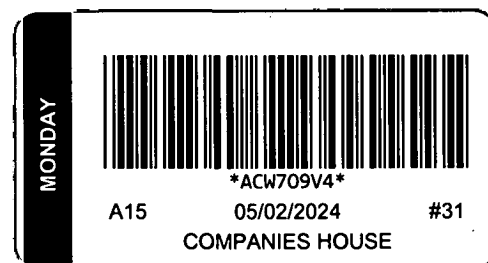


Company Registration Number: 07699625 (England & Wales)

THE ATHELSTAN TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023



**THE ATHELSTAN TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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THE ATHELSTAN TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	C Littler M Smith J Kojima
Trustees	R Boggis-Rolfe, Chair ^{1,2} T Brown (resigned 1 December 2022) ² K Frost, Vice Chair ⁴ D Collen ³ G Martin ² F Orwin ¹ S Scruton (resigned 8 December 2022) I Tucker (resigned 13 July 2023) ¹ W Webster ³ R Jefferson (appointed 13 October 2022) ² E Tudor (appointed 8 February 2023) ⁴ ¹ Staffing Committee ² Audit and Risk Committee ³ Site and Facilities Committee ⁴ Standards Committee
Company registered number	07699625
Company name	The Athelstan Trust
Principal and registered office	Trust Office Lowfield Road Tetbury Gloucestershire England GL8 8AE
Company secretary	Kate Bashford (appointed 1 September 2023) J Cummings (resigned 12 September 2023)
Chief executive officer	Dr T Gilson
Senior leadership team	Dr T Gilson, CEO Mrs N Tilley, CFO (resigned 31/08/2023) Miss V FitzGerald, Interim CFO (appointed 01/09/2023) Mr R Blacker, Head of Operations
Independent auditors	Bishop Fleming LLP Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors 10 Temple Back Bristol BS1 6FL

THE ATHELSTAN TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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

Bankers	Lloyds Bank Plc 29 High Street Chippenham SN15 3HA
	Insignis Asset Management Limited 10 Devonshire Square London EC2M 4AE
Solicitors	Stone King 13 Queen Square Bath BA1 2HJ

**THE ATHELSTAN TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purpose of both a Trustees' report and a Directors' report under company law.

The Trust operates 5 secondary academies and 1 primary academy:

- **Malmesbury School, Malmesbury, Wiltshire:** an academy for pupils aged 11 to 18. It has a capacity of 1,460 and had a roll of 1,439 in the Spring 2023 school census.
- **The Dean Academy, Lydney, Gloucestershire:** a secondary school for pupils aged 11 to 16, with a pupil capacity of 1,095 and a roll of 604 in the Spring 2023 school census.
- **Bradon Forest School, Purton, Wiltshire:** a secondary school for pupils aged 11 to 16, with a pupil capacity of 1,355 and a roll of 912 in the Spring 2023 school census.
- **Sir William Romney's School, Tetbury, Gloucestershire:** a secondary school for pupils aged 11 to 16 with a pupil capacity of 625 and had a roll of 528 in the Spring 2023 school census.
- **Chipping Sodbury School, Chipping Sodbury, South Gloucestershire:** a secondary school for pupils aged 11 to 18 with a pupil capacity of 900 and had a roll of 736 in the Spring 2023 school census.
- **Leighterton Primary School, Leighterton, Gloucestershire:** a primary school for pupils aged 4 to 11 with a pupil capacity of 119 and had a roll of 101 in the Spring 2023 school census.

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 Athelstan Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

Details of the Trustees who served throughout the year, except as noted, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on pages 1 to 2.

Members' liability

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

Trade union facility time

There are six full-time equivalent members of the staff who were relevant union officials during the year.

The eight union officials at the Trust are full and part time employees and spent a combined total of 98 hours during the year of their time on trade union activities.

Trustees' Indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £1,000,000 on any one claim.

**THE ATHELSTAN TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

Principal Activities of The Athelstan Trust

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

TRUSTEES

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The Articles allow for:

- up to 8 Trustees
- the Chief Executive Officer
- a minimum of 2 Parent Trustees elected or appointed in the event that no Local Governing Bodies are established or if no provision is made for at least 2 Parent Local Governors on each established Local Governing Body
- Staff Trustees, if any, appointed through such process as the Members may determine.

The Academy Trust may also have any Co-opted Trustees appointed according to the Articles.

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

With regard to the appointment of Trustees, the Board gives consideration to the skills mix of the Trustees to ensure that the Board has the necessary skills to contribute to the development of the Academies.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees and Local Governors will depend upon their existing experience. All Trustees and Local Governors are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees and Local Governors. Induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual. Advantage is taken of specific courses offered by the Local Authority and other bodies.

Organisational Structure

The Board of Trustees formally meet at least nine times per academic year. Exceptional meetings can be called at any time if circumstances dictate. Quorum is one third of the membership, excluding vacancies. The Annual General Meeting is held every year and there are also an Audit and Risk Committee, a Pay and Appointments Committee and a Site and Facilities Committee.

Each school within the Academy Trust retains a Local Governing Body which meets at least 6 times per year. Local Governing Bodies have delegated authority to ensure educational progression and compliance with The Academy Trust policies and procedures.

Local Governing Bodies are specifically focused on the:

- Standard and quality of education in the Academy
- Welfare of the pupils at the Academy
- Relationship between the Academy and the local community

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

The Scheme of Delegation sets out the delegations and responsibilities of the Trustees, Local Governors and the Schools' Senior Leadership.

The CEO is the Accounting Officer.

Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

A pay panel comprising members of the Board of Trustees, plus an independent advisor meet each November to review the performance of the CEO. Headteachers pay at all schools is reviewed by the governors pay panel with the CEO. Other SLT pay is reviewed by the pay panel of governors and the Headteacher. The pay panel has the delegated authority to approve any increase in pay up to a maximum of two points on the leadership scale, within the pay range (ISR) approved for each member of the leadership team. The recommendations of the pay panel will go to the full Board of Trustees to be ratified.

Connected Organisations, including Related Party Relationships

Malmesbury School has use of the facilities managed by D.C. Leisure Management Ltd, for which a shared use agreement is in place. The Academy delivers a course in land based studies in agreement with Aunt Addie's Farm.

Malmesbury School has strong collaborative links with feeder primary schools but has no involvement in their governance or management. Malmesbury School provides support to help broaden the education of our future pupils, to prepare them for secondary education and to smooth the transition between schools.

Malmesbury School is part of a three school PFI agreement between Wiltshire Council and White Horse Education Partnership (WHEP). Management of the site and facilities is by G4S UK who are appointed by WHEP. This contract influences the control and operations of the Academy site.

Parent/Teacher Association supports some of the Academies indirectly.

The Dean Academy has a shared use agreement for the Sport Centre Facilities administered by Freedom Leisure Ltd.

Chipping Sodbury School is part of the Cotswold Edge Sixth Form, a collaboration of the three sixth forms of Brimsham Green School, Chipping Sodbury School and Yate Academy.

None of the relationships involve companies or family members of Trustees of the Academy Trust or Governors of the schools within the Academy Trust.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and Aims

The Academy Trust aims to achieve the best for, and from, each child. We intend to enable each child to realise his or her full academic, creative and physical potential and to develop positive social and moral values. Our Academy Trust is a community in which children, staff and parents should be part of a happy and caring environment.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Academy Trust's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

The Academy Trust has available facilities for recreational and other leisure time occupation for the community at large in the interests of social welfare and with the interest of improving the life of the said community.

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

STRATEGIC REPORT

The Academic year 2022/3 has been a year of development success and challenge for the Trust. The biggest change for the Trust during this year was the expansion of the Trust to include two very strong local primary schools; Leighterton Primary School on 1 May and Avening Primary School on 1 September.

The year saw a successful Ofsted inspection for Chipping Sodbury School (November) which was graded Good in all areas for the first time since 2008 and following 3 previous Requires Improvement or satisfactory inspection outcomes. Bradon Forest also had a full inspection (March) which although a very challenging process involving a third inspection day, ended with a glowing report identifying it as a 'Good' school in all areas.

Examination results were mixed across the Trust, both primary schools had strong Key Stage 2 outcomes. At GCSE the picture was mixed with strong performances at Bradon Forest School, The Dean Academy and Malmesbury School and less good outcomes at Sir William Romney School and Chipping Sodbury School. The results were significantly impacted by student absence relating to COVID legacy and poor mental health. A Level results at Malmesbury School and Chipping Sodbury School were good. It will take some time for the National picture of examination results becomes clear and progress 8 measures are published.

The school year was impacted by industrial action with a number of school days lost for students due to teacher strikes. At Sir William Romney School the serving headteacher left at Christmas and the school was very effectively led by the deputy in the role of Acting Headteacher. We have appointed an excellent new Headteacher who was able to be in the school part-time in the summer term. Across the Trust we have faced the challenge of teacher and support staff recruitment but have been able to recruit very strong new staff in all roles.

We have faced a number of challenging HR issues during the year and received effective support from our HR provider.

We have restructured our central team and school improvement team with the appointment of a Senior School Improvement Lead to oversee the team. We had an excellent programme of Trust wide CPD that culminated in a whole staff day at Sir William Romney School on the theme of leadership at all levels that was very successful.

We have recruited several very effective new Trustees. We have invested in a Trust wide recruitment and application management package MyNewTerm.

The Trust has once again been able to invest nearly £1 million in capital projects as we are now receiving direct capital grants from the DfE. We have made a considerable impact with building and refurbishment projects across the trust particularly a new reception area at Chipping Sodbury School and the replacement of windows in one of the quads, new toilets at Sir William Romney School, new boilers in several schools and a considerable investment in LED lighting. These improvements have reduced our carbon output. We have introduced new external contracts for cleaning, catering and grounds maintenance across several trust schools in order to raise standards in these key areas.

The Athelstan Trust ends the year in a strong position; while we have set an in year deficit in order to tackle the legacy of the pandemic, we have built sufficient financial capacity to invest further in our building and school improvement capacity centrally as well as in strengthening leadership in our schools. We have reorganised our central team so that we have improved the efficiency of our work and our capacity to support schools. We saw the retirement of our long serving governance professional and the departure of our CFO. We have recruited an excellent new governance professional, and a highly experienced interim CFO is working with us while we recruit for a permanent replacement. We are in the process of moving to a single tenancy for our IT infrastructure and moving to windows 11. We have benefited from some generous donations of IT equipment from local businesses. We had a very significant investment from the DfE in the IT infrastructure at Chipping Sodbury School.

THE ATHELSTAN TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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

We were successful in our application to become the Flexible Working Ambassador MAT for the Southwest and have started working with the DfE Capita and local schools and trust to support flexible working. This and other links with regional organisations mean that we continue to position the Trust as a well-respected and recognised brand in the region. We have weathered the pandemic and some leadership turbulence and emerged stronger.

We continue work with the Regional Directors Team and local schools to discuss the further growth of the Trust.

Key Performance Indicators

The main financial performance indicator is the level of total reserves (general unrestricted and GAG) held at the Balance Sheet date. In 2022/23 £3,647,528 was brought forward, £2,698,441 being carried forward from 2022/23.

Another key financial performance indicator is staffing costs as a percentage of GAG. For 2022/23 this was 99.7% (2021/22: 92%).

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Trust is forecasting an in-year deficit in the years 2023/24 and 2024/25 but has reserves to support these years. The Trust is anticipating returning to an in-year surplus in the year 2025/26. For this reason it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Going concern policy.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Review

The bulk of the Academy Trust's income is obtained from the DfE via the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, total expenditure of £33,071,447 was covered by recurrent grant funding from the DfE and local authorities, together with other incoming resources of £33,624,924. The underlying excess of income over expenditure for the year was £553,477. The movement on "free reserves" was (£949,087), which is defined as unrestricted funds and GAG, and totalled £2,565,753 at the balance sheet date.

Malmesbury School is part of a three school PFI agreement. As a result the premises, grounds and most of the fixed assets belong to White Horse Education Partnership and G4S. For the few fixed assets owned by the school the Restricted Fixed Asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the useful life of the assets concerned, as defined in the financial policies. All schools within the Academy Trust hold full fixed asset registers with annual depreciation in line with Academy Trust policy.

The Academy Trust has taken on the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme in respect of its support staff transferred on conversion. The deficit is incorporated within the Statement of Financial Activities with details in Note 26 to the financial statements.

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

Reserves Policy

The Trustees review the reserve levels of the Academy annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Trustees take into consideration the future plans of the Academy, the uncertainty over future income streams and other key risks identified during the risk review.

The Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of free reserves to support the financial impact of growing pupil numbers and invest in school improvement and development works should be approximately £2,000,000 which roughly equates to one month's expenditure for the Trust. Total reserves of the academy amount to £49,372,067. Excluding pension impact of (£95,000) this totals £49,467,067, although £46,901,314 of this is invested in fixed assets or represents non GAG restricted funds. The remaining £2,698,441 (representing £1,222,068 unrestricted funds and £1,343,685 unspent GAG) is the balance that the Trustees monitor in accordance with the Board's reserve policy. The reserve of the funds over planned reserves is money put aside to cover projected deficits.

Investment Policy

All funds surplus to immediate requirements are invested to optimal effect. Where reserves allow funds are placed on deposit accounts with the trust bank Lloyds Bank or on the deposit platform Insignis. Trustees are committed to ensuring that all funds under their control are managed in such a way as to maximise return whilst minimising risk. Any cash not required for operating expenses may be placed on deposit at the most favourable rate available from providers covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Day to day management of the surplus funds is delegated to the CEO and CFO within strict guidelines approved by the Board of Trustees. Current interest rates are such that monies are earning as much in the current account by keeping the balance high as they would moving elements onto deposit.

Principal Risks And Uncertainties

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the major 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 principal risks and uncertainties facing the Academy are as follows:

Financial - the Academy Trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA. In the last year, 93% of incoming resources were ultimately Government funded and whilst this level is expected to continue, there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms.

Failures in governance and/or management - the risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the finances of the Academy Trust, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns, etc. The Trustees continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks.

Reputational - the continuing success of the Academy Trust is dependent on continuing to attract staff and pupils in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk Trustees, ensure that pupil success and achievement are closely monitored and reviewed. This is an area of particular risk Sir William Romney's School; the Trustees are ensuring that resources are being targeted to improve results and meet Ofsted requirements.

Safeguarding and child protection - the Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety and discipline.

Staffing - the success of the Academy Trust is reliant upon the quality of its staff and so the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning.

**THE ATHELSTAN TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

Fraud and mismanagement of funds - The Academy Trust buys internal audit services from One West to provide external assurance and routine checks. The CFO also carries out spot checks on financial systems and records. All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and develop their skills in this area.

The Academy Trust has continued to strengthen its risk management process throughout the year by improving the process and ensuring staff awareness. A risk register is maintained and reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The risk register includes risks impacting on trustees' responsibilities to ensure the trust's estate is safe, well maintained and complies with relevant legislation. Through the Site and Facilities Committee, the risks are monitored and trustees are ensuring resources are being targeted to improve estates.

As a PFI school with a multi-party contract, Malmesbury School's risk with regard to assets is minimised. Financial risk arises where PFI payments could not be met. The Trustees are aware of these costs, and they are accounted for fully in the budget planning. The asset registers at all schools are complete and the values kept under review.

The Board of Trustees recognises that the defined benefit pension scheme deficit (Local Government Pension Scheme), which is set out in Note 26 to the financial statements, represents a significant potential liability. However, as the Trustees consider that the Academy Trust is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, the risk from this liability is minimised.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The Academy Trust will continue to strive to provide outstanding education and improve the levels of performance of its pupils at all levels. The Academy Trust will continue to aim to attract high quality teachers and support staff in order to deliver its objectives.

The schools within the Academy Trust will continue to work with partner schools to improve the educational opportunities for pupils in the wider community.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

The Academy Trust and its Trustees do not act as the Custodian Trustees of any other Charity.

EMPLOYEE INVOLVEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT OF THE DISABLED

For Disabled Employees

The Athelstan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer, and works in conjunction with the Equality Act 2010 and supports disabled people including those with long term health conditions, learning disabilities and so called "hidden" disabilities such as dyslexia. If the employee confirms that they have a disability we can make reasonable adjustments to ensure that any selection processes including the interview are fair and equitable.

The Academy Trust also supports disabled employees by following the Managing Employee Health, Wellbeing and Attendance Procedure in Academies. This policy ensures that the Academy Trust works with Occupational Health in order to support all disabilities with internal training programmes and career development.

We are a flexible working employer. All recruitment advertisements endorse flexible working.

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

For Employee Consultation

The leadership team plans all potential developmental changes for the Academy Trust and works in partnership with all stakeholders which includes employees, unions, governors and senior members of staff to communicate and support the Trust with all workforce changes.

STREAMLINED ENERGY AND CARBON REPORTING

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023.

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023	2022/23	2021/22
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	6,182,153	6,932,300
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>		
Gas consumption	709.06	814.47
Owned transport - mini- buses	4.70	4.24
<u>Total scope 1</u>	713.76	818.71
<u>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>		
Purchased electricity	463.17	469.84
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>		
Business travel in employee-owned vehicles	9.99	5.71
<u>Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>	1186.92	1294.26
<u>Intensity ratio</u>		
Tonnes CO2e per pupil	0.27	0.31

Quantification And Reporting Methodology

We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol Corporate Standard and have used the 2023 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

Intensity Measurement

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

Measures Taken To Improve Energy Efficiency

Smart meters installed across all sites. Use of video conferencing technology now well embedded for staff meetings to reduce the need for travel between sites. All lighting replacement programmes use LED technology. Single glazed windows replaced with double glazed units to improve thermal efficiency. Insulated suspended ceilings used to lower high ceilings to reduce heat loss. Several ageing boilers replaced to improve energy efficiency.

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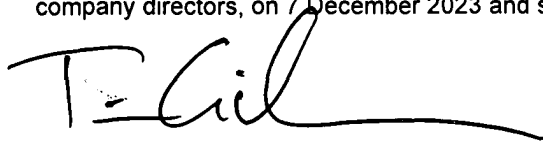
**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

AUDITORS

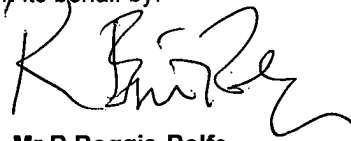
Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 7 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Dr T Gilson
Accounting officer



Mr R Boggis-Rolfe
Chair of Trustees

**THE ATHELSTAN TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

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

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

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

GOVERNANCE

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 6 times during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
R Boggis-Rolfe, Chair	5	6
T Brown	0	1
K Frost, Vice Chair	6	6
R Jefferson	5	5
D Collen	5	6
G Martin	4	6
F Orwin	3	6
S Scruton	2	2
N Tudor	3	4
I Tucker	2	6
W Webster	4	6

The Audit and Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to oversee the audit process both at year end and throughout the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
T Brown	0	1
R Jefferson	3	3
G Martin	3	3
R Boggis-Rolfe	2	3

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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, as well as estates safety and management, 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 investigating economies of scale across the Trust particularly in relation to external contracts. Utility contracts at Bradon Forest and The Dean Academy are through Zenergi and prices are kept under review in this competitive market. A fixed price 2 year agreement has been put in place for payroll provision across the Trust and a single HR contract has been agreed; both agreements have resulted in cost savings. During the year a competitive tendering process was undertaken for catering and cleaning services across schools in the Trust. The Academy Trust has also secured IT licenses and subscriptions Trust wide bringing savings and value for money for schools. The Trust now uses a single Health and Safety advisor across the Trust, ensuring all schools comply with regulations. School Condition Allocation funding is directed to capital projects ranked by importance in accordance with site surveys and risk assessments, ensuring the trust's estate is well maintained and safe. Competitive tendering procedures are followed for all significant capital projects, ensuring funding is used effectively.

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 Athelstan Trust for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

CAPACITY TO HANDLE RISK

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the 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 year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

THE RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees
- regular reviews by the Trustees of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- identification and management of risks

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

The Board of Trustees has decided to employ One West as internal auditor.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other 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 an indepth analysis and testing of each schools Purchasing functions. Reviews on National Tutoring Programme and Pupil Premium were also undertaken during the year.

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

The Internal Audit reporting service is purchased from One West. The Internal Auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial systems. The Internal Auditor produces four reports per year on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Trust's financial responsibilities. No matters of significance were reported during the year.

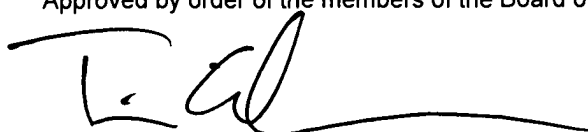
REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

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

- The work of One West internal auditors
- the financial management and school resource management self-assessment tool
- the work of the external auditors
- 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 and Risk Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

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



Dr T Gilson
Accounting Officer

Date: 7 December 2023

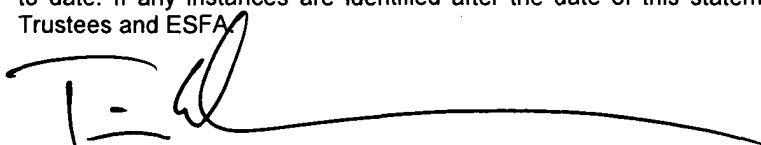
**THE ATHELSTAN TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

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

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T. Gilson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr T Gilson

Accounting Officer

Date: 7/12/23

**THE ATHELSTAN TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

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



Mr R Boggis-Rolfe
Chair of Trustees

Date: 7.12.23

**THE ATHELSTAN TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
ATHELSTAN TRUST**

OPINION

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

BASIS FOR OPINION

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

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

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

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

**THE ATHELSTAN TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
ATHELSTAN TRUST (CONTINUED)**

OTHER INFORMATION

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

OPINION ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

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

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

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

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

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law 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 Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the Academy Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
ATHELSTAN TRUST (CONTINUED)**

AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

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

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the Academy sector, control environment and the Academy Trust's performance;
- results of our enquiries of management and the Trustee board, including the committees charged with governance over the Academy Trust's finance and control, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Academy Trust's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to: identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance; detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or noncompliance with laws and regulations; and assessment of the impact of schools joining the Academy Trust in relation to these areas;
- how the Academy Trust ensured it met its obligations arising from it being financed by the ESFA and other funders, and as such material compliance with these obligations is required to ensure the Academy Trust will continue to receive its public funding and be authorised to operate, including around ensuring there is no material unauthorised use of funds and expenditure;
- how the Academy Trust ensured it met its obligations to its principal regulator, the Secretary of State for Education; and
- these matters were discussed among the audit engagement team who also considered any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud, which included incorrect recognition of revenue, management override of controls using manual journal entries, procurement and payroll. We identified the greatest potential for fraud as incorrect recognition of revenue and management override using manual journal entries.

In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Academy Trust operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Academies Accounts Direction, Academies Trust Handbook, Charities Act 2011, Charities SORP (FRS102), UK Companies Act and tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the Academy Trust's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included safeguarding regulations, data protection regulations, occupational health and safety regulations, education and inspections legislation, building legislation and employment legislation.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
ATHELSTAN TRUST (CONTINUED)**

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess the recognition of revenue;
- enquiring of Trustees and management and those charged with governance concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing procedures to confirm material compliance with the requirements of its regulators;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing internal control reports;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; and assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and
- performing procedures to confirm that the balance transferred in on conversion of schools into the Academy Trust are not materially misstated.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from an error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it.

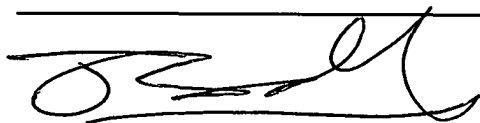
A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

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

THE ATHELSTAN TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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



Joseph Scaife FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

Bishop Fleming LLP

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditors

10 Temple Back

Bristol

BS1 6FL

Date: 14/12/2023

**THE ATHELSTAN TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 29 June 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Athelstan Trust during the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

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

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Athelstan Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 27 February 2015 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

**THE ATHELSTAN TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

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 our conclusion includes:

An assessment of the risk of material irregularity and impropriety across all of the Trust's activities;

Further testing and review of the areas identified through the risk assessment including enquiry, identification of controls processes and examination of supporting evidence across all areas identified as well as additional verification work where considered necessary; and

Consideration of evidence obtained through the work detailed above and the work completed as part of our audit of the financial statements in order to support the regularity conclusion.

In line with the Framework and guide for external auditors and reporting accountants of academy trusts issued April 2023, we have not performed any additional procedures regarding the Trust's compliance with safeguarding, health and safety and estates management.

CONCLUSION

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

B&F Fleming LLP

Reporting Accountant
Bishop Fleming LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
10 Temple Back
Bristol
BS1 6FL

Date: *14/12/2023*

THE ATHELSTAN TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants:	3					
Schools transferring in on conversion		-	104,318	1,536,275	1,640,593	-
Other donations and capital grants		-	121,119	1,437,497	1,558,616	1,194,693
Other trading activities		374,316	-	-	374,316	195,816
Investments	6	59,573	-	-	59,573	983
Charitable activities		1,565,158	28,426,668	-	29,991,826	27,655,193
Total income		1,999,047	28,652,105	2,973,772	33,624,924	29,046,685
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities		1,977,510	30,262,889	831,048	33,071,447	29,900,248
Total expenditure		1,977,510	30,262,889	831,048	33,071,447	29,900,248
Net income/ (expenditure)		21,537	(1,610,784)	2,142,724	553,477	(853,563)
Transfers between funds	18	-	502,160	(502,160)	-	-
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	1,966,000	-	1,966,000	11,227,000
Pension surplus not recognised	25	-	(852,000)	-	(852,000)	-
Net movement in funds		21,537	5,376	1,640,564	1,667,477	10,373,437
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		1,200,531	1,375,997	45,128,062	47,704,590	37,331,153
Net movement in funds		21,537	5,376	1,640,564	1,667,477	10,373,437
Total funds carried forward		1,222,068	1,381,373	46,768,626	49,372,067	47,704,590

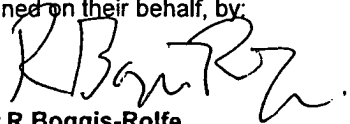
The notes on pages 27 to 56 form part of these financial statements.

THE ATHELSTAN TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
REGISTERED NUMBER:07699625

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	46,689,792	44,862,567
Current assets			
Debtors	15	788,017	948,148
Cash at bank and in hand	23	4,576,581	5,303,220
		<u>5,364,598</u>	<u>6,251,368</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(2,570,746)	(2,255,461)
Net current assets		<u>2,793,852</u>	<u>3,995,907</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	17	(16,577)	(82,884)
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>49,467,067</u>	<u>48,775,590</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	25	(95,000)	(1,071,000)
Total net assets		<u><u>49,372,067</u></u>	<u><u>47,704,590</u></u>
Funds of the Academy Trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	18	46,768,626	45,128,062
Restricted income funds	18	1,476,373	2,446,997
		<u>48,244,999</u>	<u>47,575,059</u>
Restricted funds excluding pension reserve	18	48,244,999	47,575,059
Pension reserve	18	(95,000)	(1,071,000)
Total restricted funds	18	<u>48,149,999</u>	<u>46,504,059</u>
Unrestricted income funds	18	<u>1,222,068</u>	<u>1,200,531</u>
Total funds		<u><u>49,372,067</u></u>	<u><u>47,704,590</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 24 to 56 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:


Mr R Boggis-Rolfe
Chair of Trustees


Dr T Gilson
Accounting Officer

Date:

7/12/23

The notes on pages 27 to 56 form part of these financial statements.

THE ATHELSTAN TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	20	(1,226,026)	781,515
Cash flows from investing activities	22	439,814	728,248
Cash flows from financing activities	21	59,573	511
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(726,639)	1,510,274
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		5,303,220	3,792,946
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	23, 24	4,576,581	5,303,220
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on pages 27 to 56 form part of these financial statements

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 OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

1.2 GOING CONCERN

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Academy Trust to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the 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 INCOME

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

• **Grants**

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

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

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

• **Donations**

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

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Other income, including the hire of facilities is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.3 INCOME (CONTINUED)

- **Other income**

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

- **Transfer on conversion**

Where assets and liabilities are received by the Academy Trust on conversion to an academy, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the Balance Sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the Academy Trust. An equal amount of income is recognised as a transfer on conversion within 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' to the net assets received.

1.4 EXPENDITURE

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

- **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 TAXATION

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

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

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Assets costing £5,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 2% straight line
Long-term leasehold property	- 125 years straight line
Plant and other machinery	- 15%-20% straight line
Motor vehicles	- 10% straight line

Freehold land is depreciated over 125 years at The Dean Academy and Bradon Forest School. Leasehold land is depreciated over 125 years at Leighterton Primary School.

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 DEBTORS

Trade and other debtors with no stated interest rate and due within one year are recorded at the amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be received. Prepayments are valued at the amount paid.

1.8 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account and cash on deposit or similar account and cash on deposit that has a notice period of less than 30 days.

1.9 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. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.10 OPERATING LEASES

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

1.11 PFI AGREEMENT

The Academy Trust occupies buildings at Malmesbury School which are subject to a PFI agreement between the White Horse Education Partnership and Wiltshire Council. The Academy Trust pays revenue contributions in respect of facilities management. The contract will expire in 2033. The Academy Trust does not have any rights or obligations of ownership in respect of these assets, and therefore they are not included on the Academy Trust's Balance Sheet. The revenue payment for service is included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.12 PENSIONS

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

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

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

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

1.13 AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

The Academy Trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from the ESFA. Payments received from the ESFA are excluded from the Statement of Financial Activities, along with any subsequent disbursements to pupils, as the Academy Trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The Academy Trust can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this element is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

**THE ATHELSTAN TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.14 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.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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

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

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

Transfers are made between restricted funds and restricted fixed asset funds where restricted funds have been used to purchase fixed assets.

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND AREAS OF JUDGEMENT

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 25, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 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.

Critical areas of judgement:

The Academy Trust obtains use of fixed assets as a lessee. The classification of such leases as operating or finance lease requires the Academy Trust to determine, based on an evaluation of the terms and conditions of the arrangements, whether it retains or acquires the significant risks and rewards of ownership of these assets and accordingly whether the lease requires an asset and liability to be recognised in the Balance Sheet.

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

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
DONATIONS				
Transfer from Local Authority on conversion	104,318	1,536,275	1,640,593	-
	<u>104,318</u>	<u>1,536,275</u>	<u>1,640,593</u>	<u>-</u>
Donations	121,119	-	121,119	196,570
Capital Grants	-	1,437,497	1,437,497	998,123
	<u>121,119</u>	<u>1,437,497</u>	<u>1,558,616</u>	<u>1,194,693</u>
SUBTOTAL	<u>121,119</u>	<u>1,437,497</u>	<u>1,558,616</u>	<u>1,194,693</u>
TOTAL 2023	<u><u>225,437</u></u>	<u><u>2,973,772</u></u>	<u><u>3,199,209</u></u>	<u><u>1,194,693</u></u>
TOTAL 2022	<u><u>196,570</u></u>	<u><u>998,123</u></u>	<u><u>1,194,693</u></u>	

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

4. FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY TRUST'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
EDUCATION				
DFE/ESFA GRANTS				
General Annual Grant	-	22,817,102	22,817,102	22,204,255
OTHER DFE/ESFA GRANTS				
16-19 Funding	-	1,389,636	1,389,636	1,317,936
Pupil Premium	-	747,733	747,733	723,032
Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG)	-	344,213	344,213	-
School Supplementary Grant (SSG)	-	671,044	671,044	279,683
Teachers Pay & Pension Grant	-	55,694	55,694	82,011
Other DFE/ESFA Grants	-	325,157	325,157	339,659
	-	26,350,579	26,350,579	24,946,576
OTHER GOVERNMENT GRANTS				
High Needs	-	1,369,626	1,369,626	1,099,198
Other Local Authority Grants	-	423,427	423,427	342,673
	-	1,793,053	1,793,053	1,441,871
Other income from the Academy Trust's education	1,565,158	11,484	1,576,642	1,076,865
COVID-19 ADDITIONAL FUNDING (DFE/ESFA)				
Recovery Premium	-	197,177	197,177	95,603
National Tutoring Programme	-	74,375	74,375	94,278
	-	271,552	271,552	189,881
TOTAL 2023	1,565,158	28,426,668	29,991,826	27,655,193
TOTAL 2022	1,015,089	26,640,104	27,655,193	

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

5. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Lettings	264,177	264,177	195,816
Other Trading Activities	110,139	110,139	-
TOTAL 2023	<u>374,316</u>	<u>374,316</u>	<u>195,816</u>
TOTAL 2022	<u>195,816</u>	<u>195,816</u>	

6. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Bank interest	59,573	59,573	983

In the prior year, all income related to unrestricted funds.

7. EXPENDITURE

	Staff Costs 2023 £	Premises 2023 £	Other 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Education:					
Direct costs	20,083,802	690,076	2,854,010	23,627,888	21,338,174
Support costs	4,058,600	3,608,805	1,776,154	9,443,559	8,562,074
TOTAL 2023	<u>24,142,402</u>	<u>4,298,881</u>	<u>4,630,164</u>	<u>33,071,447</u>	<u>29,900,248</u>
TOTAL 2022	<u>22,948,855</u>	<u>2,346,687</u>	<u>4,604,706</u>	<u>29,900,248</u>	

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

8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Expenditure	<u>23,627,888</u>	<u>9,443,559</u>	<u>33,071,447</u>	<u>29,900,248</u>
TOTAL 2022	<u>21,338,174</u>	<u>8,562,074</u>	<u>29,900,248</u>	

ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Pension finance costs	18,000	142,000
Staff costs	19,683,889	18,444,499
Depreciation	690,076	621,663
Educational supplies	981,013	656,790
Examination fees	427,816	368,081
Staff development	68,258	57,452
Educational visits and transport	1,358,923	675,428
Supply teachers	399,913	372,261
TOTAL 2023	<u>23,627,888</u>	<u>21,338,174</u>

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

8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Pension finance costs	30,000	51,000
Staff costs	4,058,600	4,132,095
Depreciation	140,972	127,327
PFI costs	1,022,950	911,233
Recruitment and support	123,181	78,872
Maintenance of premises and equipment	1,094,411	1,266,080
Cleaning	299,958	147,704
Rent and rates	199,145	170,518
Energy costs	734,804	311,240
Insurance	91,610	89,508
Security and transport	46,882	37,026
Catering	579,866	407,182
Technology costs	522,513	471,052
Office overheads	215,669	166,613
Legal and professional	276,612	192,822
Bank interest and charges	4,322	1
Governance	2,064	1,801
TOTAL 2023	9,443,559	8,562,074

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Operating lease rentals	64,882	49,032
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	831,051	748,990
PFI costs	1,022,950	911,233
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	23,000	20,500
- other services	8,700	3,625

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

10. STAFF

a. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	17,740,414	16,160,447
Social security costs	1,774,611	1,587,549
Pension costs	4,180,155	4,828,598
	<u>23,695,180</u>	<u>22,576,594</u>
Agency staff costs	399,913	372,261
Staff restructuring costs	47,309	-
	<u><u>24,142,402</u></u>	<u><u>22,948,855</u></u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	2023 £	2022 £
Severance payments	47,309	-
	<u><u>47,309</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

b. SEVERANCE PAYMENTS

The Academy Trust paid 6 severance payments in the year (2022 - -), disclosed in the following bands:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
£0 - £25,000	<u><u>6</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

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

10. STAFF (CONTINUED)

c. STAFF NUMBERS

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Teachers	318	300
Teaching support	137	140
Administration	112	116
Management	9	9
	576	565

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Teachers	275	258
Teaching support	81	80
Administration	83	83
Management	9	9
	448	430

d. HIGHER PAID STAFF

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	10	5
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	3	3
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	2	5
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	-
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	3	-

e. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. 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 £304,714 (2022: £265,650).

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

11. CENTRAL SERVICES

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

- Financial services
- School improvement services
- Admin and support services
- Governing and professional services
- Leadership and teaching services
- Data assessment
- Estates management services

The Academy Trust recharges these costs to each Academy at a set percentage of each Academy's General Annual Grant funding each month.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Malmesbury School	350,311	341,552
The Dean Academy	167,065	125,331
Bradon Forest School	254,797	262,086
Sir William Romney's School	160,057	151,236
Chipping Sodbury	190,803	177,612
Leighterton Primary School	8,882	-
TOTAL	1,131,915	1,057,817

12. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2022: NIL).

Headteachers and Staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Headteacher and staff and not in respect of their services as Trustees. Other Trustees did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the Academy Trust in respect of their role as Trustees.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, expenses totalling £NIL were reimbursed or paid directly to Trustees (2022: £NIL).

13. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £1,000,000 on any one claim and the cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

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

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold land & buildings £	Long-term leasehold property £	Plant and other machinery £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION					
At 1 September 2022	49,624,449	-	953,894	33,110	50,611,453
Additions	-	-	1,094,206	43,790	1,137,996
Acquired on conversion	-	1,520,280	-	-	1,520,280
At 31 August 2023	49,624,449	1,520,280	2,048,100	76,900	53,269,729
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 September 2022	5,303,609	-	412,167	33,110	5,748,886
Charge for the year	597,183	7,938	217,172	8,758	831,051
At 31 August 2023	5,900,792	7,938	629,339	41,868	6,579,937
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 August 2023	43,723,657	1,512,342	1,418,761	35,032	46,689,792
At 31 August 2022	44,320,840	-	541,727	-	44,862,567

15. DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
Trade debtors	30,672	24,691
Other debtors	17,063	9,147
Prepayments and accrued income	519,472	563,405
Tax recoverable	220,810	350,905
	788,017	948,148

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

16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	507,231	527,192
Other taxation and social security	410,755	392,436
Other creditors	641,341	588,784
Accruals and deferred income	1,011,419	747,049
	<u>2,570,746</u>	<u>2,255,461</u>

	2023 £	2022 £
DEFERRED INCOME		
Deferred income at 1 September	349,579	156,182
Resources deferred during the year	139,323	349,579
Amounts released from previous periods	(349,579)	(156,182)
Deferred income at 31 August	<u>139,323</u>	<u>349,579</u>

At the Balance Sheet date the Academy Trust was holding funds received in advance from the ESFA and educational visits to be spent in the 2023/24 academic year.

17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Other creditors	<u>16,577</u>	<u>82,884</u>

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

18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
DESIGNATED FUNDS						
AGP sinking fund	200,000	-	-	-	-	200,000
GENERAL FUNDS						
General Funds	1,000,531	1,999,047	(1,977,510)	-	-	1,022,068
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	1,200,531	1,999,047	(1,977,510)	-	-	1,222,068
RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS						
General Annual Grant	2,248,438	22,817,102	(23,774,957)	53,102	-	1,343,685
16-19 Funding	-	1,389,636	(1,389,636)	-	-	-
Pupil Premium	17,040	747,733	(764,773)	-	-	-
MSAG	-	344,213	(344,213)	-	-	-
SSG	-	671,044	(671,044)	-	-	-
Other ESFA Grants	-	380,851	(360,282)	-	-	20,569
Other ESFA COVID-19 Grants	59,337	271,552	(330,889)	-	-	-
High Needs	933	1,369,626	(1,370,559)	-	-	-
Other Government Grants	34,097	423,427	(457,297)	-	-	227
Other Restricted Funds	87,152	132,603	(107,863)	-	-	111,892
Transfer in on conversion	-	124,318	-	(124,318)	-	-
Capital grant - revenue expenditure	-	-	(573,376)	573,376	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,071,000)	(20,000)	(118,000)	-	1,114,000	(95,000)
	1,375,997	28,652,105	(30,262,889)	502,160	1,114,000	1,381,373

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

18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS						
Fixed assets transferred on conversion & business combinations	42,610,571	1,536,275	(601,360)	(15,995)	-	43,529,491
Fixed assets purchased from GAG and other restricted funds	2,251,994	-	(229,688)	1,137,995	-	3,160,301
DfE/ESFA Capital Grants	265,497	1,437,497	-	(1,624,160)	-	78,834
	<u>45,128,062</u>	<u>2,973,772</u>	<u>(831,048)</u>	<u>(502,160)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,768,626</u>
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>46,504,059</u>	<u>31,625,877</u>	<u>(31,093,937)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,114,000</u>	<u>48,149,999</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>47,704,590</u>	<u>33,624,924</u>	<u>(33,071,447)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,114,000</u>	<u>49,372,067</u>

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

DESIGNATED FUNDS

In accordance with guidance received from the Football Foundation, £200,000 has been designated from general funds as a sinking fund for future refurbishment of the 3G pitch at Chipping Sodbury School.

TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

The transfer from GAG, restricted and unrestricted funds to the restricted fixed asset fund is GAG money and other amounts spent on purchasing fixed assets.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

General Annual Grant - Income from the ESFA which is to be used for the normal running costs of the Academy, including education and support costs.

16-19 Funding - Funding received from the ESFA to fund 14-16-year-olds when they are enrolled in sixth form or FE colleges that meet specified criteria.

Pupil premium represents funding received from the ESFA during the period for children that qualify for free school meals and children from service families to enable the school to address the current underlying inequalities in educational achievement in these groups.

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

18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) - Funding relates to additional ESFA funding for state funded mainstream schools, the intention of the funding is to be used for the normal running costs of the Academy, including education and support costs.

School Supplementary Grant (SSG) - Funding from the ESFA which provides support for the costs of the Health and Social Care Levy and wider costs.

Other ESFA grants includes the devolved formula capital grant, received for capital works and maintenance of the school premises.

Other ESFA COVID-19 grants includes recovery premium and school led tutoring, funding received in order to cover the additional costs incurred due to COVID-19.

High Needs funding comprises named pupil allowance and a grant towards the training of the school special educational needs co-ordinator. named pupil allowance is funding received to fund further support for pupils with additional needs.

Other government grants includes various sources of income received from the Local Authority and other government bodies.

Other restricted funds includes voluntary contributions towards educational visits and other small restricted donations made to the trust.

Transfer in on conversion - funds donated from schools on conversion into the Trust from the Local Authority.

Capital grant - revenue expenditure - revenue expenditure funded by capital grants.

Pension reserve - This represents the Academy's share of the assets and liabilities in the Local Government Pension Scheme. As with most pension schemes this is currently in deficit due to an excess of scheme liabilities over scheme assets which was inherited on conversion to an Academy.

RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS

Fixed assets, on conversion and the transfer from Local Authorities represent the value of assets transferred to the new Academy Trust from the previous school, as well as the donation of the school buildings and other equipment of the Dean Academy and Bradon Forest School.

Fixed assets purchased from GAG represents amounts spent on fixed assets from the GAG funding received from the ESFA.

DfE/ESFA capital grants relates to devolved formula capital funding received throughout the year and to be spent on fixed assets.

Fixed assets purchased from donations relate to donations made for the specific purpose of purchasing fixed assets.

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(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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

18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
DESIGNATED FUNDS						
AGP sinking fund	200,000	-	-	-	-	200,000
GENERAL FUNDS						
General Funds	936,358	1,211,888	(1,147,715)	-	-	1,000,531
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	1,136,358	1,211,888	(1,147,715)	-	-	1,200,531
RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS						
General Annual Grant	1,275,941	23,518,436	(22,510,909)	(35,030)	-	2,248,438
High Needs	-	1,099,193	(1,098,260)	-	-	933
Pupil Premium	16,905	723,030	(722,895)	-	-	17,040
Catch Up	180,990	-	(176,349)	-	-	4,641
YPSS	-	132,780	(109,847)	-	-	22,933
Teaching School	12,435	46,768	(49,576)	-	-	9,627
Other Restricted Funds	92,178	427,364	(321,293)	(120,724)	-	77,525
Other LA Funding	-	209,893	(198,729)	-	-	11,164
Teachers Pension/Pay Grant	-	82,011	(82,011)	-	-	-
Rates	-	127,606	(127,606)	-	-	-
Supplementary Grant	-	279,683	(279,683)	-	-	-
Recovery Premium	-	95,633	(40,937)	-	-	54,696
School Led Tutoring	-	94,277	(94,277)	-	-	-
Capital grant - revenue expenditure	-	-	(863,171)	863,171	-	-
Pension reserve	(10,970,000)	-	(1,328,000)	-	11,227,000	(1,071,000)

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

18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
	(9,391,551)	26,836,674	(28,003,543)	707,417	11,227,000	1,375,997
	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS						
Fixed assets transferred on conversion & business combinations	43,114,627	-	(618,177)	114,121	-	42,610,571
Fixed assets purchased from GAG and other restricted funds	192,386	-	(130,813)	2,190,421	-	2,251,994
DfE/ESFA Capital Grants	410,447	998,123	-	(1,143,073)	-	265,497
S106 Grant	872,137	-	-	(872,137)	-	-
Transfer from local authorities	339,360	-	-	(339,360)	-	-
PSBP2 Grant	657,389	-	-	(657,389)	-	-
	45,586,346	998,123	(748,990)	(707,417)	-	45,128,062
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	36,194,795	27,834,797	(28,752,533)	-	11,227,000	46,504,059
TOTAL FUNDS	37,331,153	29,046,685	(29,900,248)	-	11,227,000	47,704,590

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

18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Malmesbury School	1,902,316	1,618,759
The Dean Academy	(499,093)	103,026
Bradon Forest School	1,011,924	1,498,152
Sir William Romney's School	81,884	154,926
Chipping Sodbury School	(151,400)	(29,026)
Leighterton Primary School	146,624	-
Central	206,186	301,691
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	2,698,441	3,647,528
Restricted fixed asset fund	46,768,626	45,128,062
Pension reserve	(95,000)	(1,071,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	49,372,067	47,704,590
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The following academies are carrying a net deficit on their portion of the funds as follows:

	Deficit £
Chipping Sodbury	(151,400)
The Dean Academy	(499,093)
	<hr/>

The Academy Trust is taking the following action to return the academies to surplus:

Chipping Sodbury School

The academy brought in a deficit on conversion. A repayment plan has been agreed with the ESFA. Monthly repayments are being made through an abatement of GAG over a 3-year period commencing in December 2021. In addition the academy will be a focus area for the trust's current Integrated Curriculum and Financial Planning (ICFP) review which is in progress at the year end. The trust plans to identify areas of where financial efficiency can be improved.

The Dean Academy

The academy is experiencing growing pupil numbers. In 2022/23 the academy invested in a staffing structure in preparation for this continued growth. However, the academy will still be included in the trust's current Integrated Curriculum and Financial Planning (ICFP) review which is in progress at the year end. This will look at efficiency metrics such as class sizes and teacher to pupil ratios. The school will return to an in year surplus in the financial year ended 31 August 2025.

THE ATHELSTAN TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

TOTAL COST ANALYSIS BY ACADEMY

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Malmesbury School	5,890,460	700,072	374,557	1,800,113	8,765,202	7,889,997
The Dean Academy	2,912,438	867,840	116,288	1,044,196	4,940,762	4,205,986
Bradon Forest School	4,074,395	817,566	174,138	1,823,261	6,889,360	5,869,415
Sir William Romney's School	2,565,826	519,234	103,698	705,444	3,894,202	3,421,314
Chipping Sodbury	3,424,699	749,868	172,007	1,175,117	5,521,691	4,760,415
Leighterton Primary School	111,085	46,366	8,119	14,880	180,450	-
Central	677,716	314,654	32,206	1,024,156	2,048,732	3,004,131
ACADEMY TRUST	19,656,619	4,015,600	981,013	7,587,167	32,240,399	29,151,258

19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	46,689,792	46,689,792
Current assets	1,222,068	4,063,696	78,834	5,364,598
Creditors due within one year	-	(2,570,746)	-	(2,570,746)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(16,577)	-	(16,577)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(95,000)	-	(95,000)
TOTAL	1,222,068	1,381,373	46,768,626	49,372,067

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19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS (CONTINUED)

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	44,862,567	44,862,567
Current assets	1,200,531	4,785,342	265,495	6,251,368
Creditors due within one year	-	(2,255,461)	-	(2,255,461)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(82,884)	-	(82,884)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(1,071,000)	-	(1,071,000)
TOTAL	1,200,531	1,375,997	45,128,062	47,704,590

20. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	553,477	(853,563)
ADJUSTMENTS FOR:		
Depreciation charges	831,051	748,990
Capital grants received	(1,437,497)	(998,123)
Interest received	(59,573)	(511)
Defined benefit pension scheme obligation on conversion	20,000	-
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	70,000	1,135,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	48,000	193,000
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	160,131	(93,664)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	248,978	650,386
Net assets from Academy on joining the trust	(1,660,593)	-
NET CASH (USED IN)/PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(1,226,026)	781,515

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

21. CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £	2022 £
Interest received	59,573	511
NET CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES	59,573	511

22. CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £	2022 £
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,137,996)	(269,875)
Capital grants from DfE Group	1,437,497	998,123
Cash transferred on joining the Trust	140,313	-
NET CASH PROVIDED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES	439,814	728,248

23. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	4,576,581	5,303,220
TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	4,576,581	5,303,220

24. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	5,303,220	(726,639)	4,576,581
	5,303,220	(726,639)	4,576,581

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

25. PENSION COMMITMENTS

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 Wiltshire and Gloucestershire Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

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

TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME

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

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

VALUATION OF THE TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 26 October 2023. The key elements of the previous valuation as at 31 March 2016 which was effective for the year ended 31 August 2023 are:

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

The 2020 valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024 and effective until 31 March 2027. The employer contribution rate for this period will be 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy).

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £2,988,344 (2022 - £2,702,849).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2019/04/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx>) for 2016 and www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2023/10/valuation-result.aspx for 2020.

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.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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25. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £1,384,000 (2022 - £1,227,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £1,126,000 (2022 - £999,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 258,000 (2022 - £228,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 19.7 - 29.3% per cent for employers and 5.5 - 9.9% per cent for employees.

As described in note 25 the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Academy Trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Academy 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.

PRINCIPAL ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

	2023	2022
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.65	3.71
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.97	3.11
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.24	4.26

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

	2023	2022
Retiring today		
Males	21.0 years	22.1 years
Females	24.0 years	24.4 years
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	21.9 years	23.1 years
Females	25.7 years	26.2 years

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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25. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

SHARE OF SCHEME ASSETS

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

	At 31 August 2023 £	At 31 August 2022 £
Equities	10,123,000	10,542,000
Bonds	4,669,000	4,140,000
Property	2,190,000	2,100,000
Cash an other liquid assets	1,136,000	140,000
TOTAL MARKET VALUE OF ASSETS	18,118,000	16,922,000

The actual return on scheme assets was (£509,000) (2022- (£732,000)).

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Current service cost	(1,196,000)	(2,134,000)
Interest income	735,000	279,000
Interest cost	(783,000)	(472,000)
Total	(1,244,000)	(2,327,000)

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

	2023 £	2022 £
AT 1 SEPTEMBER	17,993,000	27,606,000
Conversion of academy trusts	44,000	-
Current service cost	1,196,000	2,134,000
Interest cost	783,000	472,000
Employee contributions	258,000	228,000
Actuarial gains	(2,475,000)	(12,262,000)
Benefits paid	(438,000)	(185,000)
AT 31 AUGUST	17,361,000	17,993,000

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

25. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

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

	2023 £	2022 £
AT 1 SEPTEMBER	16,922,000	16,636,000
Conversion of academy trusts	24,000	-
Interest income	735,000	279,000
Actuarial gains	(509,000)	(1,035,000)
Employer contributions	1,126,000	999,000
Employee contributions	258,000	228,000
Benefits paid	(438,000)	(185,000)
AT 31 AUGUST	18,118,000	16,922,000

The Academy Trust has an unrecognised surplus of £852,000 (2022 - £Nil) in respect of its defined benefit pension scheme as it does not expect to recover the plan surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan.

26. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Not later than 1 year	839,997	839,692
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	3,217,238	3,213,067
Later than 5 years	3,904,808	3,511,601
Total	7,962,043	7,564,360

The Academy Trust occupies buildings at Malmesbury School that are subject to a PFI agreement between the White Horse Education Partnership and Wiltshire Council. The amount included as an operating lease commitment above is the projected revenue payment for the next financial year. The agreement will expire in 2033 and each annual payment is subject to inflationary increases.

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27. CONVERSION TO AN ACADEMY TRUST

On 1 May 2023 Leighterton Primary School converted to academy trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to The Athelstan Trust from Gloucestershire City Council 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 value and recognised in the Balance Sheet under the appropriate heading with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain in the Statement of Financial Activities as Income from Donations and Capital Grants - 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.

	Restricted funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS			
Leasehold land and buildings	-	1,520,280	1,520,280
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash - representing budget surplus on LA funds	124,318	15,995	140,313
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
LGPS pension deficit	(20,000)	-	(20,000)
NET ASSETS	<u>104,318</u>	<u>1,536,275</u>	<u>1,640,593</u>

28. MEMBERS' LIABILITY

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

29. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Athelstan Trust is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Trust Office, Lowfield Road, Tetbury, Gloucestershire, England, GL8 8AE

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

30. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

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

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 12.

31. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

On 1 September 2023 Avening Primary School joined the Trust donating its assets and liabilities.

32. AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

The Academy Trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ended 31 August 2023 the Academy Trust received £10,055 (2022: £11,497) and disbursed £3,158 (2022: £3,611) from the fund. An amount of £41,574 (2022: £34,677) is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that is repayable to ESFA.