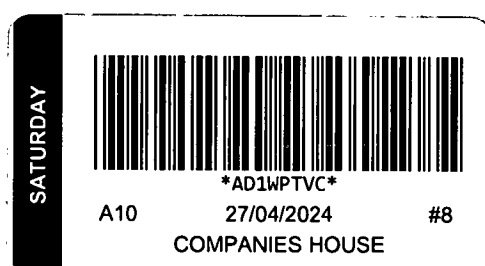




Company registration number 10768218 (England and Wales)

THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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





THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

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THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

I Franklin
M Leeder
A Whitehouse (Appointed 28 September 2022)
T Winter (Appointed 28 September 2022)
L Mirfin (Resigned 29 September 2022)

Trustees

P Webster (Chief Executive & Accounting Officer)
R Amery
A Brodie (Chair)
S Forman
J Buck
L Parker
P Marland
C Matthews
M Talbot
S Akram (Appointed 14 September 2023)
B Procter (Appointed 23 March 2023)
A Smith (Appointed 27 February 2023)
A Jolly (Appointed 23 March 2023 and resigned 5 July 2023)

Senior management team

- Chief Executive Officer
- Head Teacher - New Bradwell Primary School
- Head Teacher - Jubilee Wood Primary School
- Head Teacher - Old Stratford Primary School
- Head Teacher - Deanshanger Primary School

P Webster
P Webster / S Grey (Appointed 1 September 2023)
M O'Brien
K Morris
R Rice

Company registration number

10768218 (England and Wales)

Principal and registered office

New Bradwell School
Bounty Street
New Bradwell
Milton Keynes
MK13 0BQ

Academies operated

New Bradwell Primary School
Jubilee Wood Primary School
Old Stratford Primary School
Deanshanger Primary School

Location

New Bradwell, Milton Keynes
Fishermead, Milton Keynes
Old Stratford, Milton Keynes
Deanshanger, Milton Keynes

Principal

P Webster
M O'Brien
K Morris
R Rice



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent auditor

Ellacotts Audit Services Limited
Countrywide House
23 West Bar
Banbury
Oxfordshire
OX16 9SA
England

Bankers

Lloyds Bank PLC
28 Secklow Gate West
Central Milton Keynes
MK9 3EH

Solicitors

Neves Solicitors LLP
Aurora House
Deltic Avenue
Rooksley
Milton Keynes
MK13 8LW



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

The Academy Trust operates four academies for pupils aged 4-11 in Milton Keynes and Northampton. Its academies have a combined pupil capacity of 1,920 and had a roll of 1,667 in the school census on 19 January 2023.

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 The Grand Union Partnership Trust Limited are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as The Grand Union Partnership.

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

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

Trustees benefit from indemnity insurance to cover the liability of the Trustees which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default or breach of trust or breach of duty which they may be guilty in relation to the Academy Trust. Details of the cost of insurance can be found in note 12 of the accounts.

The insurance provides cover for claims involving loss in any one claim that is unlimited. Public liability insurance also covers the board of trustees for claims involving personal injury, property damage etc. which is unlimited.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The Trustees have set up procedures that will enable regular review to be carried out of the mix of skills that should be available to the Board. New Trustees are then sought with these skills, either as additional or replacements when existing Trustees stand down. The great majority of new Trustees are drawn from the local community being either parents or guardians of pupils at one of the schools or others that have shown an interest in the future well-being of the Trust and its students. Recruitment is therefore through a combination of approaches to individuals with known skills and by wider communications to those within the Milton Keynes and Northampton area.

New Trustees are appointed to the Board by the Members until the date of the next Annual General Meeting at which time they are eligible for re-election for a period of four years. At the end of a four-year term, retiring Trustees are eligible for re-election for a further term of office. Potential new Trustees are interviewed, and references are taken up to check their suitability for the role.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

Individual Trustees attend training courses and conferences organised by appropriate bodies in order to ensure their knowledge and understanding is fully up to date. A series of briefings for the Board and the senior management team of the schools as a whole is also designed when necessary based on areas of potential interest and/or concern.



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

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

Organisational structure

- Members – who establish the trust and set out the constitution of the school, through signing its memorandum and articles of association. They can appoint and dismiss Trustees/Governors;
- Trustees – who set the strategic direction for the MAT and are accountable to the Secretary of State for the performance of the schools within it.
- Local Academy committees – who oversee different functions of schools within the Trust, depending on the responsibility delegated to them by Trustees;
- Chief Executive (CEO)/Head of development – who provide the professional leadership of the Trust;
- Head Teacher – who are responsible for the day-to-day running of each school in the MAT and who are accountable to the Trustees/LGBs, depending on where responsibility is delegated within the MAT. The CEO may also be a Head Teacher.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Chief Executive Officer's pay is determined by the Trustees and benchmarked against similar roles. Arrangements for setting pay for the Senior Leadership Team are determined by the respective Teacher and Support Staff Pay Policies.

All pay for key management personnel is determined as an outcome of the performance management process which is used to make recommendations to the relevant Governor Pay Committee as to the level of pay increase as set out in the pay policy. Pay increases can only be actioned with Governor approval.

There are two union representatives employed by the academy trust. No time has been taken from their usual school hours to undertake any of this work.

Engagement with employees

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Arbor, Edukey and Sage finance are used across all three schools to maintain central information.

Swift IT support all schools with managed IT services.

Trade union facility time

Facility Time is the provision of paid or unpaid time off from an employee's normal role to undertake trade union duties and activities as a trade union representative. The Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017 requires the Academy Trust to publish data in relation to their employees who are trade union representative and the time spent as representatives.

During the period in question the Academy Trust had no employees who were relevant union officials and no union facility time was spent by the Academy Trusts staff.



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

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

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Strategic Objectives for 2022-26

Over the course of the next five years the Grand Union Partnership will focus on delivering three key strategic objectives:

1). Quality of Education - Enhance curriculum design and implementation to ensure that children in all our schools consistently make good progress in the acquisition of knowledge and development of skills across a rich and varied curriculum, with all of our schools taking the steps to be rated at least 'Good with Outstanding Features' within two years of joining the Trust

Our progress with this objective will be assessed by considering our performance versus established national averages and the development of a set of metrics that considers wider progress against the full breadth of the curriculum. By 2025 performance data will demonstrate that the progress children make, across the Trust, is above the equivalent national rates. Ofsted inspection outcomes will be consistently good, demonstrating that each of our schools promotes a well-crafted, rounded curriculum that meets the needs of the community it serves and is skilfully delivered by our teachers.

2). Growth - Extending the work of the Trust to deliver education in the local area to circa 2,500 children by 2026

From September 2022 the Trust will include four schools, delivering education to just over 1,650 children. The aspiration over the life of this plan is to grow to around 2,500 children; depending on the size of the schools joining the Trust this is likely to see us expand to include 6-10 schools. Achieving this growth will both promote our financial sustainability and demonstrate our success as a local, primary-based Trust

3). Sustainability - Increase the capacity of the Trust to grow central leadership and shared resources to deliver even greater value to the communities we serve

We are committed to working in ways that encourage sustainability in relation to how we invest in our resources:

- Our Trust leadership
- Our staffing resources
- Our buildings and physical asset base

Delivering continued improvements in quality of teaching and learning on a sustainable basis will require changes to our central trust leadership team. The Trust Board recognises that transferring a number of hybrid roles serving both the Trust, and a school within the Trust, to a more centralised model is a priority for creating a structure that has the capacity to deliver our objectives in a sustainable way. The current hybrid model is not sustainable and therefore the Trust must grow to a size that supports a more clearly defined model with clearer roles and accountabilities and have a financial plan to support this.

We recognise that the quality of our staff, both teachers and wider support teams, continues to be core to our success. Over the life of this strategic plan the Trust will develop and invest in a Wellbeing Strategy that supports staff to thrive in their roles, recognising the many challenges they face.

We have a responsibility to model sustainability in relation to how we maintain and develop our estate and our physical asset base. We are developing a Trust wide strategy that seeks to minimise the impact that our schools have on the environment and model a responsible approach to the sustainable use of physical resources.



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

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

Successes to September 2023

1. Internal and external reviews of different aspects of the curriculum across our schools consistently demonstrate stronger practice.
2. Governance arrangements have been extended providing trustees and governors with further access to training and support in relation to both ad hoc and more formal development opportunities.
3. In January 2023, the Trust was approved as an Academy Sponsor, recognising the positive impact that we delivered and opening up new avenues for growth. Applications for two new schools were submitted in the summer of 2023.
4. Further opportunities for staff and children to collaborate have been provided. The staff survey in January 2023 showed that staff are developing a better understanding of the benefits that being part of the Grand Union Partnership delivers. Children engaged with a broader range of cross Trust opportunities (e.g. the Performing Arts Event at Stanton Bury Theatre) that will be further extended in the coming year
5. The Annual Report highlights successes across the Trust giving a clear overview of where we are at as a Trust.
6. The Headteacher at Jubilee Wood has taken on a part-time Executive Headteacher role at a local school, providing an opportunity for the Trust to demonstrate the potential longer-term impact that the school could experience as part of the Grand Union Partnership.
7. A new Headteacher for New Bradwell was recruited, enabling the CEO to move into this role on a full-time basis.
8. We have had successful audits of Trust finances; we continue to be in a strong financial position.
9. Safeguarding arrangements across the Trust continue to be strong and support governors and Trustees to explore their effectiveness.
10. Key elements of the staff recruitment process have been successfully moved to a central model.
11. A bespoke leadership programme for leaders was well received.
12. Admissions at Jubilee Wood and New Bradwell continue to be strong in the face of challenging national and local trends.

Public benefit

These overarching objectives and Trust level action plans inform each school's development plans and associated action plans. The Board of Trustees and Local Academy Committees monitor the implementation of improvement strategies and evaluate their impact on a termly basis.

The Trustees have taken The Charity Commission's specific guidance on public benefit (contained within the guidance document 'The Advancement of Education for the Public Benefit') into consideration in preparing their statements on public benefit contained within this Trustees' annual report.

Benefits & Beneficiaries

In accordance with its charitable objectives, the Academy Trust strives to:

- Advance the education of the children and young people attending its Academies. The Trust's primary beneficiaries are therefore the students, and benefits to students are provided through continuing to maintain a high standard of education throughout its schools; and
- Promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the area in which the Academies are located, and the surrounding areas, the provision of facilities for recreation and leisure time activities.

To determine whether or not the Trust has fulfilled its charitable objectives for public benefit, the Trustees gather Trustees' Assessment of Public Benefit evidence of the success of The Grand Union Partnership's activities using the range of measures developed and monitored through the staffing document for the Trust.



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

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

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

The Grand Union Partnership aims to provide high quality education for children and young people in Northampton and Milton Keynes. Schools sharing the Trust's aims and objectives are welcome to join the Trust in keeping with the strategic priority of growing the Trust in a substantial manner.

Key performance indicators

Key Indicators	National	The Grand Union Partnership	New Bradwell School	Jubilee Wood School	Old Stratford School	Deans-hanger Primary
% of EYFS pupils achieving GLD		66	62	62	81	70
% of Year 1 pupils will pass the phonics screening	79	85	91	76	90	83
% of pupils working at the national standard (KS1) in reading, writing & maths	Reading 68 Writing 60 Maths 70	67 64 74	66 63 72	58 60 67	77 73 90	71 67 76
% getting combined reading, writing & maths at expected level (KS2)	59	58	60	56	67	56
% Reading, writing, maths: Pupils achieving a high score	7	8	11	11	20	13
Reading progress score	0	0.1	1.6	-0.1	0.1	-1.1
Writing progress score	0	1.4	0.0	1.9	2.0	1.7
Maths progress score	0	0.6	2.6	-0.9	0.4	-2.0
% at expected standard for reading	73	69	74	64	73	67
% achieving a high standard in reading	28	27	32	20	40	32
% expected standard for writing	71	75	66	75	87	81
% achieving a high standard in writing	13	13	13	17	27	19
% at expected standard for maths	73	73	82	69	83	63
% achieving a high standard in maths	22	20	29	17	33	17
% at expected standard for SPAG	72	71	79	65	83	65
Average scaled score in Reading	105	105	106	101	107	104
Average scaled score in Maths	104	104	106	102	106	102
Average scaled score in SPAG	105	106	107	101	108	102

Going concern

Whilst there are concerns about the future of education funding in general, the Trustees have confidence in the Trust as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of these financial statements and have concluded the Academy Trust has adequate resources to be able to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual report and financial statements.



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

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

Financial review

Most of the Trust's income is obtained from the Department for Education (DfE) in the form of recurrent and capital grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received during the 2022/23 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Restricted Fixed Asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

During the period to 31 August 2023, total revenue expenditure of £9,781,643 (excluding depreciation) was covered by recurrent grant funding from the DfE together with other incoming resources. The excess of expenditure over revenue for the year (excluding restricted fixed asset funds and other funds inherited on conversion) was £344,875.

On 31st August 2023, the net book value of fixed assets was £20,537,779 and movement in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 13 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to the pupils of the Academy.

The Trust has a number of restricted funds. The purpose of these funds is set out in Note 17.

Reserves policy

The Trustees' policy is to generate reserves to provide funds to continue to enhance the educational facilities and services of the schools to fund future projects. Trustees measure reserves on the basis of the number of months reserves cover held based on average monthly expenditure during the year.

At the balance sheet date, the Trust had free reserves of £537,593 (2022 - £240,960). The Trustees intend to utilise these reserves in the near future to continue to develop the aims of the Trust and to insure against concerns surrounding the reduced funding and for capital development programmes. The Trust monitors reserves to identify early warning signs in the reserves going forward. This allows Trustees to work with senior management to protect reserves and to adopt strategies to allow the Trust to meet its reserves policy.

At 31 August 2023 the total funds comprised:

Unrestricted		£	537,593
Restricted:	Fixed asset funds	£	20,727,517
	Pension Reserve	£	(519,000)
	Other	£	520,408
	Total	£	21,266,518

Investment policy

The Trustees' investment powers are set down in the Trust's Memorandum and Articles of Association, which permit the investment of monies of the Trust not immediately required for its purposes in such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit subject to any restrictions which may from time to time be imposed or required by law.

All the Trust's funds to date have been held in Lloyds Bank accounts which attract a return of 0.50% above base rate. The Trust's investment policy has been reviewed and consideration given to the use of short-term deposits.



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

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

Principal risks and uncertainties

13. Trust does not make sufficient progress towards growth targets
14. Risk of impact that an uncontrollable event will have on the Trust e.g. recession, war, oil crisis, weather event, contagious infection.
15. Trust not seen favorably on social media.
16. Anticipated reduction in numbers of children starting in reception at each school in the Trust for the next three years.
17. Risk that energy, food and staff costs continue to escalate.
18. Risk that continued broader inflationary pressure will undermine the ability of each school in the trust to balance their budget for 22-23.
19. Facilities across the Trust are not effectively managed or maintained leading to inefficiencies with respect to higher costs.
20. Trustees delegate too little / too much to the CEO and Senior Leaders across the Trust.
21. Trustees do not ensure rigorous monitoring is undertaken in the absence of the CEO and / or CFO.

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

Fundraising

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) committees within the Trust have raised funds for the Schools within the Trust. During the 2022-23 Financial Year, the schools received a total of £8,498 (2022: £289) of funding from the PTA and other parent contributions.

Plans for future periods

Development priorities for 2023-24

Curriculum design

- Subject specific networks to be established across the trust informing both curriculum development and review.
- Continued expansion of curriculum enrichment opportunities for children at all schools in the Trust to access.
- Develop curriculum proposals for new school applications.

Teaching, learning and assessment

- Subject specific networks to contribute to capturing, sharing and transferring good practice across the trust.
- Establish effective moderation of assessment practice across the trust in relation to foundation subjects.
- Establish a TA Working Group to promote best practice across the trust.

Leadership and governance

- Develop career development and progression routes for all school and trust roles to clarify training opportunities for specific roles and potential progression paths.
- Adapt current financial planning approaches to align to the DfE Integrated Curriculum Financial Planning (ICFP) model.
- Regular trust communications to support staff at all levels across our schools to gain a better understanding of the ways that the work of the trust supports school development.
- Establish opportunities for Trustees to visit schools in the Trust to promote a greater understanding of their role within each school.



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

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

Plans for future periods

- External review of governance to be completed with a particular focus on recommended next steps to support growth.
- Work with IT service provider to set up Office365 links at Trust level to better support collaboration.
- Implementation of a common safeguarding platform across the schools in the Trust
- Extend guidance and frameworks for Trustees and Governors in relation to specific link roles.
- Continue to refine the use of performance measures deployed at school and Trust level and how these are reported to key stakeholders.
- Engage with local trusts to establish Trust level peer review activities.

Growth

- Implement Trust marketing plan to provide opportunities for schools who aren't currently members to be able to engage with the trust and explore what we have to offer.
- Develop proposals to be used in any new school applications that the Trust.
- Continue to work with schools that have joined some of our head meetings.

Organisational development

- Existing central roles to be appropriately budgeted for within the central trust budget.
- Develop plan for the next phase of central Trust roles that will support the Trust as it grows. Likely to include increasing capacity in relation to bookkeeping, administrative support for marketing and communications (e.g. websites, GDPR, etc) and the wider systems used across all of the schools in the Trust (e.g. Arbor, MyConcerns, etc). Capacity building in relation to governance will also be considered, though this will link into the review of governance that is planned to take place.
- Establish a shared calendar with supporting guidance for all non-teaching functions to ensure that expertise linked to key non-teaching processes is shared and that when new.

Staff health and wellbeing

- Monitor the impact of resources that enable staff to access external support linked to mental and physical health and wellbeing.
- Develop a working party to enable us to continue to support all colleagues.

Asset management

- CIF bids linked to Asset Management Plan applied for in relation to each school.
- Establish central Trust model for resource projects that schools can bid for.
- Develop the role of a central premises manager.

Funds held as custodian on behalf of others

Although the Trust maintains restricted funds to deal with incoming resources that are earmarked for a particular purpose by donors, sponsors, and other funders, The Grand Union Partnership does not hold, and the Trustees do not anticipate that it will in the future hold, any funds as custodian for a third party.



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

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

Employee involvement and employment of the disabled

The Trust encourages the involvement of its employees in its management through its practice of consulting on significant changes. Staff are represented on the Board of Trustees at each Local Academy Committee. Staff representative are responsible for the dissemination of information of particular concern to employees, including financial and economic factors affecting the performance of the Trust and for receiving their view on important matters of policy.

Applications for employment by disabled persons are always fully considered, bearing in mind the aptitudes of the applicant concerned. In the event of staff becoming disabled, every effort is made to ensure that their employment within the Trust continues and that the appropriate training is arranged. It is the policy of the Trust that the training, career development and promotion of disabled persons should, as far as possible, be identical to that of other employees.

The Trust's policy is to consult and discuss with employees, through unions, staff councils and at meetings, matters likely to affect employees' interests.

Information about matters of concern to employees is given through information bulletins and reports which seek to achieve a common awareness on the part of all employees of the financial and non-financial factors affecting the Trust's performance.

Auditor

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

Ellacotts Audit Services Limited were appointed as auditor of the charitable company and a resolution that they be reappointed will be put to the members.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 12th December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

..
A Brodie
Chair



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Scope of responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that The Grand Union Partnership 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.

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 The Grand Union Partnership and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 13 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
P Webster (Chief Executive & Accounting Officer)	6	6
R Amery	6	6
A Brodie (Chair)	5	6
S Forman	3	6
J Buck	4	6
L Parker	5	6
P Marland	3	6
C Matthews	3	6
M Talbot	5	6
S Akram (Appointed 14 September 2023)	4	6
B Procter (Appointed 23 March 2023)	1	2
A Smith (Appointed 27 February 2023)	1	1
A Jolly (Appointed 23 March 2023 and resigned 5 July 2023)	1	1



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Finance

- To oversee the school budgets for all schools in the Trust.
- To recommend to the Board of Directors approval of the consolidated annual budget plan for the forthcoming financial year in accordance with the schedule published by The Grand Union Partnership's Chief Financial officer
- Put in place a process of cash flow forecasting and review such forecasts periodically to ensure that Trust remains solvent at all times.
- To review the spending and income received in each Trust school.
- To receive termly consolidated management reports, to facilitate the monitoring of the Trust's actual financial performance compared with budgeted priorities and cash flow, and to take remedial action as necessary. Such action will be reported to the Local Academy Committee and The Grand Union Partnership Finance Director. In all cases liaison must be maintained with other appropriate committees.
- To make decisions or recommendations to the Board of Trustees to requests from Local Academy Committees that will impact on the Trust's financial position.
- To make decisions on expenditure within the Trust's delegated powers.
- To review annually The Grand Union Partnership Trusts Financial Regulations and Scheme of Delegation.
- To ensure the Register of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests is kept up to date and reviewed annually for Trustees and Governors.
- To ensure that funding from the ESFA and other sources is used only in accordance with any conditions attached.
- To Ensure that the Trust schools operate within all relevant financial and legal regulations (including Company and Charity Law and the requirements of the Funding Agreement together with all Tax legislation)
- To ensure the Trust schools adhere to the policies and procedures as specified by the Department for Education and the Academies Financial Handbook.
- To ensure that the Trust schools comply with The Grand Union Partnership Trusts Scheme of Delegation and associated documents.
- To ensure that all financial controls are adhered to in order to protect against fraudulent or improper use of public money and assets.
- Ensure arrangements are in place for the proper custody of the Trust's assets.
- Undertake, with the Finance Director of The Grand Union Partnership Trust, an annual review of the Trust schools' financial management.

Facilities

- In conjunction with the Local Academy Committees, to ensure that the buildings and grounds within the Trust are inspected annually and that a statement of priorities for maintenance and development is prepared.
- To advise Board of Trustees on priorities, including Health and Safety, for the maintenance and development of Trust premises.
- Ensure that the responsibilities of the Trust are discharged under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Personnel

- To review the staffing structure of the Trust in consultation with The Grand Union Partnership Trust Chief Executive Officer and the Local Academy Boards
- To ensure The Grand Union Partnership Trust procedure for recruitment and appointment of staff are followed
- To oversee the process leading to staff reductions and restructuring
- To ensure that established procedure when advertising, selecting and appointing new members of staff are followed by the Trust
- To ensure that each Local Academy Committee works within The Grand Union Partnership adopted personnel policies, such as discipline, capability, grievance and redundancy
- To monitor action taken under the capability or disciplinary procedures
- To ensure The Grand Union Partnership Trust's Policy for reviewing the performance of staff is implemented.
- To review reports on accidents, near misses and incidents of aggressive behaviour involving The Grand Union Partnership Trust's central staff.

Audit

- To advise the Board of Directors on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Academy Trust's system of internal financial control and its arrangements for risk management, control and governance processes, and securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness (value for money).
- To advise the Board of Directors on the appointment, re-appointment, dismissal and remuneration of the financial statements auditor and the Internal Audit Service;
- To advise the Board of Directors on the scope and objectives of the work of the financial statements auditor and the Internal Audit Service.
- To ensure effective co-ordination between the Internal Audit Service and financial statements auditor purposes.
- To consider and advise the Board of Directors on the audit strategy and annual programme of work for Internal Audit Service.
- To advise the Board of Directors on internal audit reports and on control issues included in the financial statements auditor's management letters, and management's responses to these.
- To monitor, within an agreed time-scale, the implementation of agreed recommendations relating to internal audit service reports and financial statements auditor's management letter.

In the financial year 2022/23 some Trustees were also members of the Resources (Finance, Audit, Premises & Personnel) Committee and the attendance records were as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
P Webster (Chief Executive & Accounting Officer)	4	4
R Amery	4	4
A Brodie (Chair)	1	4
J Buck	4	4
L Parker	3	4
P Marland	2	4
B Procter (Appointed 23 March 2023)	1	1
A Jolly (Appointed 23 March 2023 and resigned 5 July 2023)	1	1



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

In the financial year 2022/23 some Trustees were also members of the Curriculum Committee and the attendance records were as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
P Webster (Chief Executive & Accounting Officer)	3	3
R Amery	2	3
S Forman	1	3
J Buck	1	3
C Matthews	3	3
M Talbot	1	3
S Akram (Appointed 14 September 2023)	1	2
B Procter (Appointed 23 March 2023)	1	1
A Smith (Appointed 27 February 2023)	1	1
A Jolly (Appointed 23 March 2023 and resigned 5 July 2023)	1	1

Review of value for money

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

The accounting officer considers how the Academy Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The accounting officer for the Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Using approved purchasing and tendering frameworks to obtain value for money for the purchase of new equipment and software packages. The Trust's schools have benefited from competitive prices and terms that they would not have been able to achieve alone.
- Successful CIF bids.

The purpose of the system of internal control

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

Capacity to handle risk

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



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The risk and control framework

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

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

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint an internal auditor (Chromium Financial Services).

Chromium Financial Services role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

- Assessing the level of contingency funding across all schools within the trust to cover external financial risks.
- Review individual school compliance to HR requirements on contracts references and safer recruitment processes and procedures.
- Assess compliance across the Trust and schools to GDPR and the security on the IT system.

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of Chromium Financial Services;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on 12th December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

P Webster
Chief Executive & Accounting Officer

A Brodie
Chair



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

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

As accounting officer of The Grand Union Partnership, 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 in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

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

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

P Webster
Accounting Officer



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

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

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare 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 judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the 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 that grants received from ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

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

A Brodie
Chair



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Grand Union Partnership for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the 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 Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the 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 Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report. We are independent of the Academy Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the 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 Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the 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.



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 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 including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report has 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 Academy Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report, including the incorporated strategic report.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the 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, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the 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.

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



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also perform the following procedures:

- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and the entity's solicitors (or in-house legal team) around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of entity staff in tax and compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing internal audit reports.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

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

Use of our report

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

Charlotte Toemaes BSc FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Ellacotts Audit Services Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Countrywide House
23 West Bar
Banbury
Oxfordshire
England
OX16 9SA

18th December 2023



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 30 September 2020 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Grand Union Partnership during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of The Grand Union Partnership's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Grand Union Partnership's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 30 August 2017 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusions includes:

- reviewing the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors and other evidence made available to us relevant to our consideration of regularity;
- a review of the objectives and activities of the Trust, with reference to the income streams and other information available to us as auditors of the Trust;
- testing a sample of payroll payments to staff;
- testing a sample of payment to suppliers and other third parties;
- testing a sample of grants received and other income streams;
- evaluation the internal control procedures and reporting lines, and testing as appropriate.



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Conclusion

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

Ellacotts Audit Services Ltd

Reporting Accountant

Ellacotts Audit Services Limited
Countrywide House
23 West Bar
Banbury
Oxfordshire
OX16 9SA
England

Dated: 18th December 2023



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £ Fixed asset £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	4,599	- 755,994	760,593	167,370
Donations - transfer from local authority on conversion	25	189,483	(190,000) 3,510,613	3,510,096	-
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	9,119,438 -	9,119,438	7,294,889
Other trading activities	5	212,162	113,522 -	325,684	217,176
Investments	6	177	- -	177	129
Total		<u>406,421</u>	<u>9,042,960 4,266,607</u>	<u>13,715,988</u>	<u>7,679,564</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	33,960	- -	33,960	46,143
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	9	75,828	9,671,855 520,800	10,268,483	8,481,238
Total	7	<u>109,788</u>	<u>9,671,855 520,800</u>	<u>10,302,443</u>	<u>8,527,381</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		296,633	(628,895) 3,745,807	3,413,545	(847,817)
Transfers between funds	17	-	(17,863) 17,863	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	695,000 -	695,000	5,064,000
Net movement in funds		296,633	48,242 3,763,670	4,108,545	4,216,183
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		240,960	(46,834) 16,963,847	17,157,973	12,941,790
Total funds carried forward		<u>537,593</u>	<u>1,408 20,727,517</u>	<u>21,266,518</u>	<u>17,157,973</u>



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

		2023	2022
	Notes	£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	20,537,779	16,963,847
Current assets			
Debtors	14	312,874	112,397
Cash at bank and in hand		1,808,818	1,250,424
		2,121,692	1,362,821
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(873,953)	(315,695)
Net current assets		1,247,739	1,047,126
Net assets excluding pension liability		21,785,518	18,010,973
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19	(519,000)	(853,000)
Total net assets		21,266,518	17,157,973
Funds of the Academy Trust:			
Restricted funds	17		
- Fixed asset funds		20,727,517	16,963,847
- Restricted income funds		520,408	806,166
- Pension reserve		(519,000)	(853,000)
Total restricted funds		20,728,925	16,917,013
Unrestricted income funds	17	537,593	240,960
Total funds		21,266,518	17,157,973

The financial statements on pages 24 to 48 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 12th December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

A Brodie
Chair

Company registration number 10768218 (England and Wales)



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by operating activities	20		196,859		390,979
Cash funds transferred on conversion	25		189,483		-
			<u>386,342</u>		<u>390,979</u>
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		177		129	
Capital grants from DfE Group		115,626		26,423	
Capital funding received from sponsors and others		640,368		138,558	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(584,119)		(67,928)	
		<u></u>		<u></u>	
Net cash provided by investing activities			<u>172,052</u>		<u>97,182</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			<u>558,394</u>		<u>488,161</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			<u>1,250,424</u>		<u>762,263</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			<u><u>1,808,818</u></u>		<u><u>1,250,424</u></u>



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

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.

1.1 Basis of preparation

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

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Conversion to an academy trust

The conversion from a state maintained school to an academy trust involved the transfer of identifiable assets and liabilities and the operation of the school for £nil consideration. The substance of the transfer is that of a gift and it has been accounted for on that basis as set out below.

The assets and liabilities transferred on conversion from Deanshanger School to the academy trust have been valued at their fair value. The fair value has been derived based on that of equivalent items. The amounts have been recognised under the appropriate balance sheet categories, with a corresponding amount recognised in Donations – transfer from local authority on conversion in the Statement of Financial Activities and analysed under unrestricted funds, restricted general funds and restricted fixed asset funds. Further details of the transaction are set out in note 25.

1.4 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Sponsorship income

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

Donations

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

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

Donated fixed assets

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

Transfer of assets on conversion

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

1.5 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

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

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Charitable activities

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

1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

IT equipment assets costing £500 or more are capitalised and any other assets costing £1,000 or more are also capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

Freehold Land & Buildings	2% Straight line
Long-term Leasehold Property	Straight line over the life of the lease & 10% Straight line
Plant & Machinery	15% Straight Line
Computer Equipment	25% Straight Line
Fixtures & Fittings	10% Straight Line
Motor Vehicles	20% Straight Line

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

1.7 Liabilities

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

1.8 Leased assets

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

1.9 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

Trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Financial liabilities

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

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

1.10 Taxation

The Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

1.11 Pensions benefits

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

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

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

1.12 Fund accounting

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

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

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



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

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

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 19, will impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Deanshanger School has converted into the Trust during the year. The valuations for the net assets on conversion were provided by the Local Authority as at 31 March 2020. The assets inherited on conversion have been depreciated to the net book value as at 31 August 2023. The assets are functional and no known impairments have been recorded since the last valuation. There was not any professional valuation prepared upon conversion because it would not be value for money from the Trust's perspective. Any change in valuation would impact the donation recognised and the net book value of the fixed asset fund and would not impact on free reserves.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Capital grants	-	755,994	755,994	164,981
Other donations	4,599	-	4,599	2,389
	<u>4,599</u>	<u>755,994</u>	<u>760,593</u>	<u>167,370</u>

The income from donations and capital grants was £760,593 (2022: £167,370) of which £4,599 was unrestricted (2022: £2,389) and £755,994 was restricted fixed assets (2022: £164,981).



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

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

4 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	7,152,008	7,152,008	5,775,203
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- UIFSM	-	170,494	170,494	155,834
- Pupil premium	-	447,266	447,266	405,917
- Supplementary Grant	-	201,297	201,297	-
- Main Stream Allocation	-	102,969	102,969	-
- Others	-	267,579	267,579	253,607
	-	8,341,613	8,341,613	6,590,561
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	760,350	760,350	664,662
COVID-19 additional funding				
DfE/ESFA				
Catch-up premium	-	-	-	19,544
Other incoming resources	-	17,475	17,475	20,122
Total funding	-	9,119,438	9,119,438	7,294,889

The income from funding for educational operations was £9,119,438 (2022: £7,294,889) of which £9,119,438 was restricted (2022: £7,294,889).

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Hire of facilities	98,572	-	98,572	53,036
Catering income	-	53,290	53,290	59,832
Music tuition	15,726	-	15,726	-
Trips, music and materials	-	60,232	60,232	104,308
Other income	97,864	-	97,864	-
	212,162	113,522	325,684	217,176

The income from other trading activities was £325,684 (2022: £217,176) of which £212,162 was unrestricted (2022: £117,047) and £113,522 was restricted (2022: £100,129).



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

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

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Short term deposits	177	-	177	129

The income from investment income was £177 (2022: £129) of which £177 was unrestricted (2022: £129).

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure Premises £	Other £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	-	-	33,960	33,960	46,143
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	6,414,673	-	691,767	7,106,440	5,570,139
- Allocated support costs	1,623,755	1,020,591	517,697	3,162,043	2,911,099
	8,038,428	1,020,591	1,243,424	10,302,443	8,527,381

The expenditure on raising funds was £33,960 (2022: £46,143) of which £33,960 was unrestricted (2022: £46,143).

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:	2023 £	2022 £
Operating lease rentals	15,659	18,264
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	520,800	402,820
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	11,845	10,750
- Other services	3,814	1,550
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	38,000	81,000

8 Central services

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

- Management and administrative support

The Academy Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

The central services charge is based on 5% (5% - 2022) of individual academy GAG income. In addition to this small recharges can be made for other one off items and services provided.



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

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

8 Central services

(Continued)

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
New Bradwell Primary School	154,398	159,264
Jubilee Wood Primary School	139,613	127,034
Old Stratford Primary School	47,986	46,756
Deanshanger Primary School	77,037	-
	<u>419,034</u>	<u>333,054</u>

9 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Direct costs				
Educational operations	75,828	7,030,612	7,106,440	5,570,139
Support costs				
Educational operations	-	3,162,043	3,162,043	2,911,099
	<u>75,828</u>	<u>10,192,655</u>	<u>10,268,483</u>	<u>8,481,238</u>

The expenditure on charitable activities was £10,268,483 (2022: £8,481,238) of which £75,828 was unrestricted (2022: £1,866), £9,671,855 was restricted (2022: £8,076,552) and £520,800 was restricted fixed assets (2022: £402,820).



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

9 Charitable activities

(Continued)

	2023 £	2022 £
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	1,642,708	1,691,489
Depreciation	520,800	402,820
Technology costs	1,130	5,682
Premises costs	499,791	386,808
Legal costs	5,648	-
Other support costs	441,403	342,923
Governance costs	50,563	81,377
	<u>3,162,043</u>	<u>2,911,099</u>

10 Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	5,982,538	4,460,255
Social security costs	494,588	385,024
Pension costs	1,467,435	1,760,909
Staff costs - employees	<u>7,944,561</u>	<u>6,606,188</u>
Agency staff costs	93,867	79,393
	<u>8,038,428</u>	<u>6,685,581</u>
Staff development and other staff costs	137,966	37,343
Total staff expenditure	<u>8,176,394</u>	<u>6,722,924</u>

Staff numbers

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Teachers	87	67
Administration and support	160	129
Management	12	10
	<u>259</u>	<u>206</u>



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

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

10 Staff

(Continued)

Higher paid staff

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1
£70,001 - £80,000	3	2
£120,001 - £130,000	1	1
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the trustees, the senior management team as listed on page 1 and other members of key management personnel. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £701,156 (2022: £540,227).

11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

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

P Webster (Head Teacher of New Bradwell Primary School and Chief Executive):
Remuneration £120,001 - £125,000 (2022: £115,001 - £120,000)
Employers pension contributions £15,001 - £20,000 (2022: £25,001 - £30,000)

P Webster's remuneration includes approximately £30,000 in respect of his service as Chief Executive Officer of the Academy Trust, with the balance in respect to his full-time position as Head Teacher.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2022: Nil).

12 Trustees' and officers' insurance

The academy trust has opted into the Department for Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the trustees' and officers' indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme membership.

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



13 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Land & Buildings £	Long-term Leasehold Property £	Plant & Machinery £	Computer Equipment £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Cost							
At 1 September 2022	8,064,149	9,875,763	243,640	267,945	135,557	7,500	18,594,554
Additions	-	4,066,407	14,597	13,728	-	-	4,094,732
At 31 August 2023	8,064,149	13,942,170	258,237	281,673	135,557	7,500	22,689,286
Depreciation							
At 1 September 2022	446,887	889,349	78,202	175,170	33,599	7,500	1,630,707
Charge for the year	89,377	309,984	37,881	69,113	14,445	-	520,800
At 31 August 2023	536,264	1,199,333	116,083	244,283	48,044	7,500	2,151,507
Net book value							
At 31 August 2023	7,527,885	12,742,837	142,154	37,390	87,513	-	20,537,779
At 31 August 2022	7,617,262	8,986,414	165,438	92,775	101,958	-	16,963,847



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

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

14 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	37,780	2,232
VAT recoverable	103,121	32,231
Prepayments and accrued income	171,973	77,934
	<u>312,874</u>	<u>112,397</u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	509,913	112,117
Other taxation and social security	118,577	85,703
Other creditors	3,000	3,000
Accruals and deferred income	242,463	114,875
	<u>873,953</u>	<u>315,695</u>

16 Deferred income

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	<u>119,459</u>	<u>93,624</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	93,624	113,877
Released from previous years	(93,624)	(113,877)
Resources deferred in the year	<u>119,459</u>	<u>93,624</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	<u>119,459</u>	<u>93,624</u>

Resources deferred during the period relate to Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM) funding relating to the following year (2022: UIFSM funding).



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	806,166	7,152,008	(7,419,903)	(17,863)	520,408
UIFSM	-	170,494	(170,494)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	447,266	(447,266)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	267,579	(267,579)	-	-
Other government grants	-	760,350	(760,350)	-	-
Supplementary Grant	-	201,297	(201,297)	-	-
Mainstream grant income	-	102,969	(102,969)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	130,997	(130,997)	-	-
Pension reserve	(853,000)	(190,000)	(171,000)	695,000	(519,000)
	<u>(46,834)</u>	<u>9,042,960</u>	<u>(9,671,855)</u>	<u>677,137</u>	<u>1,408</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	16,428,658	3,510,613	(360,438)	-	19,578,833
DfE group capital grants	535,189	755,994	(160,362)	17,863	1,148,684
	<u>16,963,847</u>	<u>4,266,607</u>	<u>(520,800)</u>	<u>17,863</u>	<u>20,727,517</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>16,917,013</u>	<u>13,309,567</u>	<u>(10,192,655)</u>	<u>695,000</u>	<u>20,728,925</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>240,960</u>	<u>406,421</u>	<u>(109,788)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>537,593</u>
Total funds	<u>17,157,973</u>	<u>13,715,988</u>	<u>(10,302,443)</u>	<u>695,000</u>	<u>21,266,518</u>

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

Restricted general funds will be used for educational purposes in line with the Academy Trust's objectives and its funding agreement with the EFSA.

Restricted fixed asset funds will be reserved against future depreciation charges. Unspent capital grants will be used to enhance the Academy Trust's facilities.

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

Transfer between Funds

The transfer of £17,863 (2022: £97,053) from the restricted fund to the restricted fixed asset fund was to fund the additional capital expenditure arising during the year.



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

17 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	547,647	5,775,203	(5,613,737)	97,053	806,166
UIFSM	-	155,834	(155,834)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	405,917	(405,917)	-	-
Catch-up premium	-	19,544	(19,544)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	253,607	(253,607)	-	-
Other government grants	-	664,662	(664,662)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	120,251	(120,251)	-	-
Pension reserve	(5,074,000)	-	(843,000)	5,064,000	(853,000)
	<u>(4,526,353)</u>	<u>7,395,018</u>	<u>(8,076,552)</u>	<u>5,161,053</u>	<u>(46,834)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	16,692,973	-	(264,315)	-	16,428,658
DfE group capital grants	605,766	164,981	(138,505)	(97,053)	535,189
	<u>17,298,739</u>	<u>164,981</u>	<u>(402,820)</u>	<u>(97,053)</u>	<u>16,963,847</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>12,772,386</u>	<u>7,559,999</u>	<u>(8,479,372)</u>	<u>5,064,000</u>	<u>16,917,013</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>169,404</u>	<u>119,565</u>	<u>(48,009)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>240,960</u>
Total funds	<u>12,941,790</u>	<u>7,679,564</u>	<u>(8,527,381)</u>	<u>5,064,000</u>	<u>17,157,973</u>



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

17 Funds

(Continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

	2023 £	2022 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:		
New Bradwell Primary School	541,236	685,685
Jubilee Wood Primary School	220,211	193,519
Old Stratford Primary School	172,056	140,297
Deanshanger Primary School	147,497	-
Central services	(135)	27,625
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	1,080,865	1,047,126
Restricted fixed asset fund	20,727,517	16,963,847
Pension reserve	(519,000)	(853,000)
Total funds	21,289,382	17,157,973

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
New Bradwell Primary School	2,671,457	620,425	157,964	465,024	3,914,870	3,877,709
Jubilee Wood Primary School	1,923,760	473,851	50,291	331,171	2,779,073	2,959,616
Old Stratford Primary School	681,191	130,445	39,143	101,869	952,648	915,824
Deanshanger Primary School	1,234,384	303,228	34,624	214,733	1,786,969	-
Central services	-	-	-	434,898	434,898	371,258
	6,510,792	1,527,949	282,022	1,547,695	9,868,458	8,124,407



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	20,537,779	20,537,779
Current assets	1,411,546	520,408	189,738	2,121,692
Current liabilities	(873,953)	-	-	(873,953)
Pension scheme liability	-	(519,000)	-	(519,000)
Total net assets	537,593	1,408	20,727,517	21,266,518
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	16,963,847	16,963,847
Current assets	240,960	1,121,861	-	1,362,821
Current liabilities	-	(315,695)	-	(315,695)
Pension scheme liability	-	(853,000)	-	(853,000)
Total net assets	240,960	(46,834)	16,963,847	17,157,973

19 Pension and similar obligations

The Academy Trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Buckinghamshire County Council and Northamptonshire 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 2016, and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016.

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 academy trusts. All teachers have the option to opt out of the TPS following enrolment.

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



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

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

19 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £814,427 (2022: £863,470).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The estimated value of employer contributions for the forthcoming year is £477,370.

As described in note 25 the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Academy Trust, being the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who joined the scheme in the period. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Academy Trust at the balance sheet date.

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



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Total contributions made	2023 £	2022 £
Employer's contributions	519,000	393,000
Employees' contributions	128,000	102,000
Total contributions	647,000	495,000

Principal actuarial assumptions	2023 %	2022 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.60	3.95
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.00	2.95
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.20	4.25

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

	2023 Years	2022 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.0	21.0
- Females	24.0	24.6
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	24.0	22.3
- Females	25.7	26.0

Scheme liabilities would have been affected by changes in assumptions as follows:

(the below percentages are approximates, and represent the average percentages from the three actuarial reports prepared)

Change in assumptions at 31 August 2023:	Approximate % increase to Employer Liability	Approximate monetary amount £'s
0.1% Decrease in Real Discount Rate	2%	127,000
1 Year Increase in Member Liability	4%	170,000
0.1% Increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	99,000
0.1% Increase in the Pension Increase Rate	2%	39,000



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme

	2023 Fair value £	2022 Fair value £
Equities	3,172,000	2,800,000
Gilts	330,000	353,000
Bonds	690,000	642,000
Cash	66,000	113,000
Property	389,000	354,000
Other assets	851,000	648,000
Total market value of assets	<u>5,498,000</u>	<u>4,910,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £(299,000) (2022: £(284,000)).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Current service cost	652,000	1,155,000
Interest income	(235,000)	(82,000)
Interest cost	273,000	163,000
Benefit changes, curtailments and settlements gains or losses	(4,000)	(3,000)
Administration expenses	4,000	3,000
Total operating charge	<u>690,000</u>	<u>1,236,000</u>

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations

	2023 £
At 1 September 2022	5,763,000
Obligations acquired on conversion	557,000
Current service cost	648,000
Interest cost	273,000
Employee contributions	128,000
Actuarial gain	(1,229,000)
Benefits paid	(123,000)
At 31 August 2023	<u>6,017,000</u>



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Changes in the fair value of the Academy Trust's share of scheme assets

	2023 £
At 1 September 2022	4,910,000
Assets acquired on conversion	367,000
Interest income	235,000
Actuarial loss	(534,000)
Employer contributions	519,000
Employee contributions	128,000
Benefits paid	(123,000)
Effect of non-routine settlements and administration expenses	(4,000)
At 31 August 2023	<u>5,498,000</u>

20 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	3,413,545	(847,817)
Adjusted for:		
Net surplus on conversion to academy	25 (3,510,096)	-
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(755,994)	(164,981)
Investment income receivable	6 (177)	(129)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	19 133,000	762,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	19 38,000	81,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	520,800	402,820
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(200,477)	16,142
Increase in creditors	558,258	141,944
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>196,859</u>	<u>390,979</u>

21 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	31 August 2023 £
Cash	<u>1,250,424</u>	<u>558,394</u>	<u>1,808,818</u>



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

22 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts due within one year	10,000	-

23 Related party transactions

No related party transactions took place in the period of account other than certain Trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 11.

24 Members' liability

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

25 Conversion to an academy

On 1 September 2022 the Deanshanger School converted to academy trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to The Grand Union Partnership from the West Northamptonshire Local Authority for £nil consideration.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair values and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain in the statement of financial activities as donations – transfer from local authority on conversion.

The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the statement of financial activities.

Academy	Location	Date of conversion		
Deanshanger Primary School	Deanshanger, Milton Keynes	1 September 2022		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds:		Total
	£	General	Fixed asset	2023
Net assets transferred:	£	£	£	£
Leasehold land and buildings	-	-	3,510,613	3,510,613
Cash	189,483	-	-	189,483
Pension scheme deficit	-	(190,000)	-	(190,000)
	189,483	(190,000)	3,510,613	3,510,096



THE GRAND UNION PARTNERSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

25 Conversion to an academy

(Continued)

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds:		Total 2023 £
Funds surplus/(deficit) transferred:		General £	Fixed asset £	
Fixed assets funds	-	-	3,510,613	3,510,613
LA budget funds	189,483	-	-	189,483
LGPS pension funds	-	(190,000)	-	(190,000)
	<u>189,483</u>	<u>(190,000)</u>	<u>3,510,613</u>	<u>3,510,096</u>

The land and buildings were transferred over on a 125 year lease.