher education and community organisations. By 2030, within Turner Schools we will eliminate the number of children who leave school with no qualifications increasing their opportunities to gain high quality employment. We will work closely with national education partners, such as local universities and have strong links to regional and local employers. We will be in partnership with a variety of non-profit organisations, including but not limited to the creative sector.

The trust has eight strategic priorities which set specific targets for success, each priority embodies the above core values and objectives and outcomes are tracked and measured against performance. Our eight strategic priorities are, Quality of Education, Leadership Development, Workforce Development, Community Engagement, Trust Level Development, Personal Development, Grow Trust Across the Region and Tackling Climate Change.

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT – continued

Public Benefit

We have referred to the guidance in the Charity Commission general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that they have set.

The main activity of the charitable company is the operation of the trust's schools and educational activity. The purpose is to provide education for pupils of different abilities with an emphasis on a cumulative knowledge-led curriculum, which enables all children to thrive.

In setting the schools' objectives and planning their activities the trustees have given careful consideration to the charity commission general guidance on public benefit.

The Board, and all staff, adhere to the Nolan Principles for Public Life and these are promoted across the organisation, including via the Faculty Handbook.

STRATEGIC REPORT

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Progress towards the achievement of objectives is monitored at regular intervals. During the period the trust served 2,825 pupils, and expanded its operations with the increase of a year group at Turner Free School.

The early years provision, behaviour and attitudes and personal development of the trust was found to be 'Outstanding' during an inspection by Ofsted at Folkestone Primary under Section 5 of the Education Act, and the school was found to be 'Good' in all other areas. Turner Free School was also found to be 'Good' during an Ofsted inspection. No other trust school was inspected by Ofsted during the period. In the primaries, academic results were in line with the targets set at the beginning of the year and sustained the improvements made in the previous year, although there was a dip in the performance of pupils in mathematics in Martello Primary due to the significant impact of Covid on staff and pupils. In the secondary's, attendance and the ongoing impact of Covid as well as staffing issues meant that both schools seriously underperformed and were well below target and below similar schools.

Significant investment continued to be made into each schools IT infrastructure and pupil devices to support the digital future of the trust allowing all pupils to access online homeworking through the google classrooms platform. The trust also continued to further invest in the premises and facilities of each school site by introducing the innovative and sustainable Horticulture classroom at Folkestone Academy, developing the Turner Sixth Form hub at Turner Free School and improving the teaching and learning space in years 5 and 6 at Folkestone Primary.

Key Performance Indicators

	Period ending 31 August 2023	Period ending 31 August 2022
Staff costs as a percentage of income from educational operations	77.75%	74.00%
Staff costs as a percentage of General Annual Grant income	96.82%	89.80%
Pupil attendance	91.08%	87.90%

Community Engagement

The number of community engagement opportunities has increased significantly throughout 2022/23 and the trust now has strong relationships with the local community and with social action projects being embedded within all schools calendars.

During the reporting period, three large scale, trust wide projects took place:

Diversity and Inclusion Week – throughout this week, pupils from all year groups took part in a range of events which promoted diversity and inclusion within the schools. Activities included guest speakers, workshops and curriculum related lessons.

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ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE – continued

Christmas Hampers - working in partnership with local stakeholders such as the Rotary Club and District Council, the trust secured funding to produce Christmas dinner hampers for 204 vulnerable families from across the five schools. These were packed and distributed by Turner Schools' staff two days before Christmas.

Community Day – all pupils across our schools participated in the trust's Community Day on the last day of term. Pupil led activities included: a family fun day; catering for 70 homeless people in partnership with Action Against Homelessness; weeding/clearing garden areas in partnership with Folkestone and Hythe District Council; establishing community libraries; bag packing at local supermarkets; coffee mornings and music performances for local residents and care homes and litter picking.

In addition to the three core Community Engagement projects, each school has delivered a number of smaller activities throughout the year. In total, more than 90 activities have taken place, involving pupils from Year R-13.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. This can be evidenced through the financial information, including an 18 month cash flow forecast which is provided on a rolling monthly basis along with the monthly management accounts and annual approved budgets which include loan repayments and capital expenditure. The Board of Trustees review the trust's strategic risk register and consider there to be no present risks that would significantly affect the trust's ability to continue operations. 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.

Promoting the success of Turner Schools

The trust's strategic plans for schools and central services are presented to the board for challenge and approval. The effects of decisions made today are always considered and included in the long term future planning and included in the trust's risk register.

Turner Schools supports its staff in a number of ways ranging from staff career development to staff remunerations and benefits. The trust adopts the Teachers Union pay scales and at minimum matches the local government pay scales for support staff, ensuring all staff are paid at competitive levels. The trust also subscribes all staff to the Benenden Health Care Scheme as well as offering access to the electric car lease and cycle to work benefit scheme.

We pride ourselves on maintaining strong relationships with all of our stakeholders and ensure there is a healthy balance between ensuring value for money for the trust and maintaining strong supplier connections, this includes a quick turnaround for making payments to promote healthy cash flows for all suppliers. We take account of the impact of the trust's operations on the community and the environment and the need to act fairly between members of the company.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The majority of the trust's income is obtained from the Department for Education (DfE), via the Education and Skills Funding Agency, in the form of its General Annual Grant (GAG), the use of which is restricted to particular purposes; i.e. the objects of the trust. The GAG received during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. At the end of the reporting period, the trust had an in-year deficit in the restricted general fund of £794k, this includes the transfer made from GAG to fixed asset reserves of £1,060k. In the unrestricted funds, the trust had an in-year surplus of £165k.

The trust also received grants for fixed assets from the DfE. Such grants and donations totalling £313k in 2022/23 are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as part of the restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW – continued

In addition, the trust gratefully received charitable donations during the period of £189,442. Friends of Folkestone Academy kindly donated £135,000 for the Horticulture capital project, which sits within the restricted fixed asset funds and a further £25,381 for revenue projects specific to Folkestone Academy. Sir Roger De Haan Charitable Trust provided £26,233 as a gift in kind for the notional rent on the Personalised Learning Centre and £2,828 was received in smaller donations.

Expenditure for the period covered by this report was funded by the GAG received from the DfE and other income, such as voluntary income, activities for generating funds and investment income.

Reserves Policy

The trust aims to maintain a level of reserves sufficient to provide a buffer against future funding uncertainties and provide a fund for future fixed assets replenishment.

The Academy had a defined benefit pension fund asset of £535k as at 31 August 2023 (2022 showed a pension fund liability of £1,476k). The asset is not recognised in the financial statements on the basis it cannot be realised by the trust in the form of a refund or reduction in future contributions. The trust follows the advice of the pension scheme actuary and makes contributions in accordance with the rates advised. This level of contribution has been taken into account when preparing the trust's budgets for the year ending 31 August 2024.

As at 31 August 2023, the trust had a balance of £1,261k of unrestricted funds which are considered to be the trust's free reserves (2022: £1,096k), a fixed asset fund of £62,499k (2022: £63,482k), general restricted funds of £534k (2022: £1,171k). Total reserves were £64,294k (2022: £64,273k).

Following a number of capital investments to modernise school facilities in 2022/23, the trust plans to further enhance the pupil experience by increasing school improvement leadership, engaging with vulnerable families in the local community and providing for additional pupil premium projects. Trust growth will receive significant reserves supporting Dover Christ Church Academy, a new Turner School, with an IT infrastructure refresh. As a result, a deficit budget of £552k has been set for 2023/24, thus reducing the reserves whilst still maintaining one month's expenditure plus salary cover.

Investment Policy

The trust's policy is to invest surplus funds in low-risk fixed term bank deposits.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

Key risks for the trust are:

- Falling primary population in the region, affecting pupil number income
- Attendance across all Turner Secondary's adversely impacts educational outcomes
- Standards at Folkestone Academy and Dover Christ Church Academy KS4 remain below floor threshold
- Goods and services costs (utilities) increase beyond government funding increases
- Low sixth form pupils numbers make provisions financially unviable
- Cyber security threats to the IT infrastructure and GDPR
- Significant IT changes (Google & hardware) causes disruption to teaching and learning

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the trust is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the schools and their finances. A number of systems have been implemented to assess risks that the schools face, especially in the operational areas, and in relation to the control of finance. Systems are in place, including operational procedures and internal financial controls (see Statement on Internal Control) in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk remains trustees have ensured adequate insurance cover through the RPA and other policies.

The future financial and risk management objectives for the trust include:

- Mitigating potential increase in goods and services costs in line with high inflation (utilities) beyond government funding increases.
- Ensuring that the impact from the current tightening of funding and increased pension costs in the public sector is fully taken into consideration when decisions about future spending are taken.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW – continued

- Ensuring appropriate student recruitment as the trust's positive work with pupils becomes known.
- Ensuring that the staffing is appropriate in terms of remaining within Curriculum Led Financial Planning boundaries in the schools, and ensuring that the central functions are appropriately staffed to provide the best possible levels of service to the schools.
- Continued development of a joint Post 16 provision at Turner Free School and Folkestone Academy.
- Enhancing the trust school improvement models at secondary and primary.
- Future growth to sustain benefits of Multi Academy Trust scale.

FUNDRAISING

During the period covered by this report the trust's fundraising activities comprised of applications for grants plus local fundraising via school Parent, Teachers and Friends Associations. The trust does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by trustees.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW – 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)	3,428,197	3,284,010
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>		
Gas consumption	331.69	346.02
Owned transport – mini-buses	6.83	8.07
Total scope 1	338.52	354.09
<u>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>		
Purchased electricity	327.44	261.68
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>		
Business travel in employee owned vehicles	0.65	0.72
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e	666.61	616.49
<u>Intensity ratio</u>		
Tonnes CO ₂ e per pupil	0.25	0.24
<p>Quantification and Reporting Methodology We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2023 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.</p> <p>Intensity measurement The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.</p> <p>Measures taken to improve energy efficiency We have installed smart meters across all sites and have solar panels at Folkestone Primary, Martello Primary, Turner Free School and Folkestone Academy. At Folkestone Academy, our solar panels provide power to our horticulture classroom and also to our EV chargers. EV charges have been installed in staff car parks across all of our schools. We have also signed up to an electric car salary sacrifice scheme to give staff the opportunity to lease an electric car. The trust continues to use video conferencing technology for staff/board meetings, to reduce the need for travel between sites. The trust has also introduced ECO groups at each school to drive the ethos of sustainability to pupils/staff and the local community. Staff also cycle between sites on trust bikes.</p>		

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW – continued

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The trust has a number of priorities for the next three years, these are set out in more detail in the Trust Strategic Plan 2020-2024.

Pupils will have a strong start in their education, so that all children, especially those children who face additional barriers, will be ready for their next stage of education. We will dramatically increase the number of pupils leaving school with level 3 qualifications so that more pupils go to university and many more gain apprenticeships.

Turner Schools will be an employer of choice in the southeast region, with a teaching school and leadership centre. Staff retention rates will be much higher and staff absence rates much lower than in similar trusts. Teachers at all levels will be researchers, subject specialists and experts in their field. Our workforce will be engaged and motivated across all levels across the trust.

Leaders will choose to work and remain with us because we will have innovative approaches to our working arrangements, prioritising the wellbeing of our staff. Our schools will keep their own identity and characteristics. Schools will have autonomy to take risks and have the freedom to explore different approaches but will support and cooperate as we are one trust.

Turner schools will be the school of choice for the communities they serve. We will be regional leaders in our work with pupils who have additional barriers such as special educational needs and disabilities or have barriers linked to poverty.

The children we serve will understand what it means to be an active citizen, by participating in wider society and being part of something bigger than themselves.

The trust will become more sustainable by 2030. Our sustainability is focused on three strands: carbon reduction, re-wilding and climate education. Steps have already been taken with the introduction of horticulture into the curriculum supported by an innovative Horticulture Classroom, featuring photovoltaic roof installations to enable the classroom to be self-powered. All schools have successfully achieved their first year of ECO school accreditation and the ECO school program is now embedded in school culture.

Our central team will provide outstanding service to support an excellent school improvement strategy.

We will provide a curriculum that enables children to gain the knowledge, skills and understanding to help them be successful active citizens. It emphasises the central importance of proficient reading, writing and numeracy skills as well as a commitment to provide a rich range of subjects that pupils can study.

We will work in close collaboration with our local partners so that pupils, especially those who are from disadvantaged backgrounds, experience varied and exciting enrichment activities that raise pupils' aspirations of what they can achieve.

On 1 September 2023, Dover Christ Church Academy joined the academy trust.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

During the period covered by this report neither the trust nor its trustees held any funds as a custodian trustee on behalf of any other charitable organisation.

AUDITOR

RSM UK Ltd has indicated its willingness to continue in office.

TURNER SCHOOLS
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

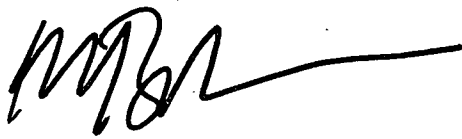
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW – continued

Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors

The trustees have confirmed that, as far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditor is unaware. Each of the trustees have confirmed that they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor.

The report of the trustees, incorporating a Strategic Report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, in their capacity as company directors, on 11 December 2023 and signed on the Board's behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MB', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Buchanan
Chair of Trust Board
11 December 2023

TURNER SCHOOLS
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Scope of Responsibility

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

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive, 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 Turner Schools and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Report of the Trustees and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met five times during the year. The Finance, Audit and Risk committee met four times during the year ended 31 August 2023. Attendance during this period at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee Meetings

	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Member – AGM Meetings		
A Oliver (appointed August 20)	1	1
J Fingerhut (appointed August 20)	1	1
M Alcock (appointed August 20)	1	1
T Coultas-Pitman (appointed October 20)	1	1
Dr A Sharman (appointed June 21)	1	1
Trustee – Board Meetings		
G Cottle (appointed 01.02.18)	3	5
T Luke (reappointed 01.09.22)	5	5
M Buchanan (Chair, appointed 09.07.19)	4	5
J Bushby (left 31.10.22)	0	0
H James (appointed 09.07.19)	3	5
S Murphy (Accounting Officer, appointed 23.03.20)	5	5
M Taylor (appointed 07.10.20)	5	5
L Turner (appointed 01.02.21)	4	5
G Ward (appointed 13.07.22)	5	5
D Jones (appointed 19.12.22)	2	3
J Hynes (appointed 13.12.22)	2	3

TURNER SCHOOLS
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Academy Trust has three layers of governance: members who oversee the Academy Trust, trustees who are responsible for the overall strategic direction and control of the Academy Trust and local governors (Challenge and Community Committees). The trustees are the directors of the charity and are the strategic and accountable Governing Board.

As trustees we acknowledge that we have overall responsibility for ensuring the trust has effective and appropriate systems of control, financial and otherwise. Trustees ensure compliance with its Articles and all relevant statutory guidance. We have reviewed and taken into account the DfE's Governance Handbook and the Academy Trust Handbook.

Trustees use the services of external experts for validation of judgements where necessary and effectiveness is challenged further through self-evaluation.

A trust policy review and compliance schedule ensures the timely review and approval of policies that establish best practice and ensure consistency, and adherence to compliance deadlines.

We know that effective Governance requires challenge and assurance - checking what is happening in our schools, this supports senior leaders to continually improve and helps us achieve our strategic vision. We triangulate assurance for better scrutiny to support improvement, using external experts for validation where necessary.

Trust sub committees have clearly defined roles laid out in the Scheme of Delegation, responsibilities are laid out in the Terms of Reference.

Trust Finance, Audit and Risk Committee responsibilities include:

- Providing oversight on internal controls and monitoring financial performance of the trust and ensure its money is well spent
- Advising the Board on the effectiveness of the trust's risk management, control and governance processes and any significant matters arising from audits
- Monitoring strategic risk and ensure that risks are being addressed appropriately through internal scrutiny
- Recommending financial policies and budgets that support the mission, values and strategic goals
- Ensuring compliance with the Academy Trust Handbook
- Agreeing the Capital Development Plan and monitoring progress

The Trust Finance, Audit and Risk committee members are selected due to their finance and business expertise that can bring challenge to audit outcomes and guide the trusts senior leaders. A committee of such skills combined with Trust Board members provides assurance and brings continuity and representation to the trust board.

Challenge and Community Committee (local governors) responsibilities include:

- Are the trust's local point of consultation and review on matters such as policy, vision and strategy
- Represent the view of the school and stakeholders to the trust
- Be advocates for pupils and parents
- Monitoring progress of key groups
- Provide internal assurance
- Develop community links

The Challenge and Community committee members complete an annual self-evaluation using the National Governance Association resources. Outcomes and actions are shared with all governors and feed into the trust self-evaluation.

Governance Reviews

This was the sixth full financial reporting period for the trust. The prior period ran from September 2021 to August 2022.

The trust conducts an annual compliance review with the Academy Trust Handbook for Governance and Finance and an annual review of the Scheme of Delegation to ensure it remains effective and fit for purpose as the trust prepares for growth. The Board and local governors conduct an annual self-evaluation and 360 appraisal for the Chair of Trustees and Governance professional. All outcomes feed into the Board Assurance Framework alongside metrics, verifiers and qualitative information. This is used to identify areas for development or improvement.

TURNER SCHOOLS
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

GOVERNANCE REVIEWS – continued

An external review of governance is commissioned every three years. The external review in 2022 reported that “accountability is a real strength of the Turner Trust”. It also highlighted that the self-review, analysis and evaluations means that the Trust Board are constantly reviewing their strengths and areas of development.

The recruitment and retention of governors was successful in comparison to the national picture and compared to this time last year. The positive picture in retention has enabled us to develop succession planning more robustly at local and Trust Board level. A key area of success was the appointment of a Vice Chair to the Trust Board, who will also add capacity to the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee (FARC).

During the reporting period, the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee (FARC) sub-committee of the Trust Board contributed to oversight of the work of all schools in the trust. Membership of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee consisted of a minimum of three members, The Accounting Officer and Chief Finance Officer were in attendance. The Accounting Officer and the Chief Finance Officer do not contribute to matters relating to audit.

This committee met four times in the year ended 31 August 2023. During this period attendance was as follows:

	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
G Cottle	4	4
M Taylor	4	4
J Bushby (Chair) (left 31.10.22)	0	0
G Ward (Chair) (appointed 18.07.22)	3	4
X Ash	1	1
H James	0	0

Managing Conflicts of Interest

To ensure the register of Personal and Pecuniary Interests is correct and up to date, a declaration of interests is a regular agenda item in governance meetings. Senior leaders complete an annual declaration of interests.

To manage interests a full register is shared in house with key finance staff and executive leaders. Relevant interests are published.

This year the trust developed a Relationships at Work policy to ensure that conflicts of interest or perceived conflicts of interest arising from relationships, are managed professionally.

Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive has responsibility for ensuring that the trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, 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 or by using purchasing frameworks where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

Shared trust resources

The trust gives the highest priority to school improvement and has created a well-respected central trust team that oversees all aspects such as HR, finance, governance, general administration as well as specialist experts in improving teaching and learning and leadership and management.

The schools also share central staff which facilitates greater savings by achieving economies of scale in for example procurement and staffing costs. The trust actively bids for additional funds, and is meticulous in checking entitlements thus ensuring that our schools receive the maximum funding available to ensure that we can raise standards and bridge the attainment and isolation gap.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

GOVERNANCE REVIEWS – continued

Procurement

Turner Schools runs a robust procurement process for all new purchases of goods and services as detailed in the Scheme of Delegation. All out of contract utility supplies have been moved to government frameworks and new significant purchases of IT equipment use DfE recommended framework platforms. When necessary the trust uses the, Find a Tender and Contract Finder platform to publicise the opportunity, this has been successful with the new catering contract and construction of a new standalone classroom.

Trust Estate

The trust has a centralised Facilities and Estates Team which hold qualified National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health status and are members of ROSPA which ensures all schools are monitored and kept health and safety compliant. The trust uses a strategic approach to estates management and follows the DfE Good Estates Management for schools guidance which had an organised and planned approach to estates resources across all sites. This informs a 5 year rolling capital replacement program which is used to identify and prioritise building maintenance programs, building improvements, health and safety, building sustainability and new building requirements. Capital plans are reviewed by senior management as part of the budget setting process to ensure that informed decisions are made when allocating revenue and capital expenditure for the following academic year, and reserves are considered adequate for meeting longer term building requirements.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of 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 Turner Schools for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

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

The Risk and Control Framework

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

- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees;
- Regular reviews by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- Identification and management of risks.

Internal Scrutiny

The trust has a programme of internal scrutiny delivered by external providers as appropriate to provide independent assurance to the Board of Trustees that its financial and non-financial controls and risk management procedures are operating effectively.

TURNER SCHOOLS
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Internal Scrutiny – continued

The trust identifies on a risk-basis (with reference to its strategic risk register) the areas it will review each year, modifying its checks accordingly.

Internal scrutiny reviews focus on evaluating the suitability of, and level of compliance with, financial and non-financial controls. This includes assessing whether procedures are designed effectively and efficiently, and checking whether agreed procedures have been followed.

Offering advice and insight to the trustees on how to address weaknesses in financial and non-financial controls, acting as a catalyst for improvement, but without diluting management's responsibility for day to day running of the trust.

Ensuring all categories of risk are being adequately identified, reported and managed.

Ensuring that independence in internal scrutiny is achieved by establishing appropriate reporting lines whereby those carrying out checks report directly to a Committee of the Board, which in turn provides assurance to the trustees.

During the academic year, the trust approved four external reviews in key areas which were reported to the trustees.

Non-financial – IT Infrastructure - Following the implementation of the trusts forest domain structure across all schools in the Trust, the IT Department was reviewed by an independent IT professional within education. The report was positive and confirmed that the centralised service was up to date with industry standards and the required policies and documentation were in place. Recommendations made included a change to the IT help-desk and a change in layout to the main Google Hub Student Service reception.

Non-financial – Cyber Security - An internal vulnerability assessment was performed by Red Scan (Kroll), an external provider with expertise testing the robustness of an organisation's cyber security. The testing produced positive results, providing assurance to senior management and trustees. Testing did find some services were running outdated or end of life software components, the weaknesses found were rectified immediately following receipt of the report.

Non-financial – Health and Safety – Willis Towers Watson completed a follow up Health and Safety Audit on all school sites. The report was very positive identifying good or best practice in the key areas of, Service, Maintenance and Statutory Inspection, and Fire Safety. Recommendations of areas for improvement focused on evidencing the communication and regular review of current risk assessment to relevant staff.

Non-financial – Whistleblowing – A review to provide an independent objective view of the whistleblowing policy and procedures was completed by a local multi academy trust. The review provided assurance that the policy in place was clear and protected staff that felt compelled to whistle blow. Recommendations were made to fine tune the procedures to further enhance the flow of the document with flowcharts and trade union contact details.

The Board have approved four areas for review in 2023/24 which include:

- Efficiency of the structure of central services for growth.
- Finance end of month end management reporting
- Management Information Systems / Data Management
- Fraud / Payroll

Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive 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 external professional advisors;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

TURNER SCHOOLS
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

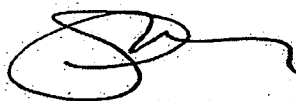
Internal Scrutiny – continued-

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 11 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MB', followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Michael Buchanan
Chair of Trust Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SM', enclosed in a circular loop.

Mr Seamus Murphy
Chief Executive and Accounting Officer

TURNER SCHOOLS
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

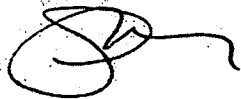
STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

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

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date.

If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the Board of Trustees and ESFA.



Mr Seamus Murphy
Chief Executive and Accounting Officer
Date: 11 December 2023

TURNER SCHOOLS
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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

The trustees of Turner Schools (who are 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 then 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on December 11, 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Michael Buchanan
Chair of Trust Board

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
TURNER SCHOOLS YEAR ENDING ON 31 AUGUST 2023**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Turner Schools (the "charitable company") for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the 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's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company 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 charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
TURNER SCHOOLS YEAR ENDING ON 31 AUGUST 2023**

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report included within the 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 the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report or the Strategic Report included within the Trustees' Report.

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

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities set out on page 21, the trustees (who act as trustees for the charitable activities of the charitable company are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, to perform audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, and to respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
TURNER SCHOOLS YEAR ENDING ON 31 AUGUST 2023**

In relation to fraud, the objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud through designing and implementing appropriate responses and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However, it is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the audit engagement team:

- obtained an understanding of the nature of the sector, including the legal and regulatory framework that the charitable company operates in and how the charitable company is complying with the legal and regulatory framework;
- inquired of management, and those charged with governance, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any known actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud;
- discussed matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessment of how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to fraud.

As a result of these procedures we consider the most significant laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, Charities SORP (FRS 102), Companies Act 2006, Education and Skills Funding Agency's Academies Financial Handbook and Annual Accounts Direction. We performed audit procedures to detect non-compliances which may have a material impact on the financial statements which included reviewing the financial statements including the Trustees' Report.

The most significant laws and regulations that have an indirect impact on the financial statements are those in relation to the Education Inspection Framework under the Education Act 2005 (as amended), Keeping Children Safe in Education under the Education Act 2002, the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. We performed audit procedures to inquire of management and those charged with governance whether the charitable company is in compliance with these law and regulations and inspected correspondence with regulatory authorities.

The audit engagement team identified the risk of management override of controls as the area where the financial statements were most susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. Audit procedures performed included but were not limited to testing manual journal entries and other adjustments, evaluating the business rationale in relation to significant, unusual transactions and transactions entered into outside the normal course of business, challenging judgments and estimates.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
TURNER SCHOOLS YEAR ENDING ON 31 AUGUST 2023

Use of our report

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

RSM UK Audit LLP

ZOE LONGSTAFF-TYRRELL (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of RSM UK AUDIT LLP, Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

Portland

25 High Street

Crawley

West Sussex

RH10 1BG

Date: 12/12/23

TURNER SCHOOLS
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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


	Note	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	31.08.23 Total Funds £'000	31.08.22 Total Funds £'000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	54	-	313	367	323
Free school teaching block		-	-	-	-	5,836
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the trust's educational operations	3	435	19,069	-	19,504	17,659
Other trading activities	4	92	-	-	92	137
Investments	5	14	-	-	14	-
Total income		595	19,069	313	19,977	23,955
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
Trust's educational operations	6	430	18,803	2,356	21,589	19,922
Total expenditure	7	430	18,803	2,356	21,589	19,922
Net income / (expenditure) for the year		165	266	(2,043)	(1,612)	4,033
Transfers between funds	19	-	(1,060)	1,060	-	-
		165	(794)	(983)	(1,612)	4,033
Other recognised gains and losses						
Actuarial (losses) gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19 & 22	-	1,633	-	1,633	11,405
Net movement in funds		165	839	(983)	21	15,438
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	19	1,096	(305)	63,482	64,273	48,835
Net income/(expenditure) – carried forward		1,261	534	62,499	64,294	64,273

TURNER SCHOOLS
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 10084743

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	31.08.23 £'000	31.08.23 £'000	31.08.22 £'000	31.08.22 £'000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		63,058		64,151
Current assets					
Stocks	14	-		-	
Debtors	15	798		779	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,733		2,466	
		<u>2,531</u>		<u>3,245</u>	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	(846)		(1,088)	
		<u>(846)</u>		<u>(1,088)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>1,685</u>		<u>2,157</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>64,743</u>		<u>66,308</u>
Creditors					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	17		(449)		(559)
Net assets excluding pension liability			<u>64,294</u>		<u>65,749</u>
Pension scheme asset	22		-		(1,476)
Total net assets			<u>64,294</u>		<u>64,273</u>
Funds of the trust:					
Restricted funds					
Fixed asset funds	19	62,499		63,482	
General funds	19	534		1,171	
Pension reserve	19	-		(1,476)	
Total restricted funds			<u>63,033</u>		<u>63,177</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	19	<u>1,261</u>		<u>1,096</u>	
Total unrestricted funds			<u>1,261</u>		<u>1,096</u>
Total funds			<u>64,294</u>		<u>64,273</u>

The financial statements on pages 26 to 53 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 11 December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:



Michael Buchanan
Chair of Trust Board

TURNER SCHOOLS
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	31.08.23 £'000	31.08.22 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	1	313	1,029
Cash flows from investing activities	2	(936)	(768)
Cash flows from financing activities	3	(110)	(110)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>(733)</u>	<u>151</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2022		2,466	2,315
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2023	4	<u>1,733</u>	<u>2,466</u>

TURNER SCHOOLS
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	31.08.23	31.08.22
	£'000	£'000
Net income for the period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(1,612)	4,033
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation charges (note 13)	2,356	1,738
Loss (profit) on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	47
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA and other capital income (note 2)	(313)	(232)
Interest received (note 5)	(14)	-
Fixed assets donations on transfer into trust (note 2 and note 19)	-	(5,836)
Defined benefit pension finance cost (note 22)	157	1,435
Decrease in stocks	-	2
(Increase) in debtors	(19)	(62)
(Decrease) in creditors	(242)	(96)
Net cash provided by operating activities	313	1,029

2. Cash flows from investing activities

	31.08.23	31.08.22
	£'000	£'000
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	14	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,263)	(1,000)
Capital grants	313	232
Net cash used in investing activities	(936)	(768)

3. Cash flows from financing activities

	31.08.23	31.08.22
	£'000	£'000
Cash outflows for loan repayments	(110)	(110)
Net cash used in financing activities	(110)	(110)

4. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	31.08.23	31.08.22
	£'000	£'000
Cash in hand and at bank	1,733	2,466
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,733	2,466

5. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022	Cash flows	Other non-cash changes	At 31 August 2023
	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000
Cash	2,466	(733)	-	1,733
Loans falling due within one year	(110)	110	(110)	(110)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(559)	-	110	(449)
Total	1,797	(623)	-	1,174

TURNER SCHOOLS
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Turner Schools meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. The trust presents its results rounded to the nearest thousand pound sterling.

Going concern

The trustees have considered whether it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on the basis that the Academy Trust is a going concern. Confirmed funding, the cash flow forecast and the trust's four year budget forecast support this basis. The trust is funded by the ESFA and the amount of funding for the financial year 2023/24 is known and guaranteed. The trust has submitted its record of students on the enumeration date of 5 October 2023, and so expects that the funding for the year to 31 August 2024 will be in excess of the previous year. The trustees believe that the charity has sufficient funds to continue its activities for at least twelve months from the date of signing the financial statements and that there are no material uncertainties impacting on that assessment.

As at 31 August 2023 the trust held cash reserves of £1,733k.

Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

Donations

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

Other income

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

TURNER SCHOOLS
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES – continued

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'.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Donated fixed assets (excluding transfers on conversion/into the trust)

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

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

- Expenditure on raising funds

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

- Charitable activities

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES – continued

Tangible Fixed Assets

Assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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 basis over its expected useful economic life, as follows:

Leasehold land	- 0%
Buildings	- 2%
Building Maintenance	- 5% - 20%
Furniture and equipment	- 10% - 20%
Computer equipment	- 25%
Motor vehicles	- 20%

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.

Liabilities

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

Provisions

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

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

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES – continued

Leased Assets

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

Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 16 and 17. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

Taxation

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

Accordingly, the trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by part 11, chapter 3 Part 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.

Pensions Benefits

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

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

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the 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 the 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.

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES – continued

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

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the 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 Education and Skills Funding Agency and the local authority.

Agency Arrangements

The trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from the ESFA. Payments received from the ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the Statement of Financial Activities as the trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The trust can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 24.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The trust makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are disclosed 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 22, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

The net book value of leasehold property, included within fixed assets, is based on assumptions in relation to the useful life of property and the residual value of the assets. The element of leasehold property which relates to land is deemed to have a finite life of 125 years and is depreciated accordingly. The element of leasehold property which does not relate to land is depreciated on a straight line basis of 50 years, being the estimated useful economic life and it is assumed that the asset has no residual value on the basis of its specialised nature. Any changes in these assumptions will have an impact on the carrying amount of fixed assets.

Critical areas of judgement

The trustees do not consider there to be any critical areas of judgement, other than those relating to estimation above, which have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

TURNER SCHOOLS
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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

2. DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	31.08.23 Total Funds £'000	31.08.22 Total Funds £'000
Capital grants	-	313	313	232
Donated fixed assets	-	-	-	5,836
Other donations	54	-	54	91
	<u>54</u>	<u>313</u>	<u>367</u>	<u>6,159</u>

3. FUNDING FOR THE TRUST'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	31.08.23 Total Funds £'000	31.08.22 Total Funds £'000
DfE/ESFA revenue grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	15,663	15,663	14,553
Other DfE / ESFA grants				
UIFSM	-	73	73	65
Pupil Premium	-	1,149	1,149	1,036
PE and Sports Grant	-	51	51	63
Rates Reclaim	-	-	-	66
Teachers' Pay Grant	-	2	2	11
Teachers' Pension Grant Others	-	31	31	32
Schools Supplementary Grant	-	486	486	196
Mainstream Schools Supplementary Grant	-	234	234	-
Other DfE Group Grants	-	88	88	97
	<u>-</u>	<u>17,777</u>	<u>17,777</u>	<u>16,119</u>
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	885	885	714
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	435	15	450	512
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)				
Catch-up premium	-	8	8	39
School-led tutoring grant	-	143	143	136
Recovery funding	-	241	241	139
	<u>435</u>	<u>19,069</u>	<u>19,504</u>	<u>17,659</u>

The trust received £402k of funding for school-led tutoring grant and recovery funding in the year. An anticipated clawback of £18k has been accrued for the school-led tutoring grant received in the period.

TURNER SCHOOLS
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	31.08.23 Total Funds £'000	31.08.22 Total Funds £'000
Hire of facilities	71	-	71	50
Uniform sales	1	-	1	3
Other income	20	-	20	84
	<u>92</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>137</u>

5. INVESTMENTS INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	31.08.23 Total Funds £'000	31.08.22 Total Funds £'000
Deposit account interest	<u>14</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>-</u>

6. EXPENDITURE

	Staff Costs £'000	Premises Costs £'000	Other Costs £'000	31.08.23 Total £'000	31.08.22 Total £'000
Charitable activities					
Academy's educational operations					
Direct costs	12,725	-	1,425	14,150	12,102
Allocated support costs	<u>2,597</u>	<u>1,218</u>	<u>3,624</u>	<u>7,439</u>	<u>7,820</u>
	<u>15,322</u>	<u>1,218</u>	<u>5,049</u>	<u>21,589</u>	<u>19,922</u>

Net income / (expenditure) for the period includes:

	31.08.23 £'000	31.08.22 £'000
Operating lease rentals	32	31
Depreciation	2,356	1,738
Auditor's remuneration	42	30
Auditor's remuneration for non-audit work	8	4
Interest on ESFA loan	11	11

TURNER SCHOOLS
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 2023

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES – TRUST'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	31.08.23 Total £'000	31.08.22 Total £'000
Direct costs				
Direct costs – educational operations	341	13,809	14,150	12,102
Support costs – educational operations	89	7,350	7,439	7,820
	<u>430</u>	<u>21,159</u>	<u>21,589</u>	<u>19,922</u>
Allocated support costs				
Support staff costs	63	2,482	2,545	3,455
Depreciation	-	2,356	2,356	1,738
Technology costs	-	289	289	288
Maintenance of premises and equipment	26	560	586	623
Rent, rates and water	-	113	113	106
Energy costs	-	455	455	324
Insurance	-	64	64	71
Bank interest and charges	-	21	21	20
Governance costs	-	50	50	35
Professional services	-	80	80	103
Defined benefit pension net interest cost	-	53	53	189
Other support costs	-	827	827	868
	<u>89</u>	<u>7,350</u>	<u>7,439</u>	<u>7,820</u>

Included within expenditure are the following transactions:

	Total £	Individual items above £5,000	
		Amount £	Reason
Gifts made by the academy trust	£3,274	Nil	Not applicable

TURNER SCHOOLS
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 2023

8. STAFF

a) Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	31.08.23 £'000	31.08.22 £'000
Wages and salaries	10,977	9,596
Social security costs	1,091	949
Pension Costs	2,580	3,517
	<u>14,648</u>	<u>14,062</u>
Supply teacher costs	635	441
Staff restructuring costs	39	-
	<u>15,322</u>	<u>14,503</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy payments	-	-
Severance payments	39	-
	<u>39</u>	<u>-</u>

b) Severance payments

The trust paid 3 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

0 - £25,000 3

c) Non-statutory/non-contractual staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £39,160 (2022: £0). Individually, the payments were: £7,423, £8,160 and £23,577.

d) Staff numbers

The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the trust during the year expressed as head count and full time equivalents was as follows:

	31.08.23		31.08.22	
Charitable activities	Head count	FTE	Head count	FTE
Teaching	163	156	152	144
Administration and Support	203	155	206	155
Management	10	10	9	9
	<u>376</u>	<u>321</u>	<u>367</u>	<u>308</u>

TURNER SCHOOLS
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 2023

e) Higher paid staff

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

	31.08.23	31.08.22
£60,000 - £70,000	13	8
£70,001 - £80,000	2	2
£80,001 - £90,000	2	0
£90,001 - £100,000	1	1
£100,001 - £110,000	1	0
£110,001 - £120,000	0	0
£120,001 - £130,000	1	1
	<u>20</u>	<u>12</u>

f) Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the trust was £510,696. (2022: £488,727).

9. CENTRAL SERVICES

The trust has provided central services to its academies during the year including human resources, financial services, IT, facilities and cleaning, governance, legal and professional support services (including educational support and fundraising) to its academies during the period.

The trust withholds between 6% and 6.5% of funds depending on the circumstances of each Academy. This is approved and reviewed at Board level.

The actual amounts charged during the period were as follows:

	31.08.23 £'000	31.08.22 £'000
Morehall Primary	48	42
Martello Primary	49	42
Folkestone Academy	405	418
Folkestone Primary	102	95
Turner Free School	315	236
	<u>919</u>	<u>833</u>

TURNER SCHOOLS
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 2023

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS - TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from employment with the trust. The Chief Executive Officer and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of staff members under their contracts of employment. Other trustees did not receive any payments from the trust, including expenses, in respect of their role as trustees. The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

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

Mr S Murphy	Chief Executive and trustee
	Remuneration - £125,002 (2022: £128,750)
	Employer's pension contributions - £29,601 (2022: £30,488)

During the period ended 31 August 2023, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £0 (2022 £0). Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 23.

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 trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £1,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the period ended 31 August 2023 was £58,307 (2022: £50,454). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

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

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	31.8.22 Total Funds £'000
Income from:					
Donations and capital grants	2	91	-	232	323
Free school teaching block		-	-	5,836	5,836
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Funding for the trust's educational operations	3	528	17,131	-	17,659
Other trading activities	4	137	-	-	137
Investments	5	-	-	-	-
Total income		<u>756</u>	<u>17,131</u>	<u>6,068</u>	<u>23,955</u>
Expenditure on:					
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Trust's educational operations	6	<u>530</u>	<u>17,654</u>	<u>1,738</u>	<u>19,922</u>
Total expenditure	7	<u>530</u>	<u>17,654</u>	<u>1,738</u>	<u>19,922</u>
Net income / (expenditure)		226	(523)	4,330	4,033
Transfer between funds		-	(830)	830	-
Other recognised gains and losses					
Actuarial (losses) gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19 & 22	-	11,405	-	11,405
Net movement in funds		<u>226</u>	<u>10,052</u>	<u>5,160</u>	<u>15,438</u>
Total funds brought forward	19	<u>870</u>	<u>(10,357)</u>	<u>58,322</u>	<u>48,835</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>1,096</u>	<u>(305)</u>	<u>63,482</u>	<u>64,273</u>

TURNER SCHOOLS
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold land and buildings	Leasehold land and buildings	Furniture and equipment	Computer equipment	Motor vehicles	Totals
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
COST						
At 1 September 2022	61,303	6,650	1,143	1,900	68	71,064
Additions	671	8	151	382	51	1,263
At 31 August 2023	<u>61,974</u>	<u>6,658</u>	<u>1,294</u>	<u>2,282</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>72,327</u>
DEPRECIATION						
At 1 September 2022	4,240	1,118	647	894	14	6,913
Charge for year	1,447	155	179	560	15	2,356
At 31 August 2023	<u>5,687</u>	<u>1,273</u>	<u>826</u>	<u>1,454</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>9,269</u>
NET BOOK VALUE						
At 31 August 2022	<u>57,063</u>	<u>5,532</u>	<u>496</u>	<u>1,006</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>64,151</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>56,287</u>	<u>5,385</u>	<u>468</u>	<u>828</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>63,058</u>

TURNER SCHOOLS
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

14. STOCKS	31.08.23 £'000	31.08.22 £'000
Uniforms	-	-
15. DEBTORS	31.08.23 £'000	31.08.22 £'000
Trade debtors	14	21
VAT recoverable	90	222
Prepayments and accrued income	693	532
Other debtors	1	4
	<u>798</u>	<u>779</u>
16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	31.08.23 £'000	31.08.22 £'000
Loans	110	110
Trade creditors	400	637
Other creditors	39	81
Accruals and deferred income (deferred income - note 18)	297	260
	<u>846</u>	<u>1,088</u>
17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR	31.08.23 £'000	31.08.22 £'000
Loans	449	559
	<u>449</u>	<u>559</u>

The loans and advances from the ESFA/advance and are provided on the following terms:

	Original loan £'000	Duration	Term remaining	Due < 1 year £'000	Due > 1 year £'000
ESFA	1,100	10 years	5 years	110	449
Total				<u>110</u>	<u>449</u>

The interest rate on the loan is fixed at a rate of 1.85%.

TURNER SCHOOLS
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18. DEFERRED INCOME

	31.08.23	31.08.22
	£'000	£'000
Deferred income at 1 September 22	57	219
Resources deferred in the year	56	57
Amounts released from previous years	(57)	(219)
Deferred income at 31 August 23	<u>56</u>	<u>57</u>

Deferred income at 31 August 2023 represents Universal Infant Free School Meal income of £44,728 and unspent PE & Sports Funding of £11,556 (2022: £57,277). Deferred funds have been received in advance and either relate to the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 or due to specific ESFA guidance.

19. FUNDS

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, Losses and Transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,098	15,663	(15,317)	(1,060)	384
Other ESFA grants	-	892	(892)	-	-
UIFSM	-	73	(73)	-	-
Pupil Premium	73	1,149	(1,072)	-	150
SLTG and Recovery funding	-	392	(392)	-	-
Other government grants	-	885	(885)	-	-
Other restricted funding	-	15	(15)	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,476)	-	(157)	1,633	-
	<u>(305)</u>	<u>19,069</u>	<u>(18,803)</u>	<u>573</u>	<u>534</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Assets	63,482	313	(2,356)	1,060	62,499
	<u>63,482</u>	<u>313</u>	<u>(2,356)</u>	<u>1,060</u>	<u>62,499</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>63,177</u>	<u>19,382</u>	<u>(21,159)</u>	<u>1,633</u>	<u>63,033</u>
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted funds	1,096	595	(430)	-	1,261
Total unrestricted funds	<u>1,096</u>	<u>595</u>	<u>(430)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,261</u>
Total funds	<u>64,273</u>	<u>19,977</u>	<u>(21,589)</u>	<u>1,633</u>	<u>64,294</u>

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

19. FUNDS – continued

The academy trust is not subject to GAG carried forward limits.

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

General Annual Grant (GAG)

Funds must be used for the normal running costs of the trust. Under the master funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the trust was not subject to limits on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023.

Other restricted general funds

Funding is provided by government grants in addition to the GAG which must be used for the provision of education for special needs purposes and other specified activities.

Restricted fixed asset funds

Funding is provided by way of government grants or capital expenditure from the GAG or unrestricted funds in order to acquire specified fixed assets for use by the trust in achieving its educational objectives.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds can be used for any purpose at the discretion of the trust.

Transfers

A transfer of £1,060,000 was made in the period from GAG funds in the restricted general funds to the restricted fixed asset capital funds. This transfer brings the restricted fixed asset and capital funds in line with long term loan repayments due which were used to purchase major fixed asset expenditure. (2022: £830,000 restricted general funds).

TURNER SCHOOLS
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19. FUNDS – continued

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, Losses and Transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	939	14,552	(13,563)	(830)	1,098
Other ESFA grants	-	434	(434)	-	-
UIFSM	-	65	(65)	-	-
Pupil Premium	150	1,036	(1,113)	-	73
SLTG and Recovery funding	-	315	(315)	-	-
Other government grants	-	714	(714)	-	-
Other restricted funding	-	15	(15)	-	-
Pension reserve	(11,446)	-	(1,435)	11,405	(1,476)
	<u>(10,357)</u>	<u>17,131</u>	<u>(17,654)</u>	<u>10,575</u>	<u>(305)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Assets	58,322	6,068	(1,738)	830	63,482
	<u>58,322</u>	<u>6,068</u>	<u>(1,738)</u>	<u>830</u>	<u>63,482</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>47,965</u>	<u>23,199</u>	<u>(19,392)</u>	<u>11,405</u>	<u>63,177</u>
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted funds	<u>870</u>	<u>756</u>	<u>(530)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,096</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>870</u>	<u>756</u>	<u>(530)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,096</u>
Total funds	<u>48,835</u>	<u>23,955</u>	<u>(19,922)</u>	<u>11,405</u>	<u>64,273</u>

TURNER SCHOOLS
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 2023

19. FUNDS – continued

Analysis of academies by fund balance

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Martello Primary	589	495
Morehall Primary	(199)	(223)
Folkestone Primary	284	319
Folkestone Academy	181	532
Turner Free School	862	665
Turner Schools MAT	78	479
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	1,795	2,267
Restricted fixed asset fund	62,499	63,482
Pension reserve	-	(1,476)
Total	64,294	64,273

Morehall Primary school is carrying a deficit of £199K (2022 £223K) on these funds because of a long term strategic school improvement and capital investment plan which resulted in a 'Good' Ofsted rating. The school now has 5 fully recruited year groups and nursery provision at full capacity. As a result, a deficit budget of £552k has been set for 2023/24, thus reducing the reserves whilst still maintaining one months plus salary cover.

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £'000	Other Support Staff Costs £'000	Educational Supplies £'000	Other Costs (excluding Depreciation) £'000	Total £'000
Martello Primary	1,028	107	68	181	1,384
Morehall Primary	838	134	62	164	1,198
Folkestone Academy	5,318	765	643	1,099	7,825
Folkestone Primary	1,600	265	121	248	2,234
Turner Free School	3,685	603	390	602	5,280
Turner Schools MAT	255	724	143	190	1,312
	12,724	2,598	1,427	2,484	19,233

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

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £'000	Other Support Staff Costs £'000	Educational Supplies £'000	Other Costs (excluding Depreciation) £'000	Total £'000
Martello Primary	874	90	45	204	1,213
Morehall Primary	731	120	63	179	1,093
Folkestone Academy	4,912	770	617	1,258	7,557
Folkestone Primary	1,573	268	119	207	2,167
Turner Free School	2,591	459	250	454	3,754
Turner Schools MAT	178	1,937	149	136	2,400
	10,859	3,644	1,243	2,438	18,184

TURNER SCHOOLS
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
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20. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset funds £'000	Total funds £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	63,058	63,058
Current assets	1,261	1,270	-	2,531
Current liabilities	-	(736)	(110)	(846)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(449)	(449)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	-
Total net assets	<u>1,261</u>	<u>534</u>	<u>62,499</u>	<u>64,294</u>

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

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset funds £'000	Total funds £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	64,151	64,151
Current assets	1,096	2,149	-	3,245
Current liabilities	-	(978)	(110)	(1,088)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(559)	(559)
Pension scheme liability	-	(1,476)	-	(1,476)
Total net assets	<u>1,096</u>	<u>(305)</u>	<u>63,482</u>	<u>64,273</u>

Operating Leases

At the reporting end date the trust had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Within one year	31,535	31,454

21. 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.

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

22. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS

The 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 Kent County Council. Both are multi-employer defined-benefit schemes.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. 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.

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for teachers in academies. All teachers have the option to opt-out of the TPS following enrolment. The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions along with those made by employers are credited to the Exchequer. The trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The trust has set out below the information available on the scheme.

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 2023 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 in accordance with The Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2023 and the Employer Contribution Rate was assessed using agreed assumptions in line with the Directions and was accepted at the original assessed rate as there was no cost control mechanism breach. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 26 October 2023. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- Total scheme liabilities for service (the capital sum needed at 31 March 2020 to meet the stream of future cash flows in respect of benefits earned) of £262 billion
- Value of notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the proceeds from the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222 billion
- Notional past service deficit of £39.8 billion (2016 £22 billion)
- Discount rate is 1.7% in excess of CPI (2016 2.4% in excess of CPI) (this change has had the greatest financial significance)

As a result of the valuation, new employer contribution rates have been set at 28.6% of pensionable pay from 1 April 2024 until 31 March 2027 (compared to 23.68% under the previous valuation including a 0.08% administration levy).

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £1,599,615 (2022: £1,363,732).

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

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

22. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS – continued

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the period ended 31 August 2023 was £1,050,370 (2022: £915,066), of which employers' contributions totalled £831,695 (2022: £759,864) and employees' contributions totalled £218,675, (2022: £197,265). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 22.5 per cent for employers and between 5.5 per cent and 12.5 per cent for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of 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.

The following information is based upon a full actuarial valuation of the fund at 31 March 2019 updated to 31 August 2022 by a qualified independent actuary.

Principal actuarial assumptions

	31.08.23	31.08.22
Discount rate	5.30%	4.25%
Future salary increases	3.90%	3.90%
Future pension increases	2.90%	2.90%

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

	31.08.23	31.08.22
Retiring today		
Males	20.7	21.7
Females	23.2	23.7
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	22.0	23.0
Females	24.6	25.2

Sensitivity analysis

	Increase in obligation at 31 August 2023	Increase in obligation at 31 August 2022
Change in assumptions:	£,000	£,000
0.1% decrease in real discount rate	12,260	13,384
1 year increase in member life expectancy	12,344	13,410
0.1% increase in the salary increase rate	12,018	13,061
0.1% increase in the pension increase rate	12,254	13,369

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
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22. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS - continued

Local Government Pension Scheme - continued

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

	Fair value at 31 August 2023 £'000	Fair value at 31 August 2022 £'000
Equities	7,964	7,580
Gilts	73	67
Other bonds	1,733	1,530
Property	1,265	1,360
Cash/liquidity	132	196
Absolute Return Fund	899	833
Infrastructure	475	-
Total market value of assets	12,541	11,566
Present value of scheme liabilities		
- Funded	(12,006)	(13,042)
Asset/(liability) in the scheme	535	(1,476)

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

	31.08.23 £'000	31.08.22 £'000
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	(927)	(1,989)
Past service cost	-	(17)
Interest income	508	187
Interest cost	(554)	(370)
Administration expense	(7)	(6)
Total operating charge	(980)	(2,195)
Recognised in other gains/(losses)		
Re-measurement gains/(losses)	2,168	11,405
Less asset restriction in the year	(535)	-
Total gain/(cost) recognised	653	9,210

The actuarial re-measurements for the current year are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

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

22. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS - continued

Local Government Pension Scheme – continued

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

	31.08.23 £'000	31.08.22 £'000
Opening defined benefit obligation	13,042	22,354
Current service cost	927	1,989
Employee contributions	216	198
Interest cost	554	370
Past service cost	-	17
Estimated benefits paid net of transfers in	(240)	(151)
(Gains)/losses on changes in financial assumptions	(3,144)	(13,184)
Change in demographic assumptions	(456)	-
Experience loss/(gain) on defined benefit obligation	1,107	1,449
	<u>12,006</u>	<u>13,042</u>

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

	31.08.23 £'000	31.08.22 £'000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	11,566	10,908
Employer contributions	823	760
Employee contributions	216	198
Interest on plan assets	508	187
Estimated benefits paid plus unfunded net of transfers in	(240)	(151)
Administration expenses	(7)	(6)
Return on plan assets (excluding net interest on the net defined benefit liability)	(594)	(330)
Other actuarial gains/(losses)	269	-
	<u>12,541</u>	<u>11,566</u>

	31.08.23 £'000
Present value of defined benefit obligations	12,006
Fair value of plan assets	12,541
Net assets	(535)
Restriction to level of asset ceiling	535
Net asset recognised in Balance Sheet	<u>-</u>

The value of the trust's share of net assets has been restricted due to the effect of the asset ceiling being the maximum value of the present economic benefits available in the form of the unconditional right to reduced contributions from the plan.

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

23. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Owing to the nature of the 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.

Fingerhut Consulting – a company in which Jonathan Fingerhut (a member) has a majority interest. Fingerhut Consulting provided staff mentoring and training to key management personnel and marketing consultancy in the reporting period. The total cost to the trust for the service provided was £1,731.

Beyond Autism – a company in which Tracie Coultas-Pitman (a member) is CEO. Beyond Autism are working with the trust on a provision for autistic pupils. The total cost to the trust for the service provided was £4,670.

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

24. AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ended 31 August 2023 the trust received £16,869 (2022: £15,238) and disbursed £14,900 (2022: £20,665). A balance of £12,707 is held in other creditors (2022: £10,738).

25. EVENTS AFTER THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD

On 1 September 2023, Dover Christ Church Academy joined the academy trust.

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO TURNER SCHOOLS AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

Conclusion

We have carried out an engagement in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 18 May 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency ('ESFA') as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts, to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Turner Schools during the period 1 September to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Basis for conclusion

The framework that has been applied is set out in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trust. We are independent of Turner Schools in accordance with the ethical requirements that are applicable to this engagement and we have fulfilled our ethical requirements in accordance with these requirements. We believe the assurance evidence we have obtained is sufficient to provide a basis for our conclusion.

Responsibilities of Turner Schools accounting officer and trustees

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Turner Schools funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 18 May 2022 and the Academies Financial Handbook extant from 1 September, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received are applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. The accounting officer is also responsible for preparing the Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance. The trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the proper conduct and financial operation of Turner Schools and appointment of the accounting officer.

Reporting Accountant's responsibilities for reporting on regularity

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 extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts

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 the procedures performed vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for a reasonable assurance engagement; consequently a limited assurance engagement 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.

We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our work included identification and assessment of the design and operational effectiveness of the controls, policies and procedures that have been implemented to ensure compliance with the framework of authorities including the specific requirements of the funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education, the Academies Financial Handbook 2022 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and high level financial control areas where we identified a material risk of irregularity is likely to arise. It also included areas assessed as presenting a higher risk of impropriety. We undertook detailed testing, on a sample basis, based on the identified areas where a material irregularity is likely to arise, or potential impropriety where such areas are in respect of controls, policies and procedures that apply to classes of transactions. Our work was undertaken with due regard to the 'Evidence to support conclusion on regularity' guidance in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts.

This work was integrated with our audit on the financial statements and evidence was also derived from the conduct of that audit to the extent it supports the regularity conclusion.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to Turner Schools and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 18 May 2022. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Turner Schools 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 Turner Schools and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

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Date: 12/12/23