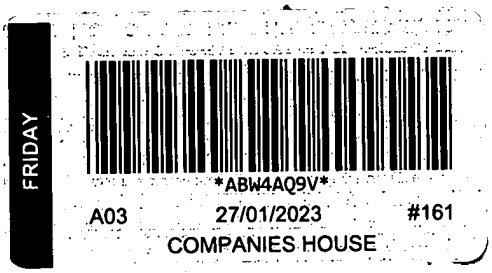
Willowcroft Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 August 2022



Company Registration Number:
08516562 (England and Wales)

Period of account: 1 September 2021 – 31 August 2022

WILLOWCROFT ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Contents

Item	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	3
Governance Statement	17
Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance	22
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	23
Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements	24
Independent Reporting Accountant's Report on Regularity	28
Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income & Expenditure Account	30
Balance Sheet	32
Statement of Cash Flows	33
Notes to the Financial Statements, incorporating:	34
Statement of Accounting Policies	
Other Notes to the Financial Statements	

WILLOWCROFT ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Reference and Administrative Details
For The Year Ended 31 August 2022

Who we are

Members	Mr Malcolm Wright Mr Sean Mcwhinnie O.P.E.N Education Network
Trustees	Dr Joanne Flanagan (resigned 20 May 2022) Mrs Elizabeth Jane Hemery (Head Teacher, resigned 31 August 2022) * Mr Richard Williams * + Ms Amanda Doy (Acting Head Teacher) Mr Mocky Khan * + Mr Malcolm Edge * + Mr Mitt Nathwani (chairperson)* + Mr James Doman Mr James Cane *+ Mrs Luce Carter Mrs Jocelyn English Mr Philip Colmer * (appointed 6 December 2021, resigned 10 October 2022) Carol Diffenthal (appointed 28 March 2022) Miss Jodie Brown (appointed 10 October 2022)
Clerk to Trustees	* Trustees of the finance and personnel committee
Company Secretary	+ Trustees of the pay committee
	Oxfordshire County Council
	Mrs Tracy Belcher

Reference and Administrative Details (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2022

Senior Management Team	
• Mrs Elizabeth Jane Hemery	Head Teacher (resigned 31 August 2022)
• Mrs Amanda Doy	Acting Head Teacher
• Ms Jody Brown	Assistant Head Teacher
• Mrs Tracy Belcher	Business Manager
Company Name	Willowcroft Academy Trust
Principal and Registered Office	Willowcroft Community School Mereland Road Didcot Oxon OX11 8BA
Company Registration Number	08516562
Auditor	Ross Brooke Ltd Suite I, Windrush Court Abingdon Business Park OX14 1SY
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Didcot Branch PO Box 1000 BX1 1LT
Solicitors Name	The Peninsula Victoria Place Manchester M4 4FB

Trustees Report
For The Year Ended 31 August 2022

What we do

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The trust operates an academy for pupils aged 2 to 11 serving a catchment area to the south of Didcot. It has a pupil capacity of 476 and had a roll of 452 in the school census in October 2021.

How we do it

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. The trustees of Willowcroft Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Willowcroft Community School.

Details of the trustees who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' Liability

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

Trustees' Indemnities

There were no provisions required for third party indemnity. In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on trust business.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The board of trustees currently comprises:

- The Head Teacher
- Up to three further staff trustees
- At least six parent trustees
- Up to three Community trustees

Members may appoint one trustee and there is no maximum limit on the number of trustees.

Trustees Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2022

Parent trustees must be a parent of a pupil at the time when they were appointed. Parents that express an interest in joining must first meet with the Chair of Governors to learn what's involved in the role, and what is expected of them. If this meeting reveals a good fit between the potential trustee and the school's needs, the potential trustee is proposed to the board at the next meeting for consideration and election to the board.

Staff trustees must be a staff member at the time they are elected. They are elected by staff members at the school. If a staff member leaves the employment of the trust then he/she shall be deemed to have resigned and shall cease to be a trustee. The total number of trustees who are employees of the academy trust shall **not exceed one third.**

Community trustees may be appointed by the board of trustees provided that the person appointed lives or works in the community served by the academy or who, in the opinion of the board of trustees, is committed to the governance and success of the Academy.

OPEN may appoint additional trustees as it thinks fit in circumstances where a "step-in event", as defined in the OPEN collaboration agreement occurs in the Academy.

The trustees may from time to time appoint any person whether or not a member of the Academy Trust to be a patron of the Academy Trust or to hold an honorary office and may determine for what period he/she is to hold such office.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

Trustees were given training on academies, charity law and the roles and responsibilities of being a director prior to the school converting to an academy on 1 June 2013. All new trustees are invited to tour the school and meet with staff and pupils and participate in a personalised induction programme (with the Head Teacher and Company Secretary), taking into account their previous experience. Trustees are provided with access to policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documentation required to fulfil their role. Where necessary, induction will include training on charity and educational legal and financial matters, including safeguarding training. The induction process is seen as an investment, leading to more effective governance and retention of trustees. Enhanced DBS checks are carried out in advance of a trustee being appointed and safeguarding training is provided by the Head Teacher.

Organisational Structure

The Academy has defined the responsibilities of each person. Any high level decisions are discussed with the board of trustees in advance of a decision being made. The finance and resources committee scrutinise any budget monitoring data that is prepared and presented by the business manager. The business manager will oversee all month end processes input by the finance officer. The finance officer inputs any overtime sheets and the payroll processes are checked by the business manager against the budget monitoring system (BPS) and signed off by the Accounting Officer. The curriculum & attainment committee analyse data prepared and presented by the Head and deputy head. This is briefly discussed at the board meeting.

Trustees Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2022

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Head Teacher will meet individual key management personnel on a regular basis setting individual responsibilities and targets. The information is entered onto Perspective (a performance management software system) and re visited by the staff member at regular intervals. The data is accessed in the performance management review and discussed at the pay committee. Members and Trustees request evidence of benchmarking in advance of agreeing pay and remuneration. The Head Teachers pay review is decided in a performance management meeting with the Chair of Governors, a member of the pay committee and a third party representative.

Trade Union Facility Time

The Academy has more than 49 Full Time Equivalent Staff and will allow employees reasonable time off for trade union duties and activities although there were no staff who are acting as paid trade union officials in the year ending 31st August 2022.

Relevant Union Officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
0	0

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Provide the total cost of facility time	0
Provide the total pay bill	
Provide the percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	0%

Paid trade union officials

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours.	0%

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

Willowcroft Academy Trust is part of the Oxfordshire Primary Education Network – OPEN – an umbrella trust of four primary schools in the Didcot and Wallingford area. The other schools in the group are:

- Ladygrove Park Primary School, Didcot
- St John's Primary School, Wallingford
- Cholsey Primary School, nr Wallingford

While the schools remain independent and are each separate Academies, each school has signed up to a collaboration agreement that sets out the scope and nature of the responsibilities of each school in the group to one another.

On a formal level, each school takes part in a risk assessment each year by peer review which looks at teaching and learning, progress and provision as well as the financial health of the school. In the event of this process identifying a problem in any of these areas, a "step-in" event is deemed to have taken place and the schools will work together to take remedial action. This could range from support and mentoring by other schools in the group to the appointment of trustees by OPEN.

On an informal level, the schools in the group collaborate closely on many aspects e.g. by sharing best practice, collaborating on in-house training, sharing data and policies, sharing IT systems and even staff to cover sickness, absence and staff changes.

The school is also a member of the Didcot Partnership of schools, which comprises maintained schools and academies. The partnership collaborates to purchase certain services from the local education authority, such as educational psychologists and Home-School Link Workers to the benefit of all schools in the partnership.

For further details of related parties and transactions during the year see notes 10 and 26.

How we do it (and why)

Objectives and Activities

Objects and Aims

The academy's object as defined in the articles of association is to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom by maintaining and developing a school offering a broad and balanced curriculum and to promote the provision of facilities for recreation in the interests of social welfare for people living in Oxfordshire.

Trustees Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2022

Objectives, strategies and activities

The academy teaches children the importance of community, effective learning, behaviour and our responsibilities for others. Our shared school rules and values enable our children to thrive emotionally, socially and intellectually. Children at the academy learn to care for their environment through our Forest School Programme. As a valuable part of the community, the school works to support children and their families in order to remove barriers to achievement and enable all children to succeed.

We work in a collaborative manner with our partner schools in OPEN for the benefit of the whole. OPEN schools retain their own independence but are committed to working together to improve teaching and learning in all schools. OPEN will provide challenge and support for the schools as well as taking on some of the functions of the Local Authority.

Public Benefit

The trustees of (Willowcroft Academy Trust) confirm that they have complied with their duty in Section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

Willowcroft Academy Trust provides an education that: Is balanced and broadly based

Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society.

Prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

Promotes, sustains and increases individual and collective knowledge and understanding of specific areas of study, skills and expertise.

Our successes are built on the hard work and commitment of our staff team, motivated and hardworking children, very supportive parents and committed trustees. We work closely with the other OPEN member schools and share expertise in order to provide outstanding teaching and learning.

Willowcroft Academy Trust has a high-quality pastoral care system and is a focus for wider community educational activities, to ensure the school is at the centre of its community. This ensures that we generate better educational programmes as well as improving our transitional activities for pupils when moving on to secondary education.

How we've done

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

Reading - Although the number of children achieving expected has fallen from 2019 levels, we are in line with national figures. We have more greater depth readers in 2022 than we did in 2019 and we are now closer to the national average attainment.

Writing – Although the number of children achieving expected levels have fallen from 2019 we are above national percentages, whereas in 2019 we were in line with national.

The number of greater depth writers has increased since 2019 and is now slightly above national average.

Maths – This is consistent with 2019 and is now more in line with national average. More children are now working at greater depth and this is almost in line with national average.

Year 2 Phonics Screening-96%

	Phonics - 2022	National - 2022	Phonics 2019	National 2019
Year 1	75	76	80	82

End of EYFS-Good Level of Development

2022 (%)	2019 (%)
58	71

Narrative:
Children at the end of EYFS are assessed against 12 areas of learning. These are assessed using Early Leaning goals. The EYFS framework was updated in 2022 so now have different Early Learning Goals to assess against. This is therefore not a direct comparison between 2022 and 2019. However, the lower attainment demonstrates the negative effects of the lockdown on this cohort of children. They had significant SEN and complex behaviour needs. They came in with very low language and communication skills and many were unable to self-regulate effectively in a large area with a high number of children. Many were unable to attain the Early learning goal for writing and although they made accelerated progress in all other areas of learning, the lower percentage of writers meant the overall good level of development was brought down. This is because in order to attain a good level of development all 12 areas of learning have to be achieved to the Early learning goal level.

Trustees Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2022

Key Stage One	Willowcroft -2022 (%)	National- 2022 (%)	Willowcroft 2019 (%)	National 2019 (%)
Reading – expected or more	66	67	74	75
Reading Greater Depth	12	18	7	25
Writing – expected or more	61	57	70	69
Writing Greater Depth	10	8	6	15
Maths – expected or more	69	68	70	76
Maths Greater Depth	13	15	6	22
Key Stage Two	**Willowcroft 2022 (%)**	**National 2022 (%)**	**Willowcroft 2019 (%)**	**National 2019 (%)**
Reading – expected or above	**80**	**75**	**88**	**74**
Reading – Greater Depth	**28**	**28**	**18**	**27**
Writing Expected or above	**78**	**69**	**73**	**79**
Writing – Greater depth	**15**	**13**	**10**	**20**
Maths – expected or above	**75**	**71**	**67**	**79**
Maths – Greater Depth	**20**	**23**	**5**	**27**

Trustees Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2022

SPAG – expected or above	**80**	**72**	**77**	**78**
SPAG - Greater Depth	**12**	**28**	**13**	**36**
Combined – expected or above	**73**	**59**	**62**	**65**
Combined Greater Depth	**10**	**7**	**3**	**11**

Narrative:
We have improved in every subject apart from reading which was particularly high in 2019. We were above national average in everything apart from Greater Depth reading where we were in line with national average. We were slightly below national average in Maths greater depth and below national average in SPAG greater depth. We were above national average in combined for expected and greater depth. (Combined is when children pass all three, the reading, writing and maths). This is the most successful year we have ever had. Writing has previously pulled our combined down and we have really focused on this.

Progress Measures from KS1 – KS2 - (confidence interval in brackets)
Reading 0.7 (-0.9 to 2.4)
Writing 1.9 (0.3 to 3.4)
Maths 0.5 (-1.0 to 2.1)

Key Performance Indicators

Our financial performance was affected, as detailed on page 24 of the financial accounts because of the pandemic and the loss of self-generated income, however, we can now see a recovery in our activities and as a result Our unrestricted Reserves have increased by £3k and GAG revenue reserves have recovered to £137K. Funding for the increased roll of extra pupils has finally been received.

Staffing salary costs (excluding FRS 102 pension costs) were 89% of total revenue income (83%:2021). All other supplies and services expenditure (excluding depreciation and LGPS actuarial revisions) was 13% (a reduction of 5% from the previous year) of total revenue income. Savings have been in agency staff and administration staffing

Funding per pupil has increased to £3192.21 per pupil.

Going Concern

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

How we've done (financially)

Financial Review

Most of Willowcroft Community School recurrent income is received in the form of grants from the Education and Skills Funding Agency ("ESFA"), 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 ("SoFA").

Willowcroft Academy Trust has unrestricted funds at the end of the accounting period of £44K, an increase of of £3K in the year, this represents under 2% of our regular expenditure in the year. Having run our carried forward GAG funding to zero last year, it is pleasing to note that we have £137k to carry forward to 2023, which will be a very difficult year. All other carried forward restricted funds have been spent.

Our cashflow remains very positive, thanks to a continued decrease in debtors and an increase in creditors. We have maintained a 31 day deposit with our bankers of £75k in the year, though the received interest rate on this account is extremely low, should now be rising.

The school's ability to generate income other than from DfE and local authority grants has been limited in the year, and the trustees have discussed in some detail with staff the various activities being run and how these could be configured in the future. With cost reductions and better marketing, we are hopeful of better results in the future.

Over 71% of the school's funding comes from the DfE and Local Authority. The trust runs a number of extra-curricular and extended school activities in pursuance of its unrestricted aims, the activities have recovered since the pandemic and we hope the take up will increase over the next coming year.

Pupil premium is a significant area of income for the school and the school has utilised the money to provide a range of educational and pastoral opportunities for those children attracting this funding. This includes forest school, small group interventions, play therapy and raising the number of non swimmers, £100 voucher is issued to every child in receipt of pupil premium that allows them to purchase items and pay for trips and other school activities. A learning mentor and safeguarding liaison officer was also funded by pupil premium funds. It has been the experience of the school to date that expenditure on pupil premium activities has exceeded the level of grant received, but careful monitoring ensures that grants are being used correctly.

Financial policies, including internal financial regulations have been subject to a full annual review against the Academy Trust Handbook issued by the EFSA.

Total income for the year, as shown by the SoFA, amounted to £2579K, an increase of £270K in the prior year. Operational income has increased by £257K this is mainly due to receiving the final funding of pupils in an expanding school.

There has been an increase in trading & other income of £36K as highlighted above.

The SoFA shows total expenditure for the year of £2,866K, leaving a net expenditure before other recognised gains / (losses) of £287K. The overall net movement in funds is an increase of £1,781K, as a result of an actuarial gain of £2,068K relating to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and a £63k loss on revaluation of land and buildings.

This actuarial loss/gain forms part of the movement in the LGPS deficit carried on the trust's Balance Sheet. A further £38K of non-actuarial pension charges are included within expenditure (staff costs). After taking into account the inherited pension liabilities/assets the underlying deficit has decreased markedly during the year, and at 31 August 2022 shows a lower deficit of £395 compared to £2125K in the previous year.

The pension movements are one element that make reading the financial statements and understanding the underlying financial performance of the school difficult. The restricted fixed asset fund is another such element and has little bearing on the day-to-day educational activities. Income for the year within this fund reflects the value of school land, buildings and other fixed assets transferred into the trust in relation to joining academies, plus capital grants used to improve the academies' buildings and to buy equipment used across the trust. Expenses charged to the fixed asset fund are largely non-cash depreciation charges which write off the cost of these assets over their useful lives.

Excluding inherited balances, movements on tangible fixed assets and the LGPS defined benefit pension the academy achieved an operational revenue surplus on funds for the year of £114k (*2021: suffered operational revenue deficit of £38k*), as reconciled from the SoFA below:

	2022 (£000s)	***2021 (£000s)***
Overall net movement in funds for the year per SOFA	**1,459**	***(433)***
Decrease / (increase) attributable to fixed asset fund	63	*60*
LGPS actuarial (gain)/loss	(2,068)	*484*
LGPS service and interest costs	338	*242*
Movement in revenue funds during the year	**114**	***(38)***
Add: Transfers from revenue to capital to fund fixed asset additions	-	-
Operational surplus /(deficit) on revenue funds before transfers to capital	**114**	***114***

At 31 August 2022, the net book value of fixed assets was £3,039k and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 13 to the financial statements. During the year the assets were used almost exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the academies, the only exceptions to this being letting of the premises to local community groups and other affiliated organisations.

The only fund in deficit was the LGPS pension reserve of £395k (2021: £2,125k). The increase in this reserve during the year has arisen because of the actuarial gain that occurred in the financial year along with the other pension current service and finance costs. The deficit is not a concern and does not mean that an immediate liability crystallises. It can be described as an accounting deficit which has no direct effect on the employer contribution rate paid by the school, which is determined using longer-term funding assumptions. These contribution rates are reviewed every three years in consultation with the scheme's administrators.

Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others

The trust holds no assets and funds as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others.

Fundraising

Friends of Willowcroft School is a separate unregistered charity and acts as an effective fundraising committee for the school. The organised fundraising activities/events do not pressurise parents/carers into donating funds to Willowcroft Academy Trust.

The majority of fundraising events is collected via the schools parentpay portal that is audited annually. Friends of Willowcroft have not received any complaints.

Reserves Policy

The school needs to hold an appropriate level of reserves in order to cushion the school's financial position in times of funding or cost fluctuations and in order to secure the future plans of the school. Levels of reserves which are too high tie up money which should be spent on current school activities. Levels of reserves which are too low may put the future activities of the school at risk.

The academy's reserves policy:

- Assists in strategic planning by considering how new projects or activities will be funded;
- Informs the budget process by considering whether reserves need to be used during the financial year or built up for future projects;
- Informs the budget and risk management process by identifying any uncertainty in future income streams.

During the year the Accounting Officer will compare the amount of reserves held with the target amount or target range set for reserves; explain any shortfall or excess in reserves against target set and explain any action being taken or planned to bring reserves into line with target. This will be discussed at the Finance and Resources committee meetings.

Of the free reserves mentioned above, £43,766 is held as unrestricted funds and meets the initial target of reserves set by the trustees.

The remaining reserves are brought forward GAG grant, which will be retained to fund year on year variations in funding and expenditure on educational activities, as set out in three and five year budgets which the trustees will approve. These restricted funds will, of course, be spent in accordance with the terms of the particular funds.

Trustees Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2022

On 31 August 2022 the Academy held the following Reserves (excluding Fixed Asset Fund which represents Net Book Value and Pension Deficit):

	£
Unrestricted General Funds	43,766
Restricted Capital Funds	5,242
Other Restricted General Funds	137,934
Total Reserves to 31 August 2022	186,942

The LGPS Pension Deficit is likely to be met in the longer term from any combination of increased employer contributions, increased government funding or change to scheme benefits. The restricted funds will be spent in accordance with the terms of the particular funds.

Investment Policy

The school aims to manage its cash balances to provide for the day-to-day working capital requirements of its operations, whilst protecting the real long-term value of any surplus cash balances against inflation. In addition, the School aims to invest surplus cash funds to optimise returns, but ensuring the investment instruments are such that there is no risk to the loss of these cash funds. The School does not consider the investment of surplus funds as a primary activity, rather it is the result of good stewardship as and when circumstances allow. The policy:

- Ensures adequate cash balances are maintained in the current account to cover day-to-day working capital requirements;
- Ensures there is no risk of loss in the capital value of any cash funds invested;
- Protects the capital value of any invested funds against inflation;
- Optimises returns on invested funds.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

Risk is the threat that an event or action will adversely affect the Academy Trust's ability to achieve its objectives and to successfully execute its strategies. As such, risk management is an integral part of good governance and is a process whereby there is shared awareness and understanding within the school of the nature and extent of the risks it faces. Covid 19 has and remains a challenge to Governors/Head teachers that could not have been foreseen. Emergency meetings took place fortnightly with the full governing body to report and update the schools performance and challenges faced on a daily basis. Staff remain uncertain of the future.

The school has developed a risk management strategy for recognising, managing an and tracking opportunities and risks. The governing body has made a considered choice about its desired risk profile, taking account of its legal obligations, its strategic objectives and public expectations of whatever it should deliver.

The school considers its main risks to be:

- Covid 19 outbreak in school
- Potential to sustain unfavourable Ofsted inspections
- Significant regression in pupil academic progress and attainment standards of the school.
- Fragmentation of OPEN network
- Failure to maintain appropriate skills, knowledge and experience of Leadership staff and governors and maintenance of a succession plan
- Significant. Catastrophic infrastructure failure, requiring major capital funding
- Major breach of HSE legislation
- Strike action

The Finance and Resources committee regularly monitor and assess risks and, if required, work with the senior leadership team to mitigate any specific issues.

Guiding Principles of the Raising Attainment Plan (RAP)

Challenge Disadvantage

Children can be defined by their circumstances and, for many disadvantaged children, adults can excuse their underachievement especially if they have difficult home circumstances. This may be a very valid view- for example if a child is experiencing difficulties at home or as a carer, then their ability to concentrate on learning at school will be impaired. However, children who are disadvantaged need someone to believe in their ability to succeed, even when the child themselves may not. Academic challenge must be accompanied with strong pastoral support for our vulnerable learners

We want the children to achieve more than even they thought themselves capable of.

Provide a relevant and interesting curriculum

We recognise the importance of a wide, relevant and exciting curriculum that both captures the children's interest and broadens their understanding of the world. Teaching staff will help children to understand the relevance of their learning and how it links to other subjects as well as life outside the classroom. In the past decade, children who were underachieving in Maths and English were likely to experience a narrowing of their curriculum in an effort to improve their attainment. These were the very children who probably needed to experience a wider and more varied curriculum to improve their engagement and help them 'learn to learn'.

Improve attendance

Our children need to enjoy their work and experience success. Success is the best motivation for further success and there is no reason why every child cannot experience pride when they work hard and improve as a result.

Attendance at school is vital to this. Our attendance is lower than the National average and the disadvantaged children make up the greatest percentage of persistent absentees although this has improved considerably over the past years.

Trustees Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2022

Assessment and Expectations

Outcomes are measured by testing and teacher assessment of Maths and Literacy but also by tracking the development of the children's emotional, social and learning skills. We expect children to learn to take increasing responsibility for their behaviour and learning as they move through the school. We aim to empower them so that they have greater choices in the future.

All teaching staff will have equally high expectations of children's work, achievements and behaviour.

All teaching staff will be confident to deliver high quality lessons with a consistency of approach based on agreed school policies, eg Mastery in maths.

Teachers will be confident in their judgement of the quality of children's work and their next steps. Moderation will ensure that assessment grades (based on test and TA) are accurate. Teachers will use data confidently to inform their lesson planning and catch up lessons or interventions. Progress will be evaluated continually so that no child falls behind. Teachers will seek additional support from the well-being team and/or SLT. The education of the child is the responsibility of all staff (TA/SENCo/Learning Mentor etc) but the class teacher will retain the key responsibilities for ensuring that children in their class have the support and challenge they need to progress.

As mentioned previously, a growing school has funding pressures, as additional numbers do not attract matching funds for a full academic year. The trustees intend to monitor closely the financial performance of the school to ensure that the current excellent quality of teaching, learning and pastoral support can be maintained.

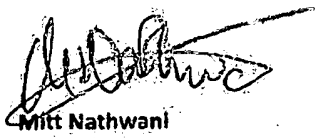
We are fortunate to lease a relatively new and well maintained building. An issue with the school flooring remains a cause for concern. Capital Bid Funding was declined but an appeal is being prepared under Health & Safety regulations.

Auditor

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

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

Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 5th December 2022 and signed on the board's behalf by:



Mitt Nathwani
Chair of Trustees

Governance Statement
For The Year Ended 31 August 2022

Scope of Responsibility

As trustees we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Willowcroft 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 Head Teacher 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 Willowcroft Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 4 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mrs Jocelyn English	4	4
Mr Mitt Nathwani	4	4
Ms Luce Carter	1	4
Mr Malcolm Edge	4	4
Dr Joanne Flanagan	1	4
Mrs Elizabeth Jane Hemery (staff trustee)	3	4
Ms Amanda Doy (staff Trustee)	4	4
Mr Mocky Khan	3	4
Mr James Cane	4	4
Mr Richard Williams	3	4
Mr James Doman (staff trustee)	3	4
Mrs Carol Diffenthal	1	1
Mr Philip Colmer	3	3

Resignations in the year:

- Dr Joanne Flanagan 20th May 2022

Appointments in the year:

- Mr Philip Colmer 6 December 2021
- Mrs Carol Diffenthal 28 March 2022

Governance Statement (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2022

Governance Review

The Governors will undertake an internal review during the next financial year to assess the efficiency of current Governance and to identify any improvements needed or shortage of skills amongst the current Governing Body so that the appropriate training can take place or a decision can be made to recruit Governors with the appropriate skills.

Committees

The Finance and Resources committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to:

- Assist the decision making of the board of trustees, by enabling more detailed consideration to be given to the best means of fulfilling the board of trustee's responsibility to ensure sound management of the academy's finances;
- Ensure that the Academy undertakes proper financial planning, monitoring and probity;
- Make appropriate comments and recommendations on such matters to the board of trustees on a regular basis;
- Ensure major issues are referred to the board of trustees.

Key issues for the finance and resources committee were:

- Managing the budget of a school with a growing roll
- Ensuring the pupil premium funding is spent correctly
- Ensure they are updated on the monthly cash flow forecast
- Key performance analysis

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr James Cane	2	3
Mr Mitt Nathwani	3	3
Mr Malcolm Edge	3	3
Mrs Elizabeth Jane Hemery	3	3
Mr Mocky Khan	3	3
Mr Philip Colmer	1	2
Mr Richard Williams	3	3

The Audit Committee is a subcommittee of the Finance & Resources Committee and is held directly before the Finance & Resources meeting.. The purpose of the Audit Committee is to:

- Maintain an oversight of the Academy Trust's governance, risk management, internal control and value for money framework;
- Report its findings annually to the Board of Trustees and the Accounting Officer as a critical element of the Academy Trust's annual reporting requirements;
- The Audit Committee has no executive powers or operational responsibilities/duties.

Governance Statement (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2022

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr James Cane	1	1
Mr Mitt Nathwani	1	1
Mr Malcolm Edge	1	1
Mrs Elizabeth Jane Hemery	1	1
Mr Mocky Khan	1	1
Mr Richard Williams	1	1

Review of Value for Money

As accounting officer Mrs Jane Hemery has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The accounting officer considers how the 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 the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

Areas where the trusts activities have contributed to achieving value for money:

- FFT contract moved to Aspire.
- Departmental budgets are analysed on a monthly basis ensuring accuracy of spend against budget.
- Exercised due diligence with utilities.
- Longer term contract renewals saving money and stabilising 3 year budget

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 and includes reviewing controls and managing risks by:

- Monthly budget reporting to budget holders to ensure spending is within budget;
- Monthly budget reviews between Head Teacher and Business Manager to ensure income and expenditure are on target;
- Monthly Budget monitoring reports circulated to the Chair of Governors and Chair of Finance and Resources. A Business Managers report and Budget monitoring report is provided together with a Year End forecast at the

Finance and Resources committee. Additional visits have been put in place from the chair of the Finance and Resources committee to review financial status.

- Financial risk assessment carried out at Finance and Resources committee level reviewing all areas of risk including:
    - Insurance
    - Pupil numbers
    - Key staff
    - Health & Safety
    - Seeking professional advice (HR/Legal) when necessary

The process is designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Willowcroft Academy Trust for the period 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 academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 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 academy trust's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular it includes:

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

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint an internal auditor. Chris Powell the director of finance from Ridgeway Education Trust carried out an internal assurance review in February 2019 covering payroll and Procurement.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. On an annual basis, the auditor reports to the board of trustees, through the Finance and

Governance Statement (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2022

Resources committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities.

The academy trust can confirm that the internal auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned and that there have been no material control issues arising requiring remedial action.

Review of Effectiveness

As accounting officer the Head Teacher 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 auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the internal control systems and has utilised the result of these reviews to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 5 December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Mitt Nathwani
Chair of Trustees

Amanda Doy
Accounting Officer

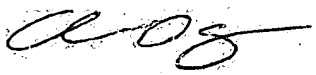
WILLOWCROFT ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance
For The Year Ended 31 August 2022

As accounting officer of Willowcroft 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 ESFA terms and conditions of funding, 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 board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 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 ESFA.



Amanda Doy
Accounting Officer

5 December 2022

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities
For The Year Ended 31 August 2022

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

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

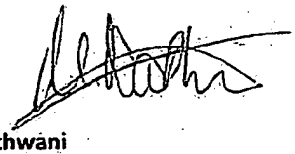
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards [FRS 102] have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 5 December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr Mitt Nathwani
Trustee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Willowcroft Academy Trust For The Year Ended 31 August 2022

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Willowcroft Academy Trust (the 'Academy Trust') for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 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; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Willowcroft Academy Trust (continued) For The Year Ended 31 August 2022

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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 (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees Report incorporating the 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 23, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Willowcroft Academy Trust (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 August 2022

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities, and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charitable company through discussions with management, and from our knowledge of the academy sector.
- the identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- we considered the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charitable company and determined that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP FRS102, the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022, the Academy Trust Handbook 2021, and the academy trust's funding agreement with the ESFA as well as legislation pertaining to safeguarding in the UK.
- we understood how the charitable company is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making inquiries to management and those responsible for legal, compliance and governance procedures. We corroborated our inquiries through our review of the minutes of trustees' meetings and papers provided to the trustees.
- we planned and carried out a separate limited assurance engagement in respect of regularity, propriety and compliance in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts issued by the ESFA, as set out in our separate independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's finance statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management and those charged with governance as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Willowcroft Academy Trust (continued) For The Year Ended 31 August 2022

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships.
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions
- testes the authorisation of expenditure as part of our substantive testing thereon;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in the accounting policies were indicative of potential bias; and
- used data analytics to identify any significant or unusual transactions and identify the rationale for them.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were mote limited to:

- agreeing financial disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reviewing the minutes of Trustees' meetings;
- enquiring of management and those charged with governance as to actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reviewing any available correspondence with Ofsted, ESFA and HMRC; and
- the work undertaken in relation to the limited assurance engagement in respect of regularity, propriety and compliance in accordance with the Framework and Guide for the External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts issued by the ESFA, as set out in our separate independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity.

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.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx. 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.

Caroline Webster FCA
For and on behalf of Ross Brooke Limited, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

Suite I Windrush Court
Abingdon Business Park
Abingdon
Oxfordshire, OX14 1SY

Date: 16/12/22

Independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity to Willowcroft 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 May 2022 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 Willowcroft Academy Trust during the year 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 Willowcroft Academy Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Willowcroft 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 Willowcroft Academy Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Willowcroft Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant
The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Willowcroft Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 29 May 2013 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 Willowcroft 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:

- Reviewing the minutes of meetings of the Board of Trustees and obtaining representations concerning access to information, disclosure and provision of information;
- Evaluation of the general control environment of the academy trust, extending the procedures required for financial statements to include regularity;
- Testing a sample of payroll payments to staff;
- Assessment and testing of a sample of the specific control activities;
- Carrying out substantive testing to cover authorisation of expenditure within internal delegated authorities and externally imposed limits; and
- Consideration of whether activities carried out are within the 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.

Reporting Accountant
Ross Brooke Limited

Suite I Windrush Court
Abingdon Business Park
Abingdon
Oxfordshire, OX14 1SY

Date: 16/12/22

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted general funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	8,995	8,973	17,968	20,855
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	4	119,639	2,405,454	-	2,525,093	2,268,599
Other trading activities	5	35,938	-	-	35,938	20,391
Investments	6	41	-	-	41	60
Total income		155,618	2,414,449	8,973	2,579,040	2,309,905
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
Academy trust educational operations		152,777	2,634,817	78,312	2,865,906	2,649,638
Total expenditure	7	152,777	2,634,817	78,312	2,865,906	2,649,638
Net (expenditure)/income		2,841	(220,368)	(69,339)	(286,866)	(339,733)
Transfers between funds	16	-	(6,574)	6,574	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	2,068,000	-	2,068,000	(484,000)
Net movement in funds		2,841	1,841,058	(62,765)	1,781,134	(823,733)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		40,925	(2,098,124)	3,107,612	1,050,413	1,874,146
Net movement in funds		2,841	1,841,058	(62,765)	1,781,134	(823,733)
Total funds carried forward		43,766	(257,066)	3,044,847	2,831,547	1,050,413

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All activities derived from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

The notes on pages 34 to 57 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

COMPARATIVE YEAR INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021	Note	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted general funds 2021 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	24	500	20,331	20,855
Charitable activities:					
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	4	79,472	2,189,127	-	2,268,599
Other trading activities	5	4,391	16,000	-	20,391
Investments	6	60	-	-	60
Total income		83,947	2,205,627	20,331	2,309,905
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
Academy trust educational operations		79,472	2,488,396	81,770	2,649,638
Total expenditure	7	79,472	2,488,396	81,770	2,649,638
Net (expenditure)/income		4,475	(282,769)	(61,439)	(339,733)
Transfers between funds	16	(49,152)	47,698	1,454	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	23	-	(484,000)	-	(484,000)
Net movement in funds		(44,677)	(719,071)	(59,985)	(823,733)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		85,602	(1,379,054)	3,167,597	1,874,146
Net movement in funds		(44,677)	(719,071)	(59,985)	(823,733)
Total funds carried forward		40,925	(2,098,125)	3,107,612	1,050,413

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 34 to 57 form part of these financial statements.

WILLOWCROFT ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
NUMBER: 8516562

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

	Note		2022 £		2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		**3,039,605**		3,098,942
Current assets					
Debtors	14	**57,195**		67,950	
Cash at bank and in hand		**322,481**		172,466	
		379,676		240,416	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	**(192,734)**		(163,945)	
Net current assets			**186,942**		76,471
Net assets excluding pension liability			**3,226,547**		3,175,413
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	21		**(395,000)**		(2,125,000)
Total net assets			**2,831,547**		1,050,413
Funds of the Academy Trust					
Restricted funds:	16				
Fixed asset funds		**3,044,847**		3,107,612	
Restricted income funds		**137,934**		26,876	
Pension reserve		**(395,000)**		(2,125,000)	
Total restricted funds			**2,787,781**		1,009,488
Unrestricted income funds	16		**43,766**		40,925
Total funds			**2,831,547**		1,050,413

The financial statements on pages 30 to 57 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 05 December 2022 and are signed on their behalf, by:

Mr Mitt Nathwani
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 34 to 57 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Note	2022	2021
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	18	**159,977**	26,701
Cash flows from investing activities	19	**(9,962)**	7,092
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**150,015**	33,793
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		**172,466**	138,673
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		**322,481**	172,466

The notes on pages 34 to 57 form part of these financial statements.

1. Accounting policies

Willowcroft Academy Trust is a charitable company, limited by guarantee. 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 of financial statements

The financial statements of the Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Willowcroft Academy Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

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.

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'.

1.4 Expenditure

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

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, Including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs. attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges 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 £1,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

Leasehold buildings	50 years from conversion
Leasehold improvements	10-50 years
Computer equipment	3 years
Furniture and Equipment	5 years

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

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 a 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

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 funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

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

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of Judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 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 31st August 2021. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of Judgement

The academy trust participates In the Teachers Pension Scheme (TPS) for qualifying employees. Under the definitions set out In FRS 102, this is a multi-employer scheme. There is insufficient information about the plan assets and liabilities to be able to reliably account for its share of the defined benefit obligation and plan assets In the financial statements and therefore the plan Is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme (see note 18).

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2022	Restricted general funds 2022	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022	Total funds 2022	Total funds 2021
		£	£	£	£
Capital grants	-	-	8,973	**8,973**	8,751
Other donations	-	8,995	-	**8,995**	12,104
Total 2022	**-**	**8,995**	**8,973**	**17,968**	20,855

4. Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds 2022	Restricted general funds 2022	Total funds 2022	Total funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
DfE/ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	1,703,952	**1,703,952**	1,449,412
Pupil premium	-	149,321	**149,321**	133,891
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	135,230	**135,230**	101,282
	-	1,988,503	**1,988,503**	1,684,585
Other government grants				
SEN income	-	133,530	**133,530**	196,860
Other LA grants	-	283,421	**283,421**	202,466
	-	416,951	**416,951**	399,326
Covid-19 additional funding (DFE/ESFA)				
Catch up premium	-	-	-	49,614
Other DFE/ESFA Covid-19 funding	-	-	-	30,468
	-	-	-	80,082
Covid-19 additional funding (non DFE/ESFA)				
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grant	-	-	-	17,224
Other COVID-19 funding	-	-	-	7,910
	-	-	-	25,134
Other funding				
Other income	119,639	-	**119,639**	79,472
	119,639	**2,405,454**	**2,525,093**	2,268,599

5. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted general funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Rental income	2,800	-	**2,800**	4,391
Other income	33,138	-	**33,138**	16,000
	35,938	**-**	**35,938**	20,391

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted general funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Bank interest receivable	41	-	**41**	60

7. Expenditure

	Staff costs 2022	Premises 2022	Other 2022	Total 2022
Academy's educational operations:				
Direct costs	1,742,377	-	173,547	**1,915,924**
Allocated support costs	559,829	179,477	210,676	**949,982**
	2,302,206	**179,477**	**384,223**	**2,865,906**

Comparatives for the previous year

	Staff costs 2021	Premises 2021	Other 2021	Total 2021
Expenditure on raising funds	-	-	-	-
Academy's educational operations:				
Direct costs	1,676,651	-	142,840	1,819,491
Allocated support costs	458,582	172,922	198,643	830,147
	2,135,233	172,922	341,483	2,649,638

8. Net income/(expenditure)

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:		
Operating lease rentals	**7,500**	6,016
Depreciation	**78,312**	81,770
Fees payable to auditor for:		
audit	**4,500**	4,920
other services	**2,500**	3,480

9. Charitable activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Direct costs – educational operations	**1,915,924**	1,819,491
Support costs – educational operations	**949,982**	830,147
	2,865,906	2,649,638

Analysis of support costs

	Educational operations	2022	2021
	£	£	£
Support staff costs	**540,808**	**540,808**	443,711
Pension finance cost	**38,000**	**38,000**	25,000
Depreciation and amortisation	**78,312**	**78,312**	81,770
Technology costs	**16,418**	**16,418**	14,681
Premises costs	**113,808**	**113,808**	107,253
Other support costs	**155,196**	**155,196**	148,412
Governance costs	**7,440**	**7,440**	9,320
	949,982	**949,982**	830,147

10. Staff costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**1,523,213**	1,480,249
Social security costs	**131,168**	126,325
Pension costs	**591,590**	512,122
	2,245,971	2,118,696
Supply staff costs	**8,409**	1,666
Staff restructuring costs	**28,805**	16,000
	2,283,185	2,136,362

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy payments	**28,805**	-
Severance payments	**-**	16,000
	28,805	16,000

Staff numbers

The average numbers of persons

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Teachers	**17**	17
Administration and support	**45**	45
Management	**4**	4
	66	66

10. Staff costs continued

Higher paid staff

The number of employees whose

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
£70,001 - £80,000	**1**	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 key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £361,588 (2021: £343,246).

11. Related party transactions

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the multi academy trust. The principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment. If this is not the case payments must be disclosed separately. The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
J Hemery, Headteacher and Trustee		
Remuneration	75 - 80,000	70 - 75,000
Employer's pension contributions	15 - 20,000	15 - 20,000
A Doy, Staff Trustee		
Remuneration	55 - 60,000	55 - 60,000
Employer's pension contributions	10 - 15,000	10 - 15,000
J Doman, Staff Trustee		
Remuneration	45 - 50,000	40 - 45,000
Employer's pension contributions	10 - 15,000	5 - 10,000

No expenses were reimbursed or paid directly to trustees during the year (2021: £nil).

12. Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim. The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

13. Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Furniture and equipment	Computer equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation				
At 1 September 2021	**3,581,765**	**76,260**	**60,151**	**3,718,176**
Additions	**-**	**18,976**	**-**	**18,976**
At 31 August 2022	**3,581,765**	**95,236**	**60,151**	**3,737,152**
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2021	**510,181**	**69,532**	**39,521**	**619,234**
Charge for the year	**65,669**	**4,480**	**8,163**	**78,312**
At 31 August 2022	**575,850**	**74,012**	**47,684**	**697,546**
Net book value				
At 31 August 2022	**3,005,915**	**21,224**	**12,467**	**3,039,606**
At 31 August 2021	3,071,584	6,728	20,630	3,098,942

14. Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	**3,898**	5,905
Prepayments and accrued income	**42,664**	52,307
VAT recoverable	**10,633**	9,738
	57,195	67,950

15. Creditors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	**19,322**	23,491
Accruals and deferred income	**110,091**	78,730
Other creditors	**35,425**	33,837
Other taxation and social security	**27,896**	27,887
	192,734	163,945

	2022	2021
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 September 2021	**64,323**	44,020
Resources deferred during the year	**75,283**	64,323
Amounts released from previous periods	**(64,323)**	(44,020)
	75,283	64,323

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance for the next financial year.

16. Funds

	Balance at 1 Sept 2021	Income	Expenditure	Gains, losses & transfers	Balance at 31 Aug 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General unrestricted funds	40,925	155,618	(152,777)	-	43,766
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	1,703,952	(1,559,444)	(6,574)	137,934
UIFSM	-	38,232	(38,232)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	149,321	(149,321)	-	-
Catch up premium	15,332	-	(15,332)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA covid fundir	3,685	-	(3,685)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	7,493	96,998	(104,491)	-	-
Other government grants	-	416,951	(416,951)	-	-
Other restricted fund	366	8,995	(9,361)	-	-
Pension reserve	(2,125,000)	-	(338,000)	2,068,000	(395,000)
	(2,098,124)	2,414,449	(2,634,817)	2,061,426	(257,066)
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE/ESFA capital grants	5,242	8,973	-	(8,973)	5,242
Donations	3,428	-	-	(3,428)	-
Fixed asset fund	3,098,942	-	(78,312)	18,975	3,039,605
	3,107,612	8,973	(78,312)	6,574	3,044,847
Total Restricted funds	1,009,488	2,423,422	(2,713,129)	2,068,000	2,787,781
Total funds	1,050,413	2,579,040	(2,865,906)	2,068,000	2,831,547

16. Funds

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

	Balance at 1 Sept 2020	Income	Expenditure	Gains, losses & transfers	Balance at 31 Aug 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General unrestricted funds	85,602	83,947	(79,472)	(49,152)	40,925
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	4,994	1,449,412	(1,519,328)	64,922	-
UIFSM	-	47,091	(47,091)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	133,891	(133,891)	-	-
Catch up premium	-	49,614	(34,282)	-	15,332
Other DfE/ESFA covid fundir	-	38,378	(34,693)	-	3,685
CJRS grant	-	17,224	-	(17,224)	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	11,993	54,191	(58,691)	-	7,493
Other government grants	-	399,326	(399,326)	-	-
Other restricted fund	2,960	16,500	(19,094)	-	366
Pension reserve	(1,399,000)	-	(242,000)	(484,000)	(2,125,000)
	(1,379,053)	2,205,627	(2,488,396)	(436,302)	(2,098,124)
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE/ESFA capital grants	184	8,751	-	(3,693)	5,242
Donations	-	11,580	-	(8,152)	3,428
Fixed asset fund	3,167,413	-	(81,770)	13,299	3,098,942
	3,167,597	20,331	(81,770)	1,454	3,107,612
Total Restricted funds	1,788,544	2,225,958	(2,570,166)	(434,848)	1,009,488
Total funds	1,874,146	2,309,905	(2,649,638)	(484,000)	1,050,413

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

The General Annual Grant represents funding received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency during the period In order to fund the continuing activities of the school. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to limits on the amount of GAG that It could carry forward at 31 August 2022.

Pupil Premium Funding represents funding received from the Department for Education (DfE) to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities. The eligibility of the pupils and rates of grant per pupil are set-out by the DfE. This funding is to be used for the provision of education.

Other DfE funding represents other forms of funding received from the Department for Education. This Includes but is not limited to Rates Relief Income, UIFSM funding and PE grant

Local Authority Revenue funding represents various grant funding provided by Local Authorities. Including Early Years Funding for the placement of 2 - 4 year old.

Restricted general funds, Other grants and donations represent amounts given to the academy trust for specific revenue purposes.

The pension reserve fund separately identifies the pension deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme, and through which all the movements on the pension scheme are recognised.

Devolved Formula Capital represents funding provided by the Department for Education to be used for capital projects. This funding may be used for specific capital projects which are not considered to be fixed asset additions.

Local Authority Capital Funding includes various grant funding provided by Local Authorities.

The Fixed Asset fund recognises the net book value of tangible and fixed assets transferred to the trust on conversion and additions since conversion.

Unrestricted funds represent other income to the academy trust which Is not received as funding or with a specific purpose.

17. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted general funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	3,039,605	3,039,605
Current assets	43,766	330,668	5,242	379,676
Creditors due within one year	-	(192,734)	-	(192,734)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(395,000)	-	(395,000)
	43,766	(257,066)	3,044,847	2,831,547

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted general funds 2021 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	3,098,942	3,098,942
Current assets	186,022	45,724	8,670	240,416
Creditors due within one year	(145,097)	(18,848)	-	(163,945)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(2,125,000)	-	(2,125,000)
	40,925	(2,098,124)	3,107,612	1,050,413

18. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Net income / (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities	(286,866)	(339,733)
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation charges	78,312	81,770
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(8,973)	(20,331)
Interest receivable	(41)	(60)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	300,000	217,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	38,000	25,000
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	10,755	45,811
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	28,790	17,244
Net cash provided by / (used in) Operating Activities	159,977	26,701

19. Cash flows from investing activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	41	60
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(18,976)	(13,299)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	8,973	8,751
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	-	11,580
Net cash provided by / (used in) Operating Activities	(9,962)	7,092

20. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2022	2021
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	322,481	172,466

21. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2021	Cashflows	At 31 August 2021
	£	£	£
Cash	172,466	150,015	322,481

21. *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 Oxfordshire County Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarlal 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 £33,139 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2022 (2021: £32,402) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS or scheme) is a statutory, unfunded, defined benefit occupational scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010 (as amended), and the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014 (as amended). These regulations apply to teachers in schools and other educational establishments, including academies, in England and Wales that are maintained by local authorities. In addition, teachers in many independent and voluntary-aided schools and teachers and lecturers in some establishments of further and higher education may be eligible for membership.

Membership is automatic for full-time teachers and lecturers and, from 1 January 2007, automatic too for teachers and lecturers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

The Teachers' Pension budgeting and valuation account

Although members may be employed by various bodies, their retirement and other pension benefits are set out in regulations made under the Superannuation Act (1972) and Public Service Pensions Act (2013) and are paid by public funds provided by Parliament. The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go 'basis – contributions from members, along with those made by employers, are credited to the Exchequer under arrangements governed by the above Acts.

The Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010 require an annual account, the Teachers' Pension Budgeting and Valuation Account, to be kept of receipts and expenditure (including the cost of pension increases). From 1 April 2001, the Account has been credited with a real rate of return, which is equivalent to assuming that the balance in the Account is invested in notional investments that produce that real rate of return.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

As a result of the latest scheme valuation employer contributions were increased in September 2019 from a rate of 16.4% to 23.6%. Employers also pay a charge equivalent to 0.08% of pensionable salary costs to cover administration expenses.

The next valuation is expected to take effect in 2023.

A copy of the latest valuation report can be found by following this link to the Teachers' Pension Scheme website

Scheme changes

In December 2018, the Court of Appeal held that transitional protection provisions contained in the reformed judicial and firefighter pension schemes, introduced as part of public service pension reforms in 2015, gave rise to direct age discrimination and were therefore unlawful. The Supreme Court, in a decision made in June 2019, rejected the Government's application for permission to appeal the Court of Appeal's ruling and subsequently referred the case to an Employment Tribunal to determine a remedy which will need to be offered to those members of the two schemes who were subject of the age discrimination

Since then, claims have also been lodged against the main public service schemes including the TPS. The Department has conceded those in line with the rest of the government. In July 2020 HM Treasury launched a 12-week public consultation which will provide evidence to support the delivery of an appropriate remedy for the affected schemes, including TPS.

A final remedy will be determined once the results of the consultation are established.

In December 2019, a further legal challenge was made against the TPS relating to an identified equalities issue whereby male survivors of opposite-sex marriages and civil partnerships are treated less favourably than survivors in same-sex marriages and civil partnerships. The Secretary of State for Education agreed not to defend the case. In June 2020, the Employment Tribunal recorded its findings in respect of the claimant. DfE is currently working to establish what changes are necessary to address this discrimination.

Any impact of these events will be taken into account when the next scheme valuation is implemented. This is scheduled to be implemented in April 2023, based on April 2020 data.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £186,807 (2021: £182,630).

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 contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2022 was £139,000 (2021: £153,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £105,000 (2021: £115,000) and employees' contributions totalled £34,000 (2021: £38,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are between 5.5% and 12.5% for employers and 17.6% for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of an academy trust closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2022	**2021**
Rate of increase in salaries	**3.05%**	2.90%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	**3.05%**	2.90%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	**4.25%**	1.65%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	**3.05%**	2.90%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	**50.00%**	50.00%

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

	2022	2021
Retiring today		
Males	**22.4**	22.4
Females	**24.5**	24.7
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	**23.1**	23.4
Females	**26.1**	26.3

Sensitivity analysis

	2022	2021
	£	£
Discount rate +0.1%	**2,047,000**	3,759,000
Discount rate -0.1%	**2,173,000**	3,803,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	**2,026,000**	3,751,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	**2,026,000**	3,811,000
CPI rate +0.1%	**2,173,000**	3,760,000
CPI rate -0.1%	**2,047,000**	3,802,000

Defined benefit pension scheme net liability

	2022	2021
	£	£
Scheme assets	**1,715,000**	1,656,000
Scheme obligations	**(2,110,000)**	(3,781,000)
Net liability	**(395,000)**	(2,125,000)

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

	2022	2021
	£	£
Equities	**1,287,000**	1,225,000
Corporate bonds	**257,000**	282,000
Property	**154,000**	116,000
Other	**17,000**	33,000
Total market value of assets	**1,715,000**	1,656,000

Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Current service costs	**300,000**	217,000
Interest cost	**38,000**	25,000
Total amount recognised in SOFA	**338,000**	242,000

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

	2022	2021
	£	£
At 1 September	**3,781,000**	2,656,000
Current service cost	**405,000**	332,000
Interest cost	**66,000**	48,000
Employee contributions	**34,000**	38,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	**(2,166,000)**	717,000
Benefits paid	**(10,000)**	(10,000)
At 31 August	**2,110,000**	3,781,000

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

	2022	2021
	£	£
At 1 September	**1,656,000**	1,257,000
Interest income	**28,000**	23,000
Actuarial gains/(loss)	**(98,000)**	233,000
Employer contributions	**105,000**	115,000
Employee contributions	**34,000**	38,000
Benefits paid	**(10,000)**	(10,000)
At 31 August	**1,715,000**	1,656,000

22. Operating lease commitments

	2022	2021
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	**5,975**	5,730
Amounts due between one and five years	**3,476**	13,687
	9,451	19,417

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/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member

24. Related party transactions

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