ST AMBROSE COLLEGE EDMUND RICE ACADEMY TRUST (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022





A10

06/05/2023 COMPANIES HOUSE

#42

Haines Watts

Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors
Bridge House
157A Ashley Road
Hale
Altrincham
Cheshire
WA14 2UT

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and administrative details	1
Trustees' report	2 - 11
Governance statement	12 - 14
Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance	15
Statement of trustees' responsibilities	16
Independent auditor's report on the accounts	17 - 19
Independent reporting accountant's report on regularity	20 - 21
Statement of financial activities including income and expenditure account	22 - 23
Balance sheet	24
Statement of cash flows	25
Notes to the accounts including accounting policies	26 - 44

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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

The academy trust operates an academy for pupils aged 11 to 19 serving a catchment of pastoral areas in Greater Manchester, Cheshire, and the Diocese of Shrewsbury.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee (company number: 07827963) 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 Saint Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as St Ambrose College and is referred to throughout this report as 'the College'. Details of the trustees who served during the year are included in the reference and administrative details on page 1 together with details of the company's registered office address.

Member's liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice the College has purchased professional indemnity and directors' and officers' insurance to protect the trustees and officers from claims arising from negligence, errors or omissions occurring whilst on College business. Further details are disclosed at note 11.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

The company's articles of association provide for the election or appointment of trustees. In summary, the number of trustees shall not be less than three and has no maximum number. Ordinarily, the board of trustees consists of: up to 8 foundation trustees appointed by the chair of the trustees of the property held in connection with the English Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers; up to 4 parent trustees appointed by parents of registered pupils in the College; up to 2 staff trustees appointed by staff members of the College; and principal ex officio.

A trustee's term of office (excluding the principal) is four years and they may be re-appointed or re-elected for further terms of office. Foundation Governors will serve no longer than 3 consecutive terms and Co-Opted Governors will serve a maximum of 2 consecutive terms of office.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

Trustees are appointed based on the skills that they will bring to the board of trustees or based on a proposal to the board of trustees by representative groups. The training and induction provided for new trustees will depend on their existing experience. All new trustees are given a tour of the College and the chance to meet with other trustees, staff and pupils. All plans and other documents they will need to undertake their role as trustees are provided. Trustees also attend training on specific trustee requirements and roles and responsibilities provided by Trust GS.

During the year, trustees are offered all necessary training, provide feedback to relevant committees and this is monitored and tracked centrally.

Organisational structure

The governance of the trust is defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association together with the Funding Agreement with the Department for Education.

All trustees are members of the full board of trustees. In addition, trustees are members of committees which report to the full board of trustees. During the year the full board met four times.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The organisational structure consists of three levels; the trustees, the senior leadership team and faculty leaders. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision-making at all levels. The trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the College by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of College expenditure and matters relating to staffing (resourcing, appointing, pay and performance monitoring). The senior leadership team comprises the Principal, Acting Vice Principals, Assistant Principals and the Business Manager. These managers control the College at an executive level, implementing the policies laid-down by the trustees and reporting to them. As a group, the senior leadership team is responsible for the allocation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff through appointment boards. Some spending control is devolved to members of the faculty (subject and department leaders). Spending limits exist which require authorisation by the senior leadership team. Individual budget managers include faculty leaders and department leaders (including premises and catering). These managers are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the College, in particular, organising teaching and learning, pastoral and extra-curricular facilities and opportunities.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The board of trustees has established a Pay Committee with fully delegated authority to develop, implement and administer the pay policy on its behalf. The remuneration of key management personnel is set in accordance with the Teachers' Pay and Conditions document and the College pay and appraisal policies. Progression up the scale is dependent on performance management. The Principal is excluded from discussion regarding his own pay.

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	2
Full-time equivalent employee number	1.6

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0% to 1%	2
More than 1% to 2%	0
More than 2% to 50%	0
More than 50% to 99%	0
100%	0

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

The total cost of facility time	£276.24
The total pay bill	£4,288,577
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	0%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time	0.64%
hours	0.0478

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The Congregation of Christian Brothers owns the freehold of the College land that it currently leases to the College on a 99-year lease at an annual rent of one peppercorn. Saint Ambrose Parents' Association is a separate body which organises various fund-raising events to enhance facilities for pupils. The Saint Ambrose College Charity is a separately registered charity (registration number 526013). Its sole object is the provision of financial grants to the College for the up-keep or development of premises and facilities. The Saint Ambrose Sports Committee is a separate body which raises funds to support the school's participation in sporting fixtures and competitions and to enhance the range and quality of sporting opportunities afforded to the pupils.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The principal object of the charitable company is the operation of Saint Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust to provide education for boys between the ages of 11 and 19.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The charitable company took over the operation of Saint Ambrose College on the College's conversion to academy status on 1 May 2012. Most of the College's recurrent income is obtained from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2022 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

The main objectives of the College during the year ended 31 August 2022 are summarised below: -

- To ensure that every boy enjoys the same high quality education in terms of resourcing, tuition, welfare and care which accords with the Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church and the principles of Blessed Edmund Rice and the Congregation of Christian Brothers
- To raise the standard of educational achievements of all boys
- To improve the effectiveness of the College by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under constant review
- To provide value for money for the funds expended
- To comply with all appropriate statutory and curricular requirements
- To provide extra-curricular activities outside the classroom to enhance each boy's personal development
- · To conduct the College's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness

The College's main vocational strategy is encompassed in the Blessed Edmund Rice Eight Essentials, which are:

- Evangelising the modern world
- Promoting the spiritual in Gospel
- Building a Christian community
- Compassion for those in need
- Concern for the whole person
- Striving for excellence
- Education as a Christian calling
- Education for justice

Public benefit

In setting of the objectives and in planning the activities, the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The trustees believe that the charitable company's aims are demonstrably to the public benefit.

Employee involvement and employment of the disabled

Employees have been consulted on issues of concern to them by means of regular consultative committee and staff meetings and have been kept informed on specific matters directly by management. The College carries out informal discussions for all staff leaving the organisation and has adopted a procedure of upward feedback for senior management and the trustees. The College has implemented a number of detailed policies in relation to all aspects of personnel matters. The College has long-established fair employment practices in the recruitment, selection, retention and training of disabled staff.

Equal opportunities

The trustees recognise that equal opportunities should be an integral part of good practice within the workplace. The College aims to establish equal opportunity in all areas of its activities including creating a working and learning environment in which the contribution and needs of all people are fully valued.

Disabled persons

There is wheelchair access to all areas throughout the College including lifts to all floors, refuge points on fire escapes and specific washroom facilities (including an alert mechanism for those in peril). The policy of the College is to support recruitment and retention of employees with disabilities. The College does this by adapting the physical environment by making support resources available and through training and career development.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

GCSE results

At GCSE results were very strong, with the Attainment 8 (A8) score of 72.83 being the highest in the school's history and up from 2021 despite the national trend showing a drop in grades. Similarly, the Progress 8 (P8) score was excellent, coming in at 0.75. Girls secured twice as many grade 9s than boys nationally so were are delighted that 5 of our students secured grade 9s in ALL of their subjects, 10 secured the maximum of 90 A8 points and overall, our percentage of grade 9s rose to 21% compared to 11.2% in 2019 and we also saw a rise in grades 9-8 (43.9% compared to 30.2%) and 9-7 (67% compared to 54.4%). A key reason for the improvements in Science might be that this is the first cohort who had the choice of taking triple sciences (separate sciences) or the Trilogy (worth 2 x GCSEs).

Projections were broadly in line with outcomes, with the exception of projected grades for students with SEND and disadvantaged students where outcomes were significantly higher, indicating the positive impact of intervention which prioritised these students. A8 scores were significantly higher than 2019 but also above 2020 and 2021 which suggests that the approach we adopted to awarding CAGs/ TAGs process was rigorous and that grades weren't in fact inflated, although we are mindful of the 'drop' to come next year as grade boundaries are lowered to bring them back in line with 2019. There was clear evidence of our success across the year in 'closing the gap' between disadvantaged students and non-disadvantaged students: disadvantaged students achieved a higher A8 score than their peers (74.56 compared with 72.73).

Although disadvantaged students made slightly less progress from KS2 than their peers, achieving a lower P8 score than their peers (0.65 compared with 0.79), this should be considered in light of the national picture, where disadvantaged students achieved significantly lower outcomes than their peers across both measures. We achieved some success in 'closing the gap' between SEND students and non-SEND students across the year but outcomes for SEND students were lower overall. SEND students achieved a lower A8 score than their peers (66.67 compared with 73.06) and, although they achieved a positive P8 score which was significantly higher than projected (0.08 compared with -1.36), this was lower than the P8 score achieved by non-disadvantaged students (0.79).

There is a notable gap between SEND and non-SEND students in terms of the proportion of students achieving 9 – 7 in English and Maths: 16.7% of SEND students compared with 52.8% of non-SEND students, with the gap most pronounced for Maths (63.2% of non-SEND students achieved 9 – 7 compared with 16.7% of SEND students, although the small number of SEND students may distort the picture a little). Raising the attainment of students with SEND, particularly as a result of the disproportionate impact of 'lost learning' on these students, remains a key priority.

Outcomes are strong across all ethnic groups: with the exception of one group, all achieved an A8 score above 70 and a positive P8 score, both significantly higher than Trafford and national averages. We haven't historically monitored the performance of individual ethnic groups due to relatively small numbers, but the increasing diversity of our intake means that we will now do so. The 2022 outcomes and the excellent outcomes of EAL students don't indicate that there is anything of concern at this point.

A-level results

The value added score of 0.08 is strong for a number of reasons. It is up from -0.23 in 2019 and to achieve a positive Value Added (VA) with a much stronger cohort on arrival and with accusations that grades had been inflated in 2020, to achieve a positive VA score is recognition of our approach to GCSE TAGs back in 2020.

The APS of 44.70 is the highest on record at St Ambrose College. Indeed, there was nothing above 40 prior to 2020 (CAGs). To have external validation building on the excellent CAG and TAG outcomes brings confidence in our teaching and learning and systems. We are acutely aware that there will be another drop for the 2023 outcomes and that in most subjects it will be a larger drop than what we saw in the summer and therefore there is no room for complacency.

A key reason for the jump in VA is because of the number of grades C+ that previously would have been D/E grades. This is a key improvement for us BUT upon closer examination our marginal gains will come from improving the percentage of A*/A grades as can be seen from one of the ALPS screenshots which shows that the highest GCSE attainers are securing ALPS grades 4 and 5 whereas the other students are securing ALPS grades 2 and 3.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

A further reason for the improved performance is likely the change in the admissions criteria. This is the first cohort that required a grade 7 in order to take Science and /or Mathematics. There was a considerable drop in the number of students taking Chemistry and Biology as a result of this change, although Physics has grown significantly. Other changes to the admissions criteria also look to have been effective in terms of students being put on the correct pathway and accessing the correct subjects e.g. the requirement for a grade 7 in GCSE Maths in order to undertake A2 Computer Science.

6 students secured either 4 or 5 x A* grades and 13 students had an average grade of A*.

Curriculum

The curriculum for 2022/23 is very similar to the last academic year. The significant change is the addition of Food Technology/Catering to the GCSE option blocks and we will be running 1 Year 10 group next year.

In 2022/23, we will have 5 curriculum groups in Years 7-9 and 6 curriculum groups in Years 10-11. With year groups of 180 moving through and increasing interest externally, the 6th Form numbers now stand at 270. It is expected that the 6th Form will remain this size until the current Year 8 progress in to 6th Form in 3 years' time.

Psychology has moved in to Year 13 for the first time. Otherwise there is nothing new to update on for the Y13 curriculum and options other than to note that both General RE and PSHCE remain on the timetable for the students in this year group.

Due to a change in funding arrangements from the DfE, supervised study has been added to student timetables in order to ensure that our allocated hours meet requirements for the full, band 5 funding.

Options in to Key Stage 4 show that Geography is again a popular choice with 5 GCSE groups required. This was the same last year. History remains a consistently strong choice with 5 groups (up from 4 this year). Subjects running with single numbers are Art and Latin. There are 2 GCSE Music groups running in Year 10 for the first time in many years.

The only change to the KS3 curriculum is that Art has been given back an extra lesson having previously dropped to 1 lesson per fortnight in 2 of the 3 year groups. This hour has been taken from MFL who still retain a healthy 10% allocation in Year 7, favourable to most other schools.

Sport

The College's senior rugby team enjoyed success in the 15-a-side game winning 8 matches and reaching the quarter finals of the County Cup. Their most notable success came in the Stonyhurst 7s where they reached the final having defeated Giggleswick, London Oratory, Cheadle Hulme and St Edwards College. The College 2nd XV had an excellent season bolstered by a very strong Under 16 team. The side lost only one fixture in an excellent season. Our Under 16s enjoyed some outstanding successes reaching the County Cup final where they lost narrowly to Kings Macclesfield in their only 15-a-side defeat. They were to enjoy their greatest achievements as a sevens team, winning the prestigious Stonyhurst Sevens defeating Kings in the Final. They followed this with victory in the Rydal Sevens and a memorable Rosslyn Park tournament where they lost to Harrow in the Cup semi-final, our best ever achievement at the world's largest Sevens tournament. At Under 15 age group the side reached the Quarter Finals of the National Vase and after a slow start began to fulfil their true potential.

At Under 14, the side lost to Kings Macclesfield in the National Cup but were a strong side when at full strength and showed this reaching the final of the Warwick and County Sevens before winning the Wirral GS Festival. At Rosslyn, like our Under 16s they reached the second day of the tournament and lost to Harrow in their Quarter final matches. At Under 13 the side performed well with over 60 in the squad to select from. At Rosslyn Park they completed the tournament undefeated as winners of their group. Sadly, as a watershed tournament no knockout stages were available. The side will eagerly await next year's competition where they should challenge for National success. They did enjoy some silverware as winners at Kings Macclesfield and Stonyhurst Sevens. At Under 12, the side arguably started the brightest of all College teams reaching the new year undefeated. Despite losing their unbeaten run the side did finish the season winning the Wirral and Audenshaw Sevens and can be proud of their first year of competitive rugby,

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

In the pool, our swimmers completed a season undefeated in galas against the top schools in the north. The Under 15 and Under 13 sides reached the National Finals and at the Olympic Pool in London finished a very creditable 12th place. Many of the team joined the senior swimmers at the Manchester Grammar School Sutton Trophy Relays and completed an outstanding season winning the trophy for the 3rd consecutive year. We also hosted the Trafford Schools championships and at Under 15 age group finished first whilst at Under 13 a creditable 2nd. In water polo our Seniors won the English Schools Plate whilst our Under 15s and 13s reached their respective Semi Finals both finishing aa runners up. We hosted the North West Cadet water polo tournament for the first time. We entered 4 teams ,3 of whom qualified for the Final. National selection was achieved by one swimmer and four players have been selected for the Duke of Cambridge Water Polo tournament for which selection will be made for an international tournament. Players now figure regularly in club competitions alongside many of our swimmers.

Reaching such levels and competing in national competitions has been a testament to all boys and staff involved. In the ten years since the site was built both swimming and water polo successes have reached incredible heights and in more recent times national Biathlon success has established another sport at the College using the strengths of our Cross Country and swimming teams as a springboard. To have 6 boys in the top 30 in a national cross country competition at the first time of competing is an outstanding achievement.

Our runners were well represented at the GM championships following 3 age group wins at the Traffords. The side at junior and Intermediate age groups went on to compete in the National Finals in Brixham and finished in the top 20 schools in the country.

At Senior Football the 3 College teams and two Under 16 sides played consistently well throughout their season and just missed out on the latter stages of the English Schools Cup. In our Under 18 cup the team can count themselves extremely unlucky losing on penalties in their last 16 match. In the Trafford Schools championships the team finished level with Ashton on Mersey in the local league to share the title.

In Basketball a staggering growth of players in all years could make it arguably the College's most improved sport. Our Under 16 side were unbeaten in their Trafford Schools competition and were crowned champions. At Under 14 the side did struggle in front of basket but showed lots of ability and similarly at Under 12 the side lost just one match in their league.

In summer sports, cricket nets began in January and junior groups trained every Monday. Tuesday and Wednesday night throughout the season. Fixtures were arranged against local schools and despite our best efforts many were lost to weather or extended exam pressure. In what was left our Seniors enjoyed a memorable MC fixture at Hale Barns Cricket Club whilst at Under 15,14 and 12 the sides enjoyed convincing wins against Cheadle Hulme School. At Under 13 the team won their first game against Audenshaw and showed great improvement all round.

In athletics we had better luck with the weather and recorded wins in Trafford Schools at Under 15,14 and 13s. Our Under 12 side finished 5th overall. The English Schools Championships saw both Under 13 and 15 age groups qualify for the North West finals, our Under 15s failing narrowly to reach the Nationals.

It is always such a great pleasure to read about the many successes of St Ambrose old boys in local and national news. This year Ciaran Byrne has been selected to represent the Senior GB team at water polo and at Under 18 Malachy Byrne was also selected. In September we received news of two recent Old Boys Mark Atkinson and Raphael Quirke selected for the England rugby squad for the Autumn internationals. Ciaran Parker was signed by London Irish and Ciaran Booth by Connacht. Connor Docherty had a contract extension at Sale Sharks and Tom Walsh was part of the Sale FC squad aiming to reach the Championship following his inclusion in the GB Sevens squad.

Charlie Mulchrone and Fergus Mulchrone are now on coaching staffs at Harlequins and Sale Sharks respectively. To have one international through your school is enough for whole school celebration, but to have 5 or 6 shows just how respected St Ambrose has become for producing national sportsman of the highest calibre.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The Catholic Life of the School

In December 2021, we had our denominational inspection from the Diocese of Shrewsbury. We were delighted that the inspection team not only agreed with our own judgements and evaluation, but over the 2 days, they got a clear sense of our unique ethos and community. The report (see link below) was described as a model report and some of our staff have been invited to share good practice as a result of the evidence seen during the inspection. We were awarded outstanding in all areas.

A summary of other highlights for the 2021-22 year is as follows:

- Weekly Mass in the Atrium every Thursday has been celebrated by a variety of local Priests. This has included Masses to celebrate end of Term before Easter, end of Term in July, Y13 Leavers, and Y6 Transition Day
- Edmund Rice International social justice group meets every two weeks during Mon lunchtime to reflect on the relevant issues of our time in the context of Catholic Social Teaching
- Eco Justice Group meets every two weeks during Mon lunchtime to reflect on climate justice issues in the context of Laudato Si
- Edmund Rice Committee, with at least two reps from every year, meets every Monday Form Time to plan coordinated justice and charity activity
- Student Chaplaincy Committee, with at least two reps from every year, meets every Wednesday lunchtime to plan spiritual provision and liturgical practicalities
- Liturgy Group (voluntary) meets in the Chapel every Thursday lunchtime to discuss and reflect on the Gospel from that morning's School Mass
- KS3 students attended Mini Dash in April and Annual Diocesan Schools' Mass on 8th July
- Chaplain attended regular COAST Meetings, in person and virtually
- Year 13 students have attended and led St Ambrose Prep's Advocacy Group, sharing campaigns and outreach ideas
- Y9 attended Lenten Retreat in the Chapel
- Lenten Reflections delivered by Y13 students virtually during Lent 2022
- · Virtual Reflections delivered during Form Time and with lesson starters to mark Holy Days of Obligation
- Sacrament of Reconciliation offered in school during Lent with the support of local priests
- All students attended Stations of the Cross workshop in the Chapel
- Plans are in place to take the incoming Student Leadership Team (current Y12) to Waterford to Walk in the Footsteps of Edmund in Autumn 2022
- Year 7 have been inducted into the Edmund Rice Network with workshops from the Chaplain and members of the ER Network Team
- Chaplain has delivered a 'Walking in the Footsteps of Edmund' programme consisting of 8 workshops contextualising the Eight Essentials
- Y13 students contributed to the Edmund Rice Network's Feast Day celebration on 5th May
- Chaplain coordinates Half-Termly catch-ups for Edmund Rice Chaplains from England and Ireland via Zoom
- Chaplain has delivered 'Working in a Catholic School' twilight workshops to all new staff including trainees
- Chaplain offers counselling and mentoring support to all year groups, working closely with the Pastoral Team for referrals
- Form Mass Reflection delivered every Wednesday by the Chaplain for the Form who is hosting the weekly Mass, with the group led in prayer and reflection on the theme 2 of the following day's Gospel. Readers are allocated and students selected to compose and read class prayers at Mass
- An Interfaith Committee has since been formed, meeting once per Term and feeding into the Chaplaincy Committee around key dates and celebrations from the Hindu, Sikh, Muslim, Jewish and Buddhist calendars
- Weekly Form Liturgies provided by Sarah McManus
- Weekly Form Time Reflections from the Chaplain for use in extended Form Time on Thursday Mornings, designed around liturgical themes of the week
- Weekly 6th Form Reflections focusing on the forthcoming Sunday's Gospel, for those 6th Form students attending Form Time on Thursday Mornings
- Thursday Thought delivered by 6th Form students to all form groups, quality assured in advance by the Chaplain
- Student-led Rosary Group every Friday Form Time (voluntary)
- Half-Termly Staff Spiritual Conversation session (1 hour), led by the Chaplain
- Edmund Rice Opportunities presentation to all of Year 12 to encourage participation in compassionate action
- Y12 involved in drafting of Edmund Rice Network's submission to the Human Rights Council for the UK's Universal Periodic review
- Resurrection of Staff Chaplaincy Committee, meeting every Half Term

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

- Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders Student Leadership Certificate delivered to all Y12 students
- Immersion Programme re-established with 15 students from Y11 and Y12 selected to travel to Sierra Leone in February 2023
- Inclusivity Week planned and delivered by Y12 and Y13 students in February 2022

Staffing

Much of a school's achievement depends upon and is a credit to its staff; St Ambrose has been very fortunate in that respect. There are many long-standing members of staff still working at the College and we have been able to attract good staff members to replace those who leave. Loyalty is a prime feature of staff commitment who donate and volunteer their time and skills regularly with extra-curricular clubs throughout the year. We thank also the support staff for their communication and organisational skills on behalf of the College.

We are blessed to have the additional support of our committees. The Parents' Association, the Old Boys Association and Sports Committee, all of whom have worked tirelessly for the College throughout the year to raise funds. Unfortunately, not all news and achievements can fit into this short report.

We have started the process of letting out the building to great success and we continue to look ahead to how we can continue to improve our provision. A fundraising committee has been established with the aim of focusing on some larger projects and celebrating our 80th anniversary year in 3 years' time.

Key performance indicators

The trustees consider that the following are key performance indicators for the College:

- · percentage of income received from the ESFA spent on teaching staff;
- percentage of income received from the ESFA spent on total staff costs;
- pupil numbers (current on roll, numbers sitting the entrance examination and anticipated new academic year intake);
- pictorial analysis of income spent against main sectors (staffing, curricular provisions, support provisions, occupational estates costs);
- number of months grant income coverage held in cash at bank; and
- general financial stability (in that future income matches anticipated expenditure).

The trustees have been pleased that expectations for all key performance indicators listed have been successfully met during the year.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the College has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the statement of accounting policies.

Financial review

During the year ended 31 August 2022, excluding the fixed asset fund, the resources expended of £6,723,000 (2021: £6,153,000) were matched by £6,527,000 total incoming resources (2021: £6,185,000). There was a deficit of £196,000 excluding actuarial loss at 31 August 2022 (2021: surplus of £32,000). The net book value of fixed assets was £22,517,000 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 12 to the financial statements. During the year, assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the College.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Reserves policy

The trustees review the reserve levels of the College annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of the reserves. The trustees have determined that the permitted level of free reserves for recurrent costs should be maintained in order to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies for example, such as repairs following a catastrophic failure in a building management system. The College held funds balances at 31 August 2022 of £23,637,000 (2021: £22,247,000). These funds comprise restricted fixed asset funds of £22,532,000 (2021: £23,046,000), restricted general funds of £nil (2021: £nil) and unrestricted funds of £814,000 (2021: £792,000). There is also a Local Government Pension Scheme reserve surplus of £291,000 (2021: Deficit of £1,591,000). Employer contributions are reviewed in consultation with the Local Government Pension Scheme's administrators. A fund valuation is conducted annually which is used to decide future employer contribution rates.

Investment policy

Apart from the cash held for the operation of the College, St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust does not currently have any realisable investments. With respect to its cash holdings, the board of trustees has adopted a low risk strategy. In addition to the main current account, the College maintains an instant access deposit account. Suitable sweeping and switching procedures are in place at the College's bankers to ensure that adequate funds are available in the current account whilst maintaining a balance in the interest-paying deposit account as high as possible.

However, an investment policy has been approved by Governors, and the intention for 2022-23 is to build investments in order to support premises and site improvements.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The main College risk exposure is summarised below. For each of these risks the probability, impacts and seriousness are considered, together with appropriate action and avoidance.

Strategic and reputation: this covers unfavourable Ofsted reports, risk of uncontrollable events and insufficient demand for College service, such as competition from other schools with similar objectives and little scope for differentiation. This also includes the capacity of existing buildings, facilities and resources to deliver teaching and learning to pupils.

Financial risk: the risk of the College not operating within its budget and running a deficit. Risks linked to income not increasing at the same rate of inflation over the coming years (in staff costs, provisions and estates maintenance). Furthermore, in connection with the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme, the trustees are comfortable with the current (and predicted) level of employer contributions the College is (or will be) required to pay.

Applications for places remain high and numbers in Sixth Form are expected to grow year on year for the next four years.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the College is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the College, including its finances. The trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the College faces, especially in operational areas, for example, in relation to teaching, health and safety, educational and recreational visits and trips and in relation to the control of finance. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures for example recruitment of new staff, supervision of College grounds and facilities and internal financial controls (see below) in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The College has an effective system of internal financial controls explained in more detail in the governance statement.

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The College uses various financial instruments including cash and various items such as trade creditors that arise directly from its operations. The main purpose of these financial instruments is to raise finance for the College's operations.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Liquidity risk: the College manages its cash resources including sufficient working capital, so that all its operating needs are met without the need for short-term borrowing. Surplus cash is invested so as to maximise interest income.

Interest rate risk: the College earns interest on cash deposits and with interest rates currently low, the trustees will take appropriate action to ensure they maximise the income from these deposits.

Credit risk: this is managed through regular contact with funders. Liquidity and cash flow risks are managed through the appropriate and carefully managed use of financial instruments with our principal bankers.

Fundraising

The majority of fundraising for the academy is carried out by the related organisations noted in the related parties and connected charities and organisations section above. These are the St Ambrose Parents Association, St Ambrose Charity and the St Ambrose Sports Committee.

Neither the academy nor its related organisations work with professional fundraisers. Funds originate from donations, profits from social events, the sale of second hand uniform or the participation in a '200' club draw. Participation is entirely voluntary.

The academy has not received any complaints from parents or the public relating to fundraising.

As outlined above, the majority of fundraising is carried out by related organisations, rather than the Trust itself. Those related organisations have made alternative plans to fundraise virtually and without the need for face to face activities.

Plans for future periods

Leaders and managers will provide a clear direction for transformational change and improvement such as: increasing pupil numbers, developing a range of external partnerships with Edmund Rice, local schools, teaching schools, the Diocese and Trafford Council; and, reviewing and developing a role in external support, preparing for future arrangements where partnership/trust working may develop.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

During the year to 31 August 2022, St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust did not hold any funds as a custodian trustee on behalf of any other charitable organisation.

Auditor

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

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

This trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on $\dots_{\{s,t\}}$ and signed on the board's behalf by:

P C Goodwin Chair of Trustees

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Scope of responsibility

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

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the principal, 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 St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. He is also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

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

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the trustees' report and in the trustees' responsibilities statement. The board of trustees has formally met five times during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Name	23 September 2021 (AGM)	16 December 2021	23 March 2022	14 July 2022	Total
Dermot Rainey	Y	Y	Υ	Y	4/4
Matthew Arthur	Υ	Υ	.Y	Y	4/4
Fr Jonathon Brandon	- ,	Y	Y	Y	3/3
Dr Angela Byrne	Υ	Y	Υ	Y	4/4
Dr Peter Goodwin	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	4/4
Joe Itua	Υ	Y	Υ	Y	4/4
Abigail Kiernan	N	Υ	Υ	Resigned	2/3
Adrian Lewis	Y	Y	N	Y	3/4
Andrew McHale	Υ	Υ	N	. Y	3/4
Peter Riley	Υ	Y	N	Υ	3/4
Helen Rose	Y	Υ	Υ	Υ	4/4
Dr Richard Simpson	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	4/4
Dr Ros Tavernor	Υ	Y	Υ	Υ	4/4
Laura Whittle	Υ	Υ	N	N	2/4

Attendance during the year at meetings of the finance, audit and risk committee was as follows:

Name	6 October 2021	9 December 2021	27 January 2022	7 April 2022	26 May 2022	Total
Dermot Rainey	Υ	Y	Υ	Y	Y	5/5
Joe Itua	Υ	Υ	Υ	Y	Y	5/5
Adrian Lewis	Υ	N ·	Υ	N	Y	3/5
Andrew McHale	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5/5
Peter Riley	Υ	Y	Y	Υ	Y	5/5
Helen Rose	Υ	Y	Υ	Y	Y	5/5

Conflicts of interest

All Governors are required to declare any conflicts of interest. A record is published on the school website. The register of interests is consulted and reviewed with purchases which are approved by Governors, as outlined in the scheme of delegation.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Governance review

Governors at St Ambrose College carried out a comprehensive self-review throughout the year. It included a skills audit using the NGA tool to identify gaps in competencies related to the goals set for the Board, personality questionnaire for new governors to foster effective team building, a 360-degree review of the Chair to allow anonymous feedback on the Chair's effectiveness, and one-to-one discussions with the Chair and an Away Day to allow governor feedback on the effectiveness of the Board, foster collective learning and team building. The Board agreed that it had achieved its core aims of ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction; holding executive leaders to account; overseeing financial performance; and stakeholder engagement. Actions included recruitment of parent governors, updating the strategic vision and training on the role of the governor on special committees. Whilst the Board of Governors continually self-evaluates on an annual cycle, an external review is planned for 2023.

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the principal has responsibility for ensuring that St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the tax-payer resources received.

The accounting officer considers how St Ambrose College Edmund Rice 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 available.

The accounting officer for St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by, for example:

- setting a staff structure that maximises efficiencies to be had in delivering programmes of study;
- working together with energy consultants to minimise energy consumption; and
- re-negotiating agreements for insurance, energy and IT provision.

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 College 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 St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust for the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 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 College 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 College's significant risks and that this process has been in place for the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 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 College's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management accounts information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:

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

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has appointed Hallidays as internal auditor.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Following the newly revised FRC Ethical Standard for auditors, the academy trust has appointed Hallidays to carry out the academy trust's internal scrutiny checks from 1 September 2021.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the College's financial systems. On a quarterly basis, the internal auditor reports to the finance committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included testing of payroll systems, testing of purchase systems and testing of financial controls systems such as bank reconciliations. The internal auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned and there were no material control issues arising.

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external statutory auditors; and
- the work of the executive managers within the College 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 his review of the system of internal control by the responsible officer and a plan to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on if . 12.22 ... and signed on its behalf by:

P C Goodwin

Chair of Trustees

D Rainey Accounting Officer

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

As accounting officer of St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy 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 received by the academy trust, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2021.

I confirm that I and the academy trust's board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2021.

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 FSFA.

D Rainey

Accounting Officer

Date: 15-12-2022

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The trustees (who are also the directors of St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 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 accounts for each financial year. Under company law, the trustees must not approve the accounts 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 accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022;
- 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 accounts; and
- prepare the accounts 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 accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

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

P C Goodwin Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST AMBROSE COLLEGE EDMUND RICE ACADEMY TRUST

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the accounts, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the accounts 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 accounts or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material misstatement in the accounts themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST AMBROSE COLLEGE EDMUND RICE ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and
- the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report, including the incorporated strategic report.

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts 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 accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the accounts, the trustees are responsible for assessing the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

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

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

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

Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST AMBROSE COLLEGE EDMUND RICE ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are
 appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the
 charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Identify and test journal entries, in particular any journal entries posting with unusual account combinations.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation (ie. gives a true and fair view).

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

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

Use of our report

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

John Whittick BSc FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor) for and on behalf of Haines Watts Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Bridge House Ashley Road

Hale

Altrincham

WA14 2UT

Date: Myrc

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ST AMBROSE COLLEGE EDMUND RICE ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 6 June 2014 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust during the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 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 St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy 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 St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 11 July 2011 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2021, 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 2021 to 2022. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

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

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

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

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

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ST AMBROSE COLLEGE EDMUND RICE ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- We have confirmed that the activities conform to the academy trust's framework of authorities. As identified by review of minutes, management accounts, discussion with the accounting officer and other key management personnel.
- We have carried out an analytical review as part of the consideration of whether general activities of the academy trust are within the academy trust's framework of authorities.
- We have considered the evidence supporting the accounting officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance and have evaluated the general control environment of the academy trust and extended the procedures required for financial statements to include regularity.
- We have assessed and tested a sample of the specific control activities over regularity of a particular activity. In performing sample testing of expenditure, we have considered whether the activity is permissible within the academy trust's framework of authorities. We confirm that each item tested has been appropriately authorised in accordance with the academy trust's delegated authorities and that the internal delegations have been approved by the board of trustees, and conform to the limits set by the Department for Education.
- Formal representations have been obtained from the board of trustees and the accounting officer
 acknowledging their responsibilities including disclosing all non-compliance with laws and regulations specific
 to the authorising framework, access to accounting records, provision of information and explanations, and
 other matters where direct evidence is not available.
- In performing sample testing of expenditure, we have reviewed against specific terms of grant funding within the funding agreement. We have reviewed the list of suppliers and have considered whether supplies are from related parties and have reviewed minutes for evidence of declaration of interest, and whether or not there was involvement in the decision to order from this supplier.
- We have performed sample testing of other income and tested whether activities are permitted within the academy trust's charitable objects.

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Haines Watts

Reporting Accountant

Date: 1) M/SC

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

		Unrestricted funds		ricted funds: Fixed asset	Total 2022	Total 2021 as restated
	Notes	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants Charitable activities:	3	-	-	23	23	28
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	5,896	-	5,896	5,723
Other trading activities	5	607	-	-	607	462
Investments	6	1	-	-	1	-
Total		608	5,896		6,527	6,213
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	7	_	-	7	4
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	435	6,281	593	7,309	6,734
Total	7	442	6,281	593	7,316	6,738
Net income/(expenditure)		166	(385)	(570)	(789)	(525)
Transfers between funds	16	(144)	88	56	-	
Other recognised gains/(losses) Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	2,179	-	2,179	(312)
Net movement in funds		22	1,882	(514)	1,390	(837)
Reconciliation of funds Total funds brought forward		792	(1,591)	23,046	22,247	23,084
. Otal lands broaght lorward			(1,001)			
Total funds carried forward		814 ———	291 	22,532 =====	23,637	22,247 =====

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2021 As restated	Notes	nrestricted funds £(000)	Restrict General Fi £(000)	ed funds: xed asset £(000)	Total 2021 £(000)
Income and endowments from:	3			28	28
Donations and capital grants Charitable activities:	3	-	- .	20	20
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	5,723	-	5,723
Other trading activities	5	462	-	-	462
Total		462	5,723	28	6,213
Expenditure on:	•				
Raising funds	7	4	-	-	4
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	-	6,149	585	6,734
Total	7	4	6,149	585	6,738
Net income/(expenditure)		458	(426)	(557)	(525)
Transfers between funds	16	(275)	234	41	-
Other recognised gains/(losses) Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension					
schemes	18	-	(312)	-	(312)
Net movement in funds		183	(504)	(516)	(837)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		609	(1,087)	23,562	23,084
Total funds carried forward		792	(1,591)	23,046	22,247

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

		2022	?	2021 as restated	
	Notes	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)
Fixed assets			:		
Tangible assets	12		22,517		23,037
Current assets					
Debtors	13	176		239	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,128		. 817	
		1,304		1,056	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one					
year	14	(475)		(255)	
Net current assets		•	829		801
Net assets excluding pension liability			23,346		23,838
Defined benefit pension scheme					
asset/(liability)	18		291 ———		(1,591)
Total net assets			23,637		22,247
			·		
Funds of the academy trust: Restricted funds	16				
- Fixed asset funds	16		22,532		23,046
- Pension reserve			22,332		(1,591)
- 1 ension reserve					
Total restricted funds			22,823		21,455
Unrestricted income funds	16		814		792
Total funds			23,637		22,247

The accounts were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 15.19.22 and are signed on their behalf by:

P C Goodwin Chair of Trustees

Company registration number 07827963

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

		2022		2021	
	Notes	£(000)	£(000)	as restated £(000)	£(000)
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	19		360		(127)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investment	nts	1		-	
Capital grants from DfE Group		23		23	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(73)		(55)	
Net cash used in investing activities			(49)		(32)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	1		311		(159)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of t	the year		817		976
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the	year		1,128		817

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1 Accounting policies

St Ambrose College Edmund Rice Academy Trust is a charitable company. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 1 and the nature of its operations are set out in the trustees' report.

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their 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 2021 to 2022 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

Sponsorship income

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

Donations

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

Donated fixed assets

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

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. This also includes redundancy and severance costs.

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £2,000 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 so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the academy trust's depreciation policy. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

Leasehold land and buildings

2% straight line (buildings), 10% straight line (property

improvements) and 0.8% straight line (land)

Computer equipment

33% straight line

Fixtures, fittings & equipment

25% reducing balance

Motor vehicles

25% reducing balance

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.

1.6 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 of services it must provide.

1.7 Leased assets

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

1.8 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

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

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

Financial liabilities

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

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

1.9 Taxation

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

1.10 Pensions benefits

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

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

1.11 Fund accounting

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

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

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received and include grants from the Education and Skills Funding Agency and the Department for Education.

1.12 Agency arrangements

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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 18, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2022. 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.

3 Donations and capital grants

Donations and dapital grants	Unrestricted funds £(000)	Restricted funds £(000)	Total 2022 £(000)	Total 2021 £(000)
Donated fixed assets	-	_	-	5
Capital grants	-	23	23	23
		23	23	28
			==	====

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

4 Funding for the academy trust's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £(000)	Restricted funds £(000)	Total 2022 £(000)	Total 2021 £(000)
DfE/ESFA grants	, ,	. ,	, ,	
General annual grant (GAG) Other DfE/ESFA grants:	-	5,636	5,636	5,285
- Pupil premium	-	50	50	30
- Teachers pay grant	-	14	14	73
- Teachers pension grant	-	40	40	206
- Others	<u>-</u>	133	133	7
	-	5,873	5,873	5,601
·		====	===	====
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	7	7	15
• •				. ===
COVID-19 additional funding DfE/ESFA				
Catch-up premium	-	-		68
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	16	16	39
		16	16	107
	_			===
Total funding	-	5,896	5,896	5,723

The academy trust received £6,500 (2021: £15,000) from the local authority in the year for Growth funding.

There were no unfulfilled conditions or other contingencies relating to the grants in the year.

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £(000)	Restricted funds £(000)	Total 2022 £(000)	Total 2021 £(000)
Catering income	413	-	413	344
Other income	194	- .	194	118
	607		607	462
		-		

- 31 -

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

				·		
6	Investment income		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Tota
			funds	funds	2022	2021
			£(000)	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)
	Short term deposits		1	-	1	-
_	F					
7	Expenditure		Non Pay Exp	enditure	Total	Total
		Staff costs	Premises	Other	2022	2021
		£(000)	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)
	Expenditure on raising funds					
	- Direct costs	-	-	7	7	4
	Academy's educational operations					
	- Direct costs	3,959	533	498	4,990	4,801
	- Allocated support costs	829	865	625	2,319	1,933
		4,788	. <u>1,398</u>	1,130	7,316	6,738
	Net (income)/expenditure for the y	ear include:	s:		2022	2021
					£(000)	£(000)
	Fees payable to auditor for: - Audit				9	9
	- Other services				7	3
	Operating lease rentals				, 19	24
	Depreciation of tangible fixed assets				593	585
	Net interest on defined benefit pension				28	20
	Not interest on defined benefit perior	or nability			===	
8	Charitable activities		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
					2022	2021
			funds	funds		
	Direct costs		£(000)	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)
	Educational operations		158	4,832	4,990	4,801
	Support costs					
	Educational operations		. 277	2,042	2,319	1,933
			435	6,874	7,309	6,734
					====	
	Analysis of costs			,	2022 £(000)	2021 £(000)
	Direct costs				£(000)	£(000)
	Teaching and educational support st	aff costs			4,026	3,880
	Depreciation		•		533	509
	Educational supplies and services				325	316
	Examination fees				89	91
	Other direct costs		•		17	5
		•			4,990	4,801
	•				-	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

2022 £(000) Support costs Support staff costs 829	2021 £(000) 710 76
Support staff costs	
	76
Depreciation 60	
Technology costs 184	191 ·
Recruitment and support 10	3
Maintenance of premises and equipment 207	153
Cleaning 171	157
Energy costs 286 Rent, rates and other occupancy costs 121	161
Rent, rates and other occupancy costs 121 Insurance 20	117 19
Catering 207	217
Interest on defined benefit pension scheme 28	20
Legal costs 38	29
Other support costs 69	61
Governance costs 19	19
	 ;
2,319	1,933
==	
9 Staff Staff costs	
Staff costs Staff costs during the year were:	
2022 £(000)	2021 £(000)
Wages and salaries 3,420	3,257
Social security costs 353	331
Pension costs 1,015	887
Staff costs - employees 4,788	4,475
Staff restructuring costs -	12
4,788	4,487
Staff development and other staff costs 67	. 103
Total staff expenditure 4,855	4,590
Staff restructuring costs comprise:	٠
Redundancy payments -	12

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

9 Staff (Continued)

Staff numbers

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

•	2022	2021	
	Number	Number	
Teachers	60	60	
Administration and support	35	32	
Management	7	7	
			
	102	99	
		==	

Higher paid staff

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

	2022	2021
	Number	Number
£60,001 - £70,000	2	1
£80,001 - £90,000	-	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-

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) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £599,000 (2021: £588,000).

10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

The principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal 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, travel and subsistence payments totalling £nil (2021: £nil) were reimbursed to trustees (2021: 0 trustees).

The value of trustees' remuneration was as follows:

D Rainey (principal and trustee):

Remuneration: £90,001 - £95,000 (2021: £85,001 - £90,000)

Employer's pension contributions: £20,001 - £25,000 (2021: £20,001 - £25,000)

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out within the related parties note.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £(000)	Computer equipment £(000)	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £(000)	Motor vehicles £(000)	Total £(000)
Cost	•	` ,	` '		` ,
At 1 September 2021	27,631	1,475	1,149	59	30,314
Additions	2	64	7	-	73
At 31 August 2022	27,633	1,539	1,156	59	30,387
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2021	4,767	1,423	1,038	49	7,277
Charge for the year	531	31	29	2	593
At 31 August 2022	5,298	1,454	1,067	51	7,870
Net book value					
At 31 August 2022	22,335	85	89	8	22,517
At 31 August 2021	22,864	52	111	10	23,037

Buildings to the value of £27,520,000 are included in fixed assets at depreciated replacement cost following a professional valuation on 30 October 2012 by FHP. The total land value included is £2,492,500.

13 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£(000)	£(000)
VAT recoverable	. 60	141
Other debtors	2	4
Prepayments and accrued income	114	94
•	176	239

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

14	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
1-1	orealtors, amounts faming due within one year	2022	2021
•		£(000)	£(000)
	Trade creditors	3	22
	Other taxation and social security	176	157
	Other creditors	19	17
	Accruals	277	59
			
		475	255
			==
15	Deferred income		
		2022	2021
		£(000)	£(000)
	Deferred income is included within:	_((/
	Creditors due within one year	199	-
			==
	Deferred income at 1 September 2021	-	-
	Resources deferred in the year	199	-
	Deferred income at 31 August 2022	199	-
			==

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Funds					
	Balance at 1 September			Gains, losses and	Balance at 31 August
	2021	Income	Expenditure	transfers	2022 £(000)
Restricted general funds	2(000)	2(000)	2(000)	2(000)	2(000)
· -	-	5.636	(5.724)	88	_
	-	50		-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19			` '		•
funding	-	16	(16)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	187	(187)	-	-
	-	7		-	-
Pension reserve	(1,591)	-	(297)	2,179	291
	(1,591)	5,896	(6,281)	2,267	291
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	22.888	_	(551)	_	22,337
DfE group capital grants	139	23	· · ·	_	140
Capital expenditure from GAG	•	-	(10)	56	46
Donated assets	4	-	(1)	-	3
Private sector capital					
sponsorship	15	-	(9)	-	6
	23,046	23	(593)	56	22,532
Total restricted funds	21,455	5,919	(6,874)	2,323	22,823
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	792	608	(442)	(144)	814
		===		===	
Total funds	22,247	6,527	(7,316)	2,179	23,637
					====
	Restricted general funds General Annual Grant (GAG) Pupil premium Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding Other DfE/ESFA grants Other government grants Pension reserve Restricted fixed asset funds Inherited on conversion DfE group capital grants Capital expenditure from GAG Donated assets Private sector capital sponsorship Total restricted funds Unrestricted funds General funds	Restricted fixed asset funds Inherited on conversion Diffe group capital grants Capital expenditure from GAG Donated assets Private sector capital sponsorship Total restricted funds 1 September 2021 £(000) Restricted general funds General Annual Grant (GAG)	Balance at 1 September 2021 Income £(000)	Balance at 1 September 2021 Income Expenditure 2021 E(000) E(Balance at 1 September 2021 Income Expenditure E

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

16 Funds (Continued)

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

Restricted general funds are those that have been designated restricted by the grant provider in meeting the objects of the academy and are restricted to both the day to day running of the academy and capital expenditure.

Restricted fixed asset funds are those funds relating to the long term assets of the academy used in delivering the objects of the academy.

Unrestricted funds are those which the board of trustees may use in pursuance of the academy's objectives and are expendable at the discretion of the trustees.

The pension value as at 31 August 2022 has been determined by the actuary which is now showing the academy trust as having a pension asset as at 31 August 2022. In accordance with applicable accounting standards, the asset value has been deemed to be recognisable on the basis that the academy trust has expectations of reduced future employer contributions at some point during the life of the plan. Although a pension asset is arising, this does not create an immediately realisable asset that can be expended for the specific purposes of the pension fund.

The restricted fixed asset fund is made up of £22,517,000 net book value of assets plus £15,000 unspent DFC grant to be used for Astroturf works.

The transfer from unrestricted funds of £144,000 to restricted general funds is to cover a shortfall of incoming resources.

The transfer from restricted general funds of £56,000 to restricted fixed asset funds is to cover the cost of additions not covered by capital grants.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2022.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

16 Funds (Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2020	Income	Expenditure	Gains, losses and transfers	Balance at 31 August 2021
	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)
Restricted general funds	, ,	, ,	` ,	. ,	, ,
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	5,285	(5,519)	234	-
Pupil premium	-	30	(30)	_	-
Catch-up premium	-	68	(68)	· -	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19					
funding	-	39	(39)	÷	
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	7	(7)	-	-
Other government grants	-	15	(15)	-	-
Teachers' pay grant	-	73	(73)	-	-
Teachers' pension grant	-	206	(206)	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,087)		(192)	(312)	(1,591) ———
	(1,087)	5,723	(6,149)	(78)	(1,591)
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	23,448	_	(540)	-	22,908
DfE group capital grants	90	23	(35)	41 ·	119
Donated assets	-	5	(1)	-	. 4
Private sector capital			()		
sponsorship	24	٠ -	(9)		15
	23,562	28	(585)	41	23,046
	====			====	====
Total restricted funds	22,475	5,751	(6,734)	(37)	21,455
				. =	
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	609	462	(4)	. (275)	792
			• ====	· ===	
Total funds	23,084	6,213	(6,738)	(312)	22,247
				. =	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Analysis of net assets between funds	Unrestricted	Res	tricted funds:	Total
•	Funds £(000)	General £(000)	Fixed asset £(000)	Funds £(000)
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	22,517	22,517
Current assets	814	475	15	1,304
Current liabilities	-	(475)	-	(475)
Pension scheme asset	- ·,	291	-	291
Total net assets	814 ====	291	22,532	23,637
	Unrestricted	Res	tricted funds:	Total
	Funds £(000)	General £(000)	Fixed asset £(000)	Funds £(000)
Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:		(,		(,
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	23,037	23,037
Current assets	1,047	-	9	1,056
Current liabilities	(255)	-	-	(255)
Pension scheme liability	-	(1,591)	-	(1,591)
		 ;		
Total net assets	792	(1,591)	23,046	22,247

18 Pension and similar obligations

The academy trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £86,000 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2022 (2021: £72,000) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

The pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £628,000 (2021: £610,000).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.6% for employers and 5.5 to 12.5% for employees.

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.

Total contributions made	2022 £(000)	2021 £(000)
Employer's contributions Employees' contributions	118 41	105 37
Total contributions	159	142

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

18	Pension and similar obligations	(0	Continued)
	Principal actuarial assumptions	2022	2021
		%	%
	Rate of increase in salaries	3.8	3.7
	Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.1	2.9
	Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.3	1.7
	assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:	2022	2021
		Years	Years
	Retiring today	Tours	Tours
	- Males	20.3 .	20.5
	- Females	23.2	23.3
	Retiring in 20 years		
	- Males	· 21.6	21.9
	- Females	25.1	25.3

The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities are set out below:

Change in assumptions at 31 August 2022	Approximate % increase to employer liability		Approximate tary amount £000
0.1% decrease in real discount rate 1 year increase in member life expectancy 0.1% increase in the salary increase rate 0.5% increase in the pension increase rate	3% 4% 0% 2%		63 97 5 58
The academy trust's share of the assets in the so	cheme	2022 Fair value £(000)	2021 Fair value £(000)
Equities Bonds Property Other assets		1,869 379 244 216	1,793 379 176 177
Total market value of assets		2,708	2,525

The actual return on scheme assets was £35,000 (2021: £407,000).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Pension and similar obligations	. (0	Continued)
Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2022	2021
•	£(000)	£(000)
Current service cost	387	277
Interest income	(43)	(35)
Interest cost	71	55
Total operating charge	415	297
	====	
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2022	2021
	£(000)	£(000)
At 1 September 2021	4,116	3,074
Current service cost	387	277
Interest cost	71	55
Employee contributions	41	37
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(2,187)	684
Benefits paid	(11)	(11)
At 31 August 2022	2,417	 4,116
Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets		
•	2022	2021
	£(000)	£(000)
At 1 September 2021	2,525	1,987
Interest income	43	35
Actuarial loss/(gain)	(8)	372
Employer contributions	118	105
Employee contributions	41	37
Benefits paid	(11)	(11)
At 31 August 2022	2,708	2,525
•		•

The pension value as at 31 August 2022 has been determined by the actuary which is now showing the academy trust as having a pension asset as at 31 August 2022. In accordance with applicable accounting standards, the asset value has been deemed to be recognisable on the basis that the academy trust has expectations of reduced future employer contributions at some point during the life of the plan. Although a pension asset is arising, this does not create an immediately realisable asset that can be expended for the specific purposes of the pension fund.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes	2022	2021
	Notes	£(000)	£(000)
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of	ıf		
financial activities)		(789)	(525)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(23)	(28)
Investment income receivable	6	(1)	-
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	18	269	172
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	18	28	20
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		593	585
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		63	(187)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		220	(164)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		. 360	(127)

20 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

At 31 August 2022 the total of the academy trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	·		2022 £(000)	2021 £(000)
	Amounts due within one year		7	30
	Amounts due in two and five years		-	6
	•			
			7	36
	•			
21	Analysis of changes in net funds			
		1 September 2021	Cash flows	31 August 2022
		£(000)	£(000)	£(000)
	Cash	817	311	1,128
	•	<u></u>		

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

22 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust's operations 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 academy trust has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted with the requirements of the ATH and in accordance with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

During the year, the academy paid £27,691 in rent to the Congregation of Christian Brothers. The Congregation is a member of the academy trust. There were no amounts owed to the Congregation at the year end (2021: £27,600).

During the year, the academy paid £1,439 to Loreto Grammar School. The wife of A Lewis, a trustee, is finance manager at Loreto Grammar School. There were no amounts owed to Loreto Grammar School at the year end (2021: £nil).

The academy entered into a 125 year lease with the Congregation of Christian Brothers. Under the terms of the lease the Academy pays a rental of £27,600 per annum for the 10 year period from 1 May 2012. From 1 May 2022 the rental paid reverted to a peppercorn.

23 Members' liability

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

24 Agency arrangements

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2022 the academy trust received £9,066 (2021: £7,555) and disbursed £7,000 (2021: £2,000) from the fund. An amount of £18,727 (2021: £16,661) is in included in other creditors, of this £9,661 is to be repaid to ESFA and the remaining £9,066 are funds from year ending 31 August 2022 carried forward.

25 Prior period adjustment

		1 September 2020	31 August 2021
Reconciliation of funds	Notes	£(000)	£(000)
Funds as previously reported		23,250	22,433
Adjustments arising:		(400)	(400)
Land depreciation to 31 August 2021		(166) ———	(186)
Funds as restated		23,084	22,247
			=====

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

25	Prior period adjustment		(Continued)	
	Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) for the previous financial period	Notes	2021 £(000)	
	Net expenditure as previously reported		(505)	
	Adjustments arising: Land depreciation to 31 August 2021		(20)	
	Net expenditure as restated		(525)	

Notes to restatement

1. Land & buildings

We have reviewed the leasehold land held by the academy trust to ensure that it has been depreciated in line with the term of the lease. As the land is only available to the leaseholder for the period of the lease, it should be depreciated over this time with no residual value. The only effect to the prior year SOFA is the depreciation charge for 2021.