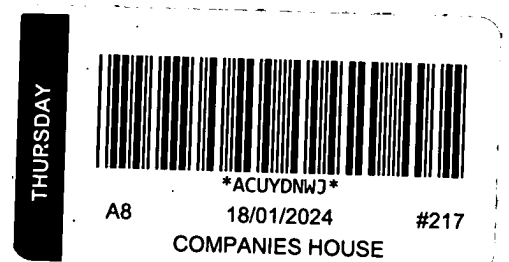


Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 31 August 2023



Company Registration Number
08779660 (England and Wales)

Feltons
Chartered Accountants
Birmingham
B1 3JR



Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 31 August 2023

Contents	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	3
Governance Statement	20
Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance	24
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	25
Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements	26
Independent Reporting Accountant's Report on Regularity	30
Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income & Expenditure Account	32
Balance Sheet	33
Statement of Cash Flows	34
Notes forming part of the Financial Statements, incorporating :	
Statement of Accounting Policies	35
Other Notes to the Financial Statements	40

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Reference and Administrative Details

Members

Mrs Janet Gospel (21/03/2018)
Mr Khalil Mullan (12/06/2019)
Mr Steven Taylor (12/06/2019)
Mr David Griffiths (01/09/2021)
Mrs Anita Ward (27/06/2023)

Resignations:

Mr Mike Edwards (12/06/2019) Member

Board Directors / Trustees

Mrs Susan Raybould (18/11/2013) – Director
Mrs Julie Greenwood (18/11/2013) – CEO & Accounting Officer
Mr Mohammed Aikhlaq (18/11/13) - Director
Mrs Judith Matthiae (12/06/2019) – Director & Vice Chair
Miss Ayesha Siddiq (25/06/2019) – Director
Anita Ward (17/11/2020) - Director & Chair
Tracy Ruddle (02/12/2021) - Director
Naziah Rasheed (17/04/2023) - Director

Resignations:

Mr Qurban Hussain (02/12/2021 – 26/01/2023) Director
Mr Mohammed Ali (21/03/2018 – 19/09/2023) Director

Appointments:

Mr. Robert Cummins (09/10/2023) - Director

Company secretary

Ms Yvonne Wakefield

Senior Leadership Team:

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| • Chief Executive Officer | Mrs Julie Greenwood |
| • Deputy Chief Executive | Mrs Rehana Yasmeen |
| • Officer Chief Operating Officer | Mr Thomas Blewitt |
| • Executive Head Teacher – Alston Primary | Mrs Charlotte Nott |
| • Head Teacher Leigh Primary | Mrs Alison Williams |
| • Executive Head Teacher – Marlborough Primary | Mrs Razia Ali |
| • Head of School – Marlborough Primary | Mrs Ruksana A |
| • Executive Head Teacher – Wyndcliffe Primary | Mrs Razia Ali |
| • Head of School – Wyndcliffe Primary | Mrs Lucy Goodfellows |
| • Head Teacher Nansen Primary School | Mrs Nanaki Bajwa |

Company name

Principal and registered office

Leigh Trust
104 Naseby Road
Alum Rock
Birmingham, B8 3HG

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Reference and Administrative Details (continued)

Company registration number	08779660
Independent auditor	Feltons 8 Sovereign Court 8 Graham Street Birmingham B1 3JR
Bankers	Lloyds Bank 114-116 Colmore Row Birmingham B3 3BD
Solicitors	Anthony Collins 134 Edmund Street Birmingham B3 2ES

**Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023

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

The multi academy operates five primary schools serving catchment areas in inner city Birmingham which are :

Alston Primary
Leigh Primary
Marlborough Primary
Nansen Primary School
Wyndcliffe Primary

They have a combined pupil capacity of 3414, including nursery provision and had a roll of 2998 in the school autumn census as of October 2023.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The multi 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 multi academy trust. The Trustees of Leigh Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as Leigh Trust.

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

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice the multi academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on multi academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

Staff Trustees are elected by employees of the Multi Academy Trust.

Members of the MAT are appointed by way of written special resolution. The members appoint the directors of the MAT by way of vote. The total number of Directors including the Chief Executive Officer who are employees of the company shall not exceed one third of the total number of Directors. There shall be a minimum of two parent Directors unless there are Local Governing Bodies which include at least two Parent Members. Local Governing Body Governors are appointed by the Trust Board of Directors.

Parent Directors / Governors

In appointing a Parent Director or Parent member of the Local Governing Body the Directors shall appoint a person who is the parent of a registered pupil at a school; or where it is not reasonably practical to do so, a person who is the parent of a child of compulsory school age. The Governing Body shall take steps to ensure every parent is aware of the vacancy.

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

The Chief Executive Officer / Accounting Officer shall be a Director for as long as she/he remains in office as such.

The Community Trustees may be appointed by the Directors provided that the person who is appointed as a Community Trustee is:

- a person who lives or works in the community served by the Trust; or
- a person who, in the opinion of the Governing Body, is committed to the government and success of the school.

Co-Opted Directors.

The Directors may appoint Co-opted Directors. A 'Co-Opted Director' means a person who is appointed to be a Director by being Co-opted by Directors; who have not themselves been so appointed. The Directors may not co-opt an employee of the Company as a Co-Opted Director if thereby the number of Directors who are employees of the company would exceed one third of the total number of Directors including the Chief Executive Officer.

Staff Trustees are elected by employees of the Academy Trust. The total number of governors (including the Head Teacher) who are employees of the Academy Trust shall not exceed one third of the total number of Governors.

The term of office for any Governor shall be 4 years, save that this time limit shall not apply to the Chief Executive Officer. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Governor, any Governor may be re-appointed or re-elected.

The above selection procedures are adhered to when a vacancy arises.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

The board of trustees has a service level agreement with the trustee support department of Birmingham City Council to provide training, advice and support to the board of trustees.

Newly elected trustees attend induction training for new trustees, and in addition select specific training provided by trustee support in accordance with their needs.

One of the trustees is appointed as link trustee, attends relevant training and provides information to trustees following such training.

The Company Secretary oversees all governor professional development across the Trust after a full skills review, and she ensures that trustees are provided with opportunities to receive training in accordance with their role, and each school's training plan.

Organisational structure

On the 1st January 2014, Leigh Primary School formed Leigh Trust, a Multi Academy Trust with a Master Funding Agreement (MFA) and separate Supplemental Funding Agreements (SFA) to govern each school.

There are Five Primary Schools currently within Leigh Trust: -

Alston Primary School - (3-11 Primary School converted 1st July 2014)
Leigh Primary School - (3-11 Primary School converted 1st January 2014)
Marlborough Primary School – (3-11 Primary School Converted 1st January 2019)
Nansen Primary School – (3-11 Primary School Transferred 1st April 2020)
Wyndcliffe Primary School - (3 -11 Primary School Converted 1st March 2015)

The Board of Directors govern the activities of the Trust and oversees the work of the Local Governing Body (LGB) of each school. The Board of Directors are ultimately responsible for the strategic direction of the Trust. The written terms of reference include the monitoring of the preparation and management of the Multi Academy's budget and implementation of the Multi Academy's financial management policies, including risk assessment.

The board of directors has established committees and appoints directors to serve on each of the committees annually. The committees for the period of the report were:

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

- Finance / Audit & Risk Committee
- Educational Standards Committee
- Pay Committee
- Appeals Committee

The Board of Directors also appoints a Responsible Officer and this role has been fully implemented in accordance with the Multi Academy Trust's Financial Procedures.

Each School Local Governing Body governs the work and outcomes of its assigned school. This is set out in the Scheme of Delegation set by the Board of Directors and may vary between schools. The Senior Leadership Team in each school are responsible for leading each academy, managing the day-to-day operations of the school within the strategic direction and policies established by the Board and Local Governing Body and reporting back to them.

Senior leaders are responsible for authorising expenditure within agreed budgets and appointing staff within the existing establishment; appointments for posts on the leadership team are appointed by the Board of Directors in conjunction with the Local Governors. The Chief Executive Officer assumes the role of the Accounting Officer and is responsible for the overall day-to-day operation of the Trust and the Chief Operating Officer has delegated responsibilities for the financial oversight of the Trust on a day-to-day basis.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Leigh Trust adopts a pay policy that stipulates all teacher pay progress is performance related and a rigorous performance management review cycle is upheld within all schools in Leigh Trust. The Board of Directors appoints an independent external consultant to conduct the performance reviews of the CEO and Deputy CEO of Leigh Trust. The schools data is used as a benchmarking tool. The external consultant will complete the review and report back to the Pay Committee their findings and recommendations of pay progression. The CEO and Deputy CEO will complete the performance management all other key management personnel. The pay committee will moderate the performance reviews and feedback any decision made for the Board of Directors to agree.

Trade union facility time

Information in accordance with Schedule 2 of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2018 is as follows :

Relevant union officials

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

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	£nil
Total pay bill	£12,265,985.12
Facility time as percentage of total pay bill	0%

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	0%
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Related parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

Mrs Julie Greenwood (CEO) – Member of Robin Hood MAT.

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

Leigh Trust fully engages with employees through a range of different approaches. Through the Trust's motto, 'Together Everyone Achieves More' (TEAM) it is made clear that views and opinions of all stakeholders are an important aspect of the Trust's vision and ethos.

- Employees are regularly informed about information on matters of concern to them. The Executive Team are in regular contact with the Head Teachers and any information that is needed to be shared with all staff, then forms part of the weekly staff briefing that takes place in each school.
- Views are regularly taken from employees in the form of questionnaires, discussion at meetings and having working parties for areas of interest. There are several forums whereby staff will have the opportunity to input their ideas, and these are considered in decision making. Regular visits to each school by the Executive Team means that there are also opportunities for informal discussions with staff, to listen to their views and to take on-board their ideas and suggestions.
- As a trust we ensure that everyone has an awareness of the successes and areas for development. One of the ways that our successes are shared is through the Trust's Biannual conference.
- As a trust we provide our colleagues with a termly newsletter which includes information to celebrate the successes across our organisation.
- We are committed to equality, diversity and inclusion and ensure that processes are put in place to break down any barriers to employment, job satisfaction, training for those who are or become disabled.

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

Leigh Trust considers its engagement with all suppliers, customers and business partners as an essential element to the growth and development of the Trust. The Trust holds its relationships with all our business service providers and suppliers with the utmost regard and the Board continually review and analyse these relationships throughout the academic year.

Supplies and services

Over the course of this academic year, Leigh Trust has developed its relationships with our current service providers that has led to:

- Procurement of goods and value for money
- Strengthened internal control procedures
- Enhanced risk assessment strategies
- Successful applications for Low carbon skills funding to assist our schools in becoming more efficient and carbon neutral in the future
- Increased mental health and wellbeing strategy and services for all
- Improved Human resource practice and procedure across the schools
- Improved Estates management, including H&S services for the schools
- Improved recruitment strategies across the trust.

The Trust strives to continue to maintain and develop strong working relationships and communications with all our stakeholders and are always looking to build new ones, to ensure we provide the very best educational opportunities for all our children.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims


The strategic goal of Leigh Trust is to provide a broad and balanced curriculum to all pupils in accordance with the Funding Agreement between the Academy Trust and the Department for Education. We have designed and developed an infrastructure that allows us to provide centralised services for all schools within the Trust. These services include: Leadership support and guidance from the CEO and Deputy CEO, School to school support, finance support, HR support, IT support, academy conversion support, governance, clerking, procurement and estates and facilities management services


We aim for all of our school to be good or better. We feel that as an Academy Trust we are able to work more creatively to best serve the needs of our children and our communities. We are able to use our staff in a more flexible and responsive manner – we share our expertise and grow our own teachers and leaders. We ensure that our staff have opportunities to grow within and across our family of schools, ensuring that we retain our high levels of expertise and that our succession planning is secure. The communities that we serve, across the Trust, encompass stakeholders from a wide variety of backgrounds. Our ethos is one of inclusivity, promoting an equality of opportunity for every child across the Trust.

The main objectives for the year and the strategies adopted for achieving these objectives are:


Strategic Aim 1: Outcomes	Key Strategic Areas
	1.1 To ensure that outcomes for all children in Reading, Writing and Mathematics improve year on year so that more children achieve or exceed age-related expectations
	1.2 To ensure that all children meet or exceed expected progress from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 in Reading, Writing and Mathematics
	1.3 To secure the very best teaching, which is good or better in order to promote and provide high quality learning for all our children through a broad and diverse curriculum
	1.4 To ensure that there is support in place for those children who are at risk of underachieving, or are vulnerable, providing rapid and effective intervention
	1.5 To enable teaching staff, through continuing professional development (CPD), to plan for and deliver appropriate learning challenges which promote depth of learning
	Success Criteria
	SC1. All schools within the Trust to be able to demonstrate significant improvement from their previous Ofsted judgement.
	SC2. Outcomes and progress for our children are at least in line with national expectations in Reading, Writing and Maths
	SC3. Effective provision for SEND, Pupil Premium and other vulnerable children enables them to make good progress based on their starting points
	SC4. All teaching is good or better in schools within 2 years of joining Leigh Trust
	SC5. Effective and supportive plans rapidly address any teaching that is less than good
	SC6. Performance management targets are linked to improving individual teaching performance and outcomes for children

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)






<p>All Schools are enabled to reach good or better outcomes and effectively monitor and close the gap.</p> 	<p>Key Performance Indicators</p> <p>KP1. Results for all children are at least in line with national expectations for attainment and progress</p> <p>KP2. Attainment and progress for disadvantaged and SEND children is in line with their peers</p> <p>KP3. 100% of teaching is good or better</p>
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<p>Strategic Aim 2: School Improvement</p> <p>To establish a self-sustaining, system-led, collaborative approach to improvement that enables rapid improvement where required.</p> 	<p>Key Strategic Areas</p> <p>2.1 To ensure accurate and robust self-evaluation process</p> <p>2.2 To ensure effective School to School Support</p> <p>2.3 To utilise links effectively with external partnerships and professional bodies</p> <p>Success Criteria</p> <p>SC.7 Internal, within Leigh Trust and external monitoring of performance carried out on a planned basis to bring about rapid and sustained improvements where needed</p> <p>SC. 8 Well developed Trust self-evaluation process is used effectively to ensure continual and rapid school improvement</p> <p>SC.9 High quality CPD of staff will mean our schools will attract and retain the very best teachers</p> <p>SC.10 Professional development opportunities are provided for leaders at all levels across Leigh Trust</p> <p>SC.11 External partnerships are used effectively to improve current practice which has a direct impact on improving the quality of teaching and outcomes for children</p> <p>Key Performance Indicators</p> <p>KP4. All schools within the Trust to be able to demonstrate significant improvement from their previous Ofsted judgement.</p>
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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

<p>Strategic Aim 3: Leadership</p> <p>To ensure high quality Leadership and Governance at all levels across the Trust.</p> 	<p>KP6. Our schools will be able to accurately self-evaluate and this is evidenced through external validation</p>
	<p>KP7. School to school support is recognised by Ofsted as having a positive impact on improving standards in each school</p>
	<p>Key Strategic Areas</p>
	<p>3.1 To ensure that the Board of Directors are fully functioning in their statutory duties and offer a full range of skills in order to achieve this</p>
	<p>3.2 To further develop governance structures within Leigh Trust to ensure that all bodies are aware of school strengths and areas for development for each school and have all the appropriate information to be able to challenge school leaders</p>
	<p>3.3 To ensure that leadership and management at all levels is effective and leads to improved capacity and improvement in standards and quality of provision for all children</p>
	<p>Success Criteria</p>
	<p>SC12. The Board of Directors and Local Governors demonstrate the necessary skills to interpret each schools performance and provide appropriate challenge, which is clearly focused on raising standards of teaching and learning.</p>
	<p>SC13. All safeguarding, health and safety and legal requirements and procedures continue to be met and are fully compliant</p>
	<p>SC14. All schools demonstrate good leadership including governance and this inspirational leadership is shared across the Trust</p>
	<p>SC15. Levels of staff accountability are achieved through robust performance management systems</p>
	<p>SC16. HR Strategies have been developed that have a clear aim of upskilling our current workforce. There are opportunities at all levels for staff to develop, including those in a senior leadership or middle management position.</p>
	<p>Key Performance Indicators</p>
	<p>KP8. The Board of Directors are focused on holding the Executive Leaders to account and the Local Governing Bodies are fully functioning in their delegated duties and are focused on raising standards in teaching and learning.</p>
	<p>KP9. Leadership and Management, including governance will be judged to be at least good by Ofsted</p>
	<p>Key Strategic Areas</p>
<p>Strategic Aim 4: Business & Efficiency</p>	<p>4.1 To optimise our budgets and deliver best practice whilst ensuring value for money across all our operations and minimising any potential risks</p>

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

<p>Ensuring a financially viable and sustainable multi-academy trust that continues to offer high quality services to schools, whilst achieving plans of growth.</p>     	<p>4.2 To grow the Trust in a measured way to ensure that standards are maintained and improved within our current family of schools.</p> <p>4.3 To promote and continue to develop a high quality service to our schools and ensure the efficient operation of essential systems and procedures are fully embedded to enable the educational specialists to focus on the needs of our pupils.</p> <p>4.4. To develop the current structure of our organisation and strengthen our capacity to continue to offer a high quality service to our schools and bring about rapid transformation as required.</p> <p>Success Criteria</p> <p>SC.17 All finance staff have a clear understanding of Trusts expectations and deadlines are known and adhered too.</p> <p>SC.18 Financial forecasts indicate a stable budget position going forward and address any risk of potential deficits and potential impact of the national funding formula change.</p> <p>SC.19 Ongoing review of procurement opportunities has continued to lead to significant savings across the Trust and consequentially moving to the Trust being self-sufficient.</p> <p>SC.20 The staffing structure is developed at each stage of growth to resourcefully manage and consistently deliver services of School Improvement, Finance, Human Resources, ICT and Facility Management</p> <p>SC.21 Marketing and HR Recruitment & Retention strategies have been developed that assist with promoting the reputation of the trust and attracting high calibre professionals within our workforce.</p> <p>SC.22 Policy (and contracts where applicable) alignment across all MAT schools exists, with local contexts taken into account regarding procedures and protocols</p> <p>SC.23 IT & Communications systems have been harmonized to enable a consolidation of all aspects</p> <p>Key Performance Indicators</p> <p>KP10. Assurance received that annual financial accounts have been properly prepared and are free of material misstatements</p> <p>KP11. Staffing costs capped at 80% of total Trust income.</p> <p>KP12. Ensure economy, efficiency and effectiveness over the use of Trust funds (value for money).</p> <p>KP13. Sources of funding pursued for capital development projects</p>
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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

	KPI4. Staff turnover levels are seen to be reducing and further development opportunities made available to staff within the MAT.
	KPI5. All MAT schools retain or improve their Ofsted inspection rating during stages of growth.
	KPI6. All schools are fully compliant with health and safety, safeguarding, financial regulations and other statutory requirements

Significant activities linked to the trust's charitable activities, and how they further its aims, have been:

- Supporting other charitable organisations and raising money for their causes
- Sharing our practice with other organisations
- Developing the professional development of staff for the good of the pupils and the wider community
- Offering opportunities for all pupils beyond the national curriculum expectations

Public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the board of trustees has given careful consideration to the general guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission on their website at www.gov.uk/running-charity/managing-charity in exercising their powers or duties.

Leigh Trust is an equal opportunity employer, and strives to give full and fair consideration to all applicants for employment, training and promotions, irrespective of disability, gender, race, colour or sexual orientation.

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

The Trust provides the education for approximately 2,940 children in inner-city Birmingham fulfilling its primary objective in some of the most deprived areas in England. To add further context, 43% of the pupils served by the Trust come from disadvantaged homes.

The Trust is committed to continual improvement, which is achieved in several ways, including improvement planning, review meetings, continual professional development, lesson observations, performance appraisals, self-evaluation, data analysis and action planning. All performance appraisals were held for staff during the academic year 2022-2023.

Two of our schools were inspected by Ofsted this academic year:

- Wyndcliffe Primary School received a section 8 inspection in April 2023, and we are pleased that the school continues to be good and that Ofsted stated 'There is enough evidence of improved performance to suggest that the school could be judged outstanding if we were to carry out a graded (section 5) inspection now. The school's next inspection will be a graded inspection'.
- Marlborough Primary School had their first inspection as an amalgamated school in May 2023 and received Good in all areas - this is a huge achievement for the school and a testament to all the hard work that has taken place.

Alston Primary School continues as an accredited Department for Education 'Behaviour Hub' and has supported several schools across the country with Behaviour and learning cultures.

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

At Wyndcliffe Primary School the resource base has been expanded, and now provides provision for 44 children. This provision has been extended to provide early years provision and now has The Hive and The Honeycomb. Several children have integrated back into mainstream school at Wyndcliffe Primary School.

Key Performance Indicators

The key performance indicators of the Trust include pupil outcomes, school Ofsted ratings, maximising the actual pupil numbers in line with the current PANs and the pupil attendance levels.

The current Ofsted grading's for schools within Leigh Trust are:

Alston Primary School – Good June 2019
 Leigh Primary School – Good November 2021
 Marlborough Primary School – Good May 2023
 Nansen Primary school – Good March 2022
 Wyndcliffe Primary School – Good April 2023

School Data

	EYFS	Phonics	
	GLD	Year 1	Year 2
Alston	71%	89%	97%
Leigh	68%	85%	92%
Marlborough	64%	89%	87%
Nansen	63%	91%	90%
Wyndcliffe	61%	74%	83%

Year 2	Reading		Writing		Maths	
	Expected or above	Greater Depth	Expected or above	Greater Depth	Expected or above	Greater Depth
Alston	75%	18%	69%	5%	73%	18%
Leigh	69%	15%	59%	5%	68%	12%
Marlborough	68%	20%	58%	1%	63%	18%
Nansen	65%	10%	59%	6%	66%	10%
Wyndcliffe	59%	12%	58%	2%	64%	17%

Year 6	Reading		Writing		GPS		Maths		Combined	
	EX/+	GDS	EX/+	GDS	EX/+	GDS	EX/+	GDS	EX/+	GDS
Alston	67%	15%	66%	14%	71%	23%	74%	18%	57%	5%
Leigh	57%	25%	65%	7%	68%	42%	70%	27%	52%	5%
Marlborough	60%	14%	70%	3%	54%	16%	60%	11%	44%	1%
Nansen	71%	34%	68%	2%	77%	45%	79%	32%	64%	1%
Wyndcliffe	69%	21%	67%	8%	81%	33%	68%	19%	53%	6%

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

- Direct costs as a percentage of total costs were 68.7% (2022 : 65.4%)
- Support costs as a percentage of total costs were 31.3% (2022 : 34.6%)
- Total payroll costs as a percentage of recurring income were 72.0% (2022 : 82.5%)

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the multi 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.

Promoting the success of the company

The Directors recognise the importance of acting in accordance with their key duties of promoting the success of the company to achieve its charitable objects. This imperative is reflected in the Trust's Vision and values, objectives and aims and demonstrated by its decision making and supporting policies.

The Trust actively works with community stakeholders and partners, local governing bodies and employees to reinforce this aim, and has supporting codes of conduct in place for Trustees, local governors and employees.

Financial Review

The financial results of Leigh Trust are detailed in the following pages. It is considered that the finances are sound and well established. The principal financial management policies adopted are laid down by the Finance Handbook for Academies published by the ESFA and requirements as laid down by the Multi Academy's Financial Handbook.

The principal funding source is grant income from the ESFA. All expenditure of this grant income is planned to fulfil the objectives and strategies of the multi academy.

During the year ended 31 August 2023 total resources expended were £20,833,978 and the surplus of income over expenditure was £82,110 which included depreciation of £1,048,543

Reserves Policy

The trustees continually monitor the reserves of the charitable company. This process encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams and the need to match commitments with income and nature of reserves.

It is the board of trustees' general policy to continue to build reserves which can be used for future educational purposes.

The multi academy had total funds at 31 August 2023 of £28,979,449 which included £1,932,948 restricted funds not available for general purposes of the multi academy trust, £2,018,395 of free reserves defined as unrestricted funds available for general purposes and £29,212,106 which can only be realised by the disposal of tangible fixed assets.

Reserves Policy (continued)

The balance on restricted general funds (excluding pension reserve) plus the balance on unrestricted funds was a surplus of £3,951,343

In addition, the deficit on the restricted pension fund of £4,184,000 arises from an actuarial deficit on the local government pension scheme which will be dealt with as advised by the actuary. This will result in a cash flow effect for the academy trust in the form of an increase in employers' pension contributions over a period of years.

**Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

The trustees regularly review the level of reserves and aim to maintain them at a minimum of 2 months of expenditure. Budgeted expenditure for 2023/24 is £19,487,050 and hence the minimum target is £3,247,842. Unrestricted reserves at 31 August 2023 therefore represent 1.6 months.

Investment Policy

Any surplus funds are invested with Lloyds Bank in a deposit account.

These investments are carried out in accordance with the powers vested in the board of trustees.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The trustees have considered the major risks and uncertainties facing the charitable company which include changes in legislation and regulations and cash flow management and have put in place procedures to deal with these matters.

Attention has also been focussed on non-financial risks arising from fire, health and safety. These risks are managed by ensuring accreditation is up to date, having robust policies in place, and regular awareness training for staff working in these operational areas.

Fundraising

The academy trust does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the period was monitored by the Trustees.

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR)

UK energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions

Annual energy usage and associated annual greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions are reported pursuant to the Companies (Directors' Report) and Limited Liability Partnerships (Energy and Carbon Report) Regulations 2018 ("the 2018 Regulations") that came into force 1 April 2019.

Organisational boundary

In accordance with the 2018 Regulations, the energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions are for those assets owned or operated within the UK only as defined by the operational control boundary. This includes all five schools controlled during the reporting period and minibuses along with the mandatory inclusion of scope 3 business travel in employee-owned or hire vehicles (grey fleet).

Reporting period

The annual reporting period is 1st September to 31st August each year and the energy and carbon emissions are aligned to this period.

Quantification and reporting methodology

The 2019 UK Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines and the GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (revised edition) were followed. The 2023 UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Company Reporting were used in emission calculations. The report has been reviewed independently by Briar Consulting Engineers Limited.

The electricity and gas consumption were compiled from invoice records. Odometer mileage readings were used to calculate minibus usage. Staff mileage was not recorded in this reporting period. Generally gross calorific values were used except for grey fleet mileage energy calculations as per Government GHG Conversion Factors.

The associated emissions are divided into mandatory and voluntary emissions according to the 2018 Regulations, then further divided into the direct combustion of fuels and the operation of facilities (scope 1), indirect emissions from purchased electricity (scope 2) and further indirect emissions that occur because of Trust activities but occur from sources not owned or controlled by the organisation (scope 3).

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Breakdown of energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh):

Energy type	2021/22	2022/23
Mandatory requirements:		
Gas	2,309,011	2,208,586
Purchased electricity from the grid	997,552	943,950
Transport fuel	6,010	7,770
Total energy (mandatory)	3,312,573	3,160,305

NOTE: Figures may not sum due to rounding

Breakdown of emissions associated with the reported energy use (tCO₂e):

Emission source	2021/22	2022/23
Mandatory requirements:		
<u>Scope 1</u>		
Natural gas	421.5	404.0
Trust owned vehicles (minibuses)	1.5	2.0
<u>Scope 2</u>		
Purchased electricity (location-based)	192.9	195.5
<u>Scope 3</u>		
Category 6: Business travel (grey fleet)	0.0	0.0
Total gross emissions (mandatory)	615.9	601.4
<u>Intensity ratios (mandatory emissions only)</u>		
Tonnes of CO ₂ e per pupil	0.205	0.201
Tonnes of CO ₂ e per square meter floor area	0.034	0.034

NOTE: Figures may not sum due to rounding

Intensity ratio

Two intensity ratios are reported showing emissions (tCO₂e) per pupil and per square meter floor area. Emissions per pupil is the recommended ratio for the sector for consistency and comparability and pupil numbers are based on the Autumn 2022 Census. Emissions per square meter floor area is reported to reflect the energy efficiency of the buildings, which are the source of most emissions.

Energy efficiency action during current reporting year

Total energy use and emissions have decreased this year by 151,339 kWh (-4.6%) and 14.2 tCO₂e (-2.3%) respectively. This suggests that the energy efficiency actions implemented by the Trusts are having a significant impact in reducing tCO₂e.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

The Trust is committed to reducing emissions and this year has seen the implementation of the following energy efficiency measures:

- Improved maintenance efficiencies through the instalment of new boiler systems and heating emitters at Wyndcliffe Primary ensuring more optimal control and efficient usage. This plan is currently ongoing with completion estimated to be April 2024.
- Marlborough have demolished an old energy inefficient building and are currently building an extension to the Nursery Building with an estimated completion date of December 2023.
- Continuation of The behavioural change program of reminding staff to switch off devices has been introduced and there is a curriculum approach to increase the awareness and understanding for pupils regarding renewable energy and the importance of recycling.
- There is a 3-5 year rolling programme for schools to replace single glazing windows with double glazing which will decrease heat loss and to increase LED lighting and replace old fittings.

Plans for Future Periods

For the period 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024, Leigh Multi Academy Trust will continue to develop and strengthen the trust and its schools.

The Trust's objectives for future periods consist of;

- Wyndcliffe Primary School to continue with its 'Good' rating given by Ofsted with possibly achieving Outstanding with a revisit.
- Alston, Leigh, Marlborough and Nansen to continue with their 'Good' rating given by Ofsted.
- Good provision for children who attend the Resource base, 'The Hive', at Wyndcliffe Primary School which provides effective provision for up to 44 children with autism.
- Set up resource Bases at the other 4 schools within the Trust.

We have continued to develop Leigh Trust offices which is on the site of Nansen Primary School. There is ample space and numerous meeting rooms which will provide the trust with an opportunity to enable our trust colleagues, the local community and organisations within Birmingham and beyond to utilise this space. The space has started to provide opportunities for income generation through a lettings policy.

The central team also have excellent facilities to carry out their roles effectively.

Continuous self-review and evaluation will be upheld by the trustees to improve the school to school collaboration and centralised services in order to effectively achieve these targets.

The Trusts Key Priorities will continue to be as follows;

- **Outcomes** – All schools are enabled to reach good or better outcomes and effectively monitor and close the gap
- **School Improvement** – To establish a self-sustaining, system led, collaborative approach to improvement that enables rapid improvement where required
- **Leadership** – To ensure high quality Leadership and Governance at all levels across the Trust
- **Business and Efficiency** – Ensuring a financially viable academy trust that continues to offer high quality services to schools, whilst achieving plans of growth and to ensure budgets are efficiently proportionate to curriculum delivery plans.
- **Wellbeing for all** - To ensure that the focus is on mental health and wellbeing for all. For school leaders to give consideration to staff on workload, stress and well-being issues and give access to support where needed through the Employee Assistance Programme, Health Assured.

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others


There are no funds held as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others.

Auditor

Insofar as the Trustees are aware :

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 13th December 2023 and signed on the board's behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anita Ward', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Mrs Anita Ward - Chair of Directors

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Governance statement for the year ended 31 August 2023

Scope of Responsibility

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

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

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

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The **board of trustees** has formally met 6 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Name		
Mrs Susan Raybould (18/11/2013) – Director	6	6
Mrs Julie Greenwood (18/11/2013) – CEO & Accounting Officer	6	6
Mr Mohammed Aikhlaq (18/11/2013) - Director	5	6
Mr Mohammed Ali (21/03/2018 – 19/09/2023) Director	3	6
Mrs Judith Matthiae (12/06/2019) – Director & Vice Chair	6	6
Miss Ayesha Siddiq (25/06/2019) – Director	4	6
Anita Ward (17/11/2020) - Director & Chair	4	6
Mr Qurban Hussain (02/12/2021) - Director	0	2
Tracy Ruddle (02/12/2021) - Director	4	6
Naziah Rasheed (17/04/2023) - Director	2	2

The scheme of delegation sets out clearly the responsibilities of the Directors. Local governors and executive team members within the Trust. The scheme ensures that all senior leaders in the schools continue to be held to account by the Local Governing Bodies with the involvement of the CEO to provide additional guidance and professional advice.

An agreed format for reporting across the schools has been implemented and will continued to be under review during transitions of growth. These reports have a clear focus on school performance with benchmarking data against previous outcomes and other schools of a similar context.

An annual review of all governance structures across the schools was under taken, to assess if they need to be modified or adjusted in order to reflect the needs of the Trust going forward. This will be kept under review and regularly monitored to ensure it is fit for purpose, especially during a period of growth.

The **finance / audit & risk committee** is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to assist the decision making of the Trust Board, by enabling more detailed consideration to be given to the best means of fulfilling the Board's responsibility to ensure sound management of the Trust's finances and resources.

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Governance statement for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

To make appropriate comments and recommendations on such matters to the Trust Board on a regular basis on four key areas

- **Finance:** To ensure sound financial management of the Trust's finances and resources, including proper planning, monitoring and probity in line with the ESFA guidelines and the Funding Agreement.
- **Staffing:** To review, plan and manage staffing with due regard to financial aspects and in line with the Pay Policy.
- **Premises:** To ensure sound management of the Trust's premises including maintenance, development and health and safety.
- **Risk:** To evaluate the likelihood of risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically

Finance / Audit & Risk	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Julie Greenwood (18/11/2013) CEO & Accounting Officer	4	4
Mohammed Ali (21/03/2018)	2	3
Ayesha Siddiqa (03/07/2019) Chair	2	4
Robert Cummins (12/05/2020)	4	4
Naziah Rasheed (15/03/2023)	2	2
Mohammed Aikhlaq (12/07/2023)	1	1

Education & Standards Committee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
		2
Julie Greenwood	2	2
Anita Ward	2	2
Judy Matthiae	2	2
Tracy Ruddle	2	

Pay Committee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Anita Ward	1	1
Susan Raybould	1	1
Judy Matthiae	1	1

Governance statement for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Review of value for money

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

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

- Robust governance and oversight of the Trust's Finances - During the year in question the Trust Board of Directors have been informed by:
 1. The work of the responsible officer every term
 2. The work of the senior leaders within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal controls.
 3. The trust has developed procedures for assessing need and obtaining goods and services which provide "Best Value" in terms of suitability, efficiency, time and cost. Measures in place include: Competitive tendering procedures and procedures for accepting "Best Value" quotes, which are not necessarily the cheapest (e.g. suitability for the purpose and quality of workmanship)
- Maximising Income generation. The trust explores every opportunity to generate additional and reliable revenue streams. Leigh Trust also provides school to school support and shared expertise in house, thus, saving on external supply and consultancy costs. Due to the successful growth of the Trust, the Trust qualify for the Schools Capital Allocation (SCA), which will enable us to implement improvements to areas of need and achieve our estates vision of a more sustainable future.
- Reviewing Controls and managing risks. Regular budget monitoring reports are produced and reviewed by the Trusts Chief Operating Officer and Chief Executive Officer and any necessary remedial action taken to address any significant variances that may have an impact on the budget out-turn. The Board of Directors review the reserve level of the academy quarterly. The Board have determined that an appropriate level of free reserves should be maintained in order to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies, falling pupil numbers, rising inflation of both staff costs and non-staff costs and any potential formula funding cut backs.
- Improving Education Results. The Board in conjunction with the Local Governing Bodies of the Individual schools has ensured that resources are directed where they are most needed and most effective in meeting educational requirements, for example by:
 1. Targeting resources in line with the improvement priorities for each school, including Scheduled schools improvement visits to establish core priorities, monitor Data and quality of teaching and learning and ensure the schools are prepared for Ofsted inspection.
 2. Identifying training needs and implementing professional development opportunities through mentoring and coaching, attending conferences and events and/ or working with high quality practitioners.
 3. Identifying the varying needs of specific groups of pupils and deploying resources and staffing accordingly. This has included senior and specialist staff working in collaboration across the Trust to work with those with English as an additional language and those in receipt of pupil premium funding.
 4. Improving Systems to track and monitor pupil progress in order to support effective precision teaching and implement appropriate interventions.

Governance statement for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

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

Capacity to handle risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the multi 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 multi academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

The Risk and Control Framework

The multi 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 general purposes committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- identification and management of risks.

The board of directors has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint an internal auditor to carry out the duties under a service level agreement with DRB Ignite.

DRB's duties include giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Multi Academy Trust's financial systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

- testing of payroll systems
- testing of purchase systems
- testing of control accounts / bank reconciliations
- testing of inter-company reconciliations
- Inspection of Health & Safety procedures and policies
- Review of Safeguarding and mental health wellbeing

On a termly basis, the internal auditor (DRB) reports to the board of directors on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of directors' financial responsibilities.

A full annual summary report has also been provided this year for the Board of Directors to accompany the annual accounts.

Governance statement for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

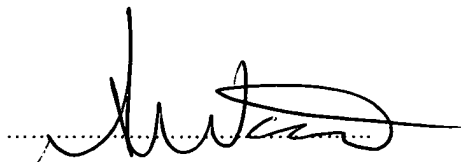
Review of Effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal reviewer
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process of the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the multi academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the finance, risk & audit committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 13th December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs Anita Ward
Chair of Directors



Mrs Julie Greenwood
Accounting Officer

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance
for the period ended 31 August 2023

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

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

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



..... Mrs Julie Greenwood – Accounting Officer

13 December 2023

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities
for the period ended 31 August 2023

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

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

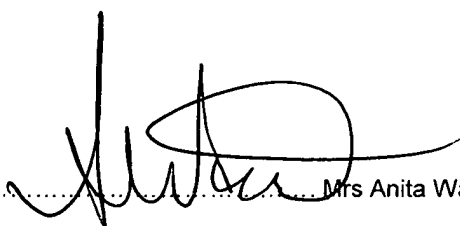
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from the 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 13 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs Anita Ward – Chair of Trustees

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of
Leigh Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Leigh Trust for the year to 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and 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 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

- Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the multi academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.
- Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Leigh Trust
(continued)

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matter 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 strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Multi Academy and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' 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
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Leigh Trust

(continued)

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement [set out on page 25], 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.

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.

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

- We reviewed the multi academy trust's control and risk management procedures and planned our work based on our assessment of those controls and procedures;
- This review included an assessment of the risk of material misstatement due to errors, fraud and management override of controls for all material areas in the financial statements;
- We made enquiries of management and the multi academy trust's lawyers regarding any actual or potential litigation and/or claims;
- Financial statements disclosures were reviewed and checked for compliance with applicable laws;
- Detailed testing was conducted on balances and transactions including unusual items and those of individual significance to the financial statements;
- Data analytics were used in order to identify unusual or significant trends;
- Communications with management and those charged with governance regarding relevant matters was undertaken throughout the audit and on completion.

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

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

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.

**Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Leigh Trust

(continued)

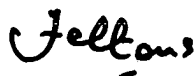
Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the multi academy trust's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the 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 multi academy trust and the multi academy trust's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



David W Farnsworth FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Feltons, Statutory Auditor

8 Sovereign Court

8 Graham Street

Birmingham B1 3JR

14 December 2023

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Leigh Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 30 March 2021 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Leigh Trust during the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Leigh Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Leigh Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 30 December 2013 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

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.

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 work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes :

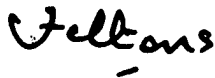
- Consideration of the applicable legislation and the multi academy trust's funding agreement
- Review and evaluation of the Multi Academy Trust's system of internal controls
- Examination and assessment of the Accounting Officer's statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance
- Examination, on a test basis, of third party evidence supporting income and expenditure
- Review of exceptional and unusual items

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Leigh Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (continued)

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 year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.



David W Farnsworth FCA (Reporting Accountant)
For and on behalf of Feltons, Statutory Auditor
8 Sovereign Court
8 Graham Street
Birmingham B1 3JR

14 December 2023

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 August 2023
(including income and expenditure account)

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted pension fund £	Restricted general funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total 2022/23 £	Total 2021/22 £
Income from :							
Donations and capital grants	2	-	-	-	1,125,360	1,125,360	697,866
Charitable activities :	3						
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations		379,048	-	19,406,232	-	19,785,280	18,384,906
Other trading activities	4	4,818	-	-	-	4,818	86,267
Investments	5	630	-	-	-	630	600
Total		384,496	-	19,406,232	1,125,360	20,916,088	19,169,639
Expenditure on :							
Charitable activities:							
Academy trust educational operations	6, 7	341,943	234,000	19,209,492	1,048,543	20,833,978	21,096,321
Total		341,943	234,000	19,209,492	1,048,543	20,833,978	21,096,321
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		42,553	(234,000)	196,740	76,817	82,110	(1,926,682)
Transfers between funds	15	-	-	(159,877)	159,877	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) after transfers		42,553	(234,000)	36,863	236,694	82,110	(1,926,682)
Other recognised gains/(losses)							
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	15, 25	-	6,485,000	-	-	6,485,000	18,095,000
Net movement in funds		42,553	6,251,000	36,863	236,694	6,567,110	16,168,318
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward	16	1,975,842	(10,435,000)	1,896,085	28,975,412	22,412,339	6,244,021
Total funds carried forward		2,018,395	(4,184,000)	1,932,948	29,212,106	28,979,449	22,412,339

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.


All of the multi academy trust's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Company number : 08779660
Balance sheet as at 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		28,450,460		28,257,124
Current assets					
Debtors	13	882,486		1,312,786	
Cash at bank and in hand		5,059,219		8,351,732	
		<u>5,941,705</u>		<u>9,664,518</u>	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14(a)	<u>1,195,626</u>		<u>5,035,866</u>	
Net current assets			4,746,079		4,628,652
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>33,196,539</u>		<u>32,885,776</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	14(b)		(33,090)		(38,437)
Net assets excluding pension liability			<u>33,163,449</u>		<u>32,847,339</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	25		(4,184,000)		(10,435,000)
Total net assets			<u><u>28,979,449</u></u>		<u><u>22,412,339</u></u>
Funds of the academy trust :					
Restricted funds					
Fixed asset fund	15	29,212,106		28,975,412	
Restricted income fund	15	1,932,948		1,896,085	
Pension reserve	15	<u>(4,184,000)</u>		<u>(10,435,000)</u>	
Total restricted funds			26,961,054		20,436,497
Unrestricted income funds	15		2,018,395		1,975,842
Total funds			<u><u>28,979,449</u></u>		<u><u>22,412,339</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 32 to 53 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 13 December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

 Mrs Anita Ward - Chair of Trustees

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (used by) / provided by operating activities	19	(3,171,277)	3,895,302
Cash flows from investing activities	20	(115,889)	(408,684)
Cash flows from financing activities	21	(5,347)	(3,514)
		<u>(3,292,513)</u>	<u>3,483,104</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2022		8,351,732	4,868,628
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2023	22	<u>5,059,219</u>	<u>8,351,732</u>

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the multi 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 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Income

All incoming resources are recognised when the multi 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 year is shown in the relevant funds on the balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of meeting any performance-related conditions there is not unconditional entitlement to the income and its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income until the performance-related conditions are met. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

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

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

- **Donations**

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

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income (continued)

- **Other income**
Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the year it is receivable and to the extent the multi 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 'Stocks' and 'Income from Other Trading Activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from Other Trading Activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from Other Trading Activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from Other Trading Activities'.
- **Donated fixed assets**
Where the donated good is a fixed asset it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the multi academy trust's accounting policies.

1.4 Expenditure

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

- **Expenditure on raising funds**
This includes all expenditure incurred by the multi 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 multi academy trust's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the multi academy trust apportioned to charitable activities.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £500 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

**Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

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

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

Long leasehold buildings	- straight line over 50 years
Furniture and equipment	- 25% straight line
Computer hardware	- 33% straight line

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use and reclassified to freehold or leasehold land and buildings.

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

1.6 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered.

1.7 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.8 Liabilities

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

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.9 Financial instruments

The academy trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined by 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.

1.10 Leased assets

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

1.11 Taxation

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

1.12 Pension benefits

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

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

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.12 Pension benefits (continued)

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme, and the assets are held separately from those of the multi 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/(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 year by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

1.13 Fund accounting

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

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

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

1.14 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

The multi 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 (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 25, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

2. Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted general fund £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Capital grants	-	-	1,125,360	1,125,360	691,644
Other donations	-	-	-	-	6,222
	-	-	1,125,360	1,125,360	697,866
2022 total	6,222	-	691,644	697,866	

3. Funding for the multi academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted general fund £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
DfE/ESFA grants					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	15,007,886	-	15,007,886	14,603,135
Other DfE/ESFA grants					
Pupil premium	-	1,760,477	-	1,760,477	1,658,333
Supplementary grant	-	415,230	-	415,230	173,013
UIFSM	-	325,063	-	325,063	306,777
Mainstream schools grant	-	205,856	-	205,856	-
Sports premium	-	105,706	-	105,706	105,860
Others	-	227,072	-	227,072	263,949
	-	18,047,290	-	18,047,290	17,111,067
Other government grants					
Local authority grants	-	1,175,590	-	1,175,590	936,611
	-	1,175,590	-	1,175,590	936,611
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	379,048	-	-	379,048	161,190
Covid-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)					
Recovery premium	-	183,352	-	183,352	176,038
	379,048	1,358,942	-	1,737,990	1,273,839
	379,048	19,406,232	-	19,785,280	18,384,906
2022 total	161,190	18,223,716	-	18,384,906	

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

4. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Hire of facilities	4,818	-	4,818	-
Consultancy	-	-	-	6,030
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	80,237
	<u>4,818</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,818</u>	<u>86,267</u>
2022 total	<u>86,267</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>86,267</u>	

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Short term deposits	630	-	630	600
2022 total	<u>600</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>600</u>	

6. Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non pay expenditure Premises £	Other £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Academy's educational operations					
Direct costs	12,896,372	687,140	715,341	14,298,853	13,800,285
Allocated support costs	2,164,803	2,524,480	1,820,817	6,510,100	7,296,036
	<u>15,061,175</u>	<u>3,211,620</u>	<u>2,536,158</u>	<u>20,808,953</u>	<u>21,096,321</u>
2022 total	<u>15,820,660</u>	<u>2,767,021</u>	<u>2,508,640</u>	<u>21,096,321</u>	

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes:

		2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Operating leases	- plant and machinery	38,276	40,128
Depreciation		1,048,543	1,072,865
Fees payable to auditor	- audit	22,750	21,650
	- other services	<u>2,275</u>	<u>180</u>

7. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted pension fund £	Other restricted funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Educational operations					
Direct costs					
Educational operations	110,358	-	14,188,495	14,298,853	13,800,285
Support costs					
Educational operations	231,585	234,000	6,069,540	6,535,125	7,296,036
	<u>341,943</u>	<u>234,000</u>	<u>20,258,035</u>	<u>20,833,978</u>	<u>21,096,321</u>
2022 total	<u>289,990</u>	<u>1,112,000</u>	<u>19,694,331</u>	<u>21,096,321</u>	

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

7. Charitable activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Educational operations £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Support staff costs	2,164,803	2,164,803	3,443,938
Depreciation	361,403	361,403	379,202
Technology costs	203,158	203,158	187,012
Premises costs	2,201,353	2,201,353	1,734,284
Other support costs	1,579,383	1,579,383	1,529,770
Governance costs	25,025	25,025	21,830
Total support costs	6,535,125	6,535,125	7,296,036
2022 total	7,296,036	7,296,036	

8. Staff

a) Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Wages and salaries	10,086,836	9,485,672
Social security costs	1,007,865	943,259
Pension costs	2,599,408	3,647,842
	13,694,109	14,076,773
Agency staff costs	1,357,066	1,721,130
Staff restructuring costs	10,000	22,757
	15,061,175	15,820,660

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Severance payments	10,000	22,757
	10,000	22,757

b) Severance payments

The multi academy trust paid 1 severance payment in the year, disclosed in the following band:

	2022/23 Number	2021/22 Number
£0 - £25,000	1	2

c) Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs is a special severance payment of £10,000 (2022 £22,757).

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

8. Staff (continued)

d) Staff numbers

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

	2022/23 Number	2021/22 Number
Teachers	135	136
Administration and support	260	298
Management	9	7
	<u>404</u>	<u>441</u>

e) Higher paid staff

	2022/23 Number	2021/22 Number
The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was as follows:		
£60,001 - £70,000	7	2
£70,001 - £80,000	2	2
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-
£90,001 - £100,000	2	2
£120,001 - £130,000	-	1
£130,001 - £140,000	1	-
£140,001 - £150,000	1	-
£150,001 - £160,000	-	1
	<u>14</u>	<u>6</u>

f) Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the multi academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the multi academy trust was £1,165,731 (2022: £999,462).

9. Central services

The academy trust has provided the following central services to its academies during the year:

Category	Basis
Central support services	6% general annual grant

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Leigh Primary School	128,325	125,821
Alston Primary School	184,289	179,144
Wyndcliffe Primary School	187,872	171,067
Marlborough Primary School	180,489	178,244
Nansen Primary School	212,058	214,194
	<u>893,033</u>	<u>868,470</u>

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

10. Related Party Transactions - Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from employment with the 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.

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

Julie Greenwood (chief executive officer and trustee)	
Remuneration	£145,000 - £150,000 (2022 : £155,000 - £160,000)
Employer's pension contributions paid	£35,000 - £40,000 (2022 : £35,000 - £40,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2023 travel and subsistence expenses totalling £155 (2022 : £nil) were reimbursed or paid directly to one (2022 : nil) trustee.

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 26

11. Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

12. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Assets under construction £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer hardware £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
At 1 September 2022	32,234,418	552,304	1,410,487	1,836,026	36,033,235
Additions	533,006	585,279	65,485	58,109	1,241,879
Transfer of assets	103,242	(103,242)	-	-	-
At 31 August 2023	<u>32,870,666</u>	<u>1,034,341</u>	<u>1,475,972</u>	<u>1,894,135</u>	<u>37,275,114</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	5,145,847	-	1,258,926	1,371,338	7,776,111
Charge for the year	657,415	-	81,889	309,239	1,048,543
At 31 August 2023	<u>5,803,262</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,340,815</u>	<u>1,680,577</u>	<u>8,824,654</u>
Net book values					
At 31 August 2023	<u>27,067,404</u>	<u>1,034,341</u>	<u>135,157</u>	<u>213,558</u>	<u>28,450,460</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>27,088,571</u>	<u>552,304</u>	<u>151,561</u>	<u>464,688</u>	<u>28,257,124</u>

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

13. Debtors	2023	2022
	£	£
Debtors from operations	12,337	55,631
VAT recoverable	170,909	321,802
Prepayments and accrued income	683,560	929,312
Other debtors	15,680	6,041
	<u>882,486</u>	<u>1,312,786</u>

14. Creditors	2023	2022
	£	£
(a) Amounts falling due within one year :		
Creditors from operations	639,702	588,945
Accruals and deferred income	527,711	593,387
Loans	6,828	6,828
Other creditors	21,385	3,846,706
	<u>1,195,626</u>	<u>5,035,866</u>
Deferred income		
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	182,038	189,847
Resources deferred in the year	183,270	182,038
Amounts released from previous years	(182,038)	(189,847)
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	<u>183,270</u>	<u>182,038</u>

At the balance sheet date the multi academy trust was holding funds received in advance for Universal Infant Free School Meals.

	2023	2022
	£	£
(b) Amounts falling due after more than one year :		
Loans	33,090	38,437
	<u>33,090</u>	<u>38,437</u>

Loans represent loans from Birmingham City Council of £6,655 (2022: £7,985) repayable in yearly instalments and Salix loans from the ESFA of £26,433 (2022: £30,451) repayable in six monthly instalments. None of these loans have any interest to pay. The amount repayable over five years is £7,283 (2022: £8,463). The amount due within one year is shown in note 14(a).

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

15. Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,776,053	15,007,886	(14,811,146)	(162,539)	1,810,254
UIFSM	-	325,063	(325,063)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	1,760,477	(1,760,477)	-	-
Inherited loan deficit	(10,648)	-	-	2,662	(7,986)
Recovery premium	-	183,352	(183,352)	-	-
Transfer in of existing academy	130,680	-	-	-	130,680
Other grants	-	2,129,454	(2,129,454)	-	-
	<u>1,896,085</u>	<u>19,406,232</u>	<u>(19,209,492)</u>	<u>(159,877)</u>	<u>1,932,948</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	15,974,644	-	(383,493)	-	15,591,151
Transfer in of existing academy	7,566,852	-	(196,526)	-	7,370,326
DfE Group capital grants	3,426,218	1,125,360	(156,660)	-	4,394,918
Capital expenditure from GAG	1,776,103	-	(272,267)	159,877	1,663,713
Local authority funding	5,818	-	(5,818)	-	-
Donations	225,777	-	(33,779)	-	191,998
	<u>28,975,412</u>	<u>1,125,360</u>	<u>(1,048,543)</u>	<u>159,877</u>	<u>29,212,106</u>
Pension reserve	<u>(10,435,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(234,000)</u>	<u>6,485,000</u>	<u>(4,184,000)</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>20,436,497</u>	<u>20,531,592</u>	<u>(20,492,035)</u>	<u>6,485,000</u>	<u>26,961,054</u>
Unrestricted funds					
Transfer in of existing academy	269,320	-	-	-	269,320
Other income	1,706,522	384,496	(341,943)	-	1,749,075
Total unrestricted funds	<u>1,975,842</u>	<u>384,496</u>	<u>(341,943)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,018,395</u>
Total funds	<u>22,412,339</u>	<u>20,916,088</u>	<u>(20,833,978)</u>	<u>6,485,000</u>	<u>28,979,449</u>

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

Restricted general funds

These comprise all restricted funds other than restricted fixed asset funds and include grants from The Education and Skills Funding Agency and Birmingham City Council;

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the multi academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023;

Unrestricted funds

These comprise resources that may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the multi academy trust at the discretion of the trustees;

Restricted fixed asset funds

These comprise resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the ESFA and Birmingham City Council where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

15. Funds (continued)

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows :	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	2,458,302	14,603,135	(15,000,885)	(284,499)	1,776,053
UIFSM	-	306,777	(306,777)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	1,658,333	(1,658,333)	-	-
Inherited loan deficit	(10,648)	-	-	-	(10,648)
Catch-up premium	-	176,038	(176,038)	-	-
Transfer in of existing academy	130,680	-	-	-	130,680
Other grants	-	1,475,433	(1,475,433)	-	-
	<u>2,578,334</u>	<u>18,219,716</u>	<u>(18,617,466)</u>	<u>(284,499)</u>	<u>1,896,085</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	16,385,275		(410,631)	-	15,974,644
Transfer in of existing academy	7,776,657		(209,805)	-	7,566,852
DfE Group capital grants	2,847,803	691,644	(113,229)	-	3,426,218
Capital expenditure from GAG	1,782,775		(291,171)	284,499	1,776,103
Local authority funding	14,110		(8,292)	-	5,818
Donations	265,514		(39,737)	-	225,777
	<u>29,072,134</u>	<u>691,644</u>	<u>(1,072,865)</u>	<u>284,499</u>	<u>28,975,412</u>
Pension reserve	<u>(27,418,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,112,000)</u>	<u>18,095,000</u>	<u>(10,435,000)</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>4,232,468</u>	<u>18,911,360</u>	<u>(20,802,331)</u>	<u>18,095,000</u>	<u>20,436,497</u>
Unrestricted funds					
Transfer in of existing academy	269,320	-	-	-	269,320
Other income	1,742,233	254,279	(289,990)	-	1,706,522
Total unrestricted funds	<u>2,011,553</u>	<u>254,279</u>	<u>(289,990)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,975,842</u>
Total funds	<u>6,244,021</u>	<u>19,165,639</u>	<u>(21,092,321)</u>	<u>18,095,000</u>	<u>22,412,339</u>

Total funds analysis by academy

	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:		
Leigh Primary School	434,798	499,634
Alston Primary School	913,018	785,481
Wyndcliffe Primary School	655,939	633,971
Marlborough Primary School	656,619	753,575
Nansen Primary School	772,631	572,118
Trust	518,338	627,148
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	<u>3,951,343</u>	<u>3,871,927</u>
Restricted fixed asset fund	29,212,106	28,975,412
Pension reserve	<u>(4,184,000)</u>	<u>(10,435,000)</u>
Total funds	<u>28,979,449</u>	<u>22,412,339</u>

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

15. Funds (continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching & educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs (excluding depreciation) £	Total 2022/23 £
Leigh Primary School	1,675,416	325,855	21,248	678,653	2,701,172
Alston Primary School	2,457,116	331,724	18,754	833,413	3,641,007
Wyndcliffe Primary School	2,891,747	378,811	19,284	1,064,285	4,354,127
Marlborough Primary School	2,561,340	338,917	10,343	799,658	3,710,258
Nansen Primary School	2,723,806	340,012	45,575	1,041,405	4,150,798
Trust	586,947	449,484	3,544	188,098	1,228,073
Academy trust	12,896,372	2,164,803	118,748	4,605,512	19,785,435
2022 total	12,376,722	3,443,938	131,644	4,071,152	20,023,456

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted pension funds £	Restricted general funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	28,450,460	28,450,460
Current assets	2,018,395	-	3,129,732	793,578	5,941,705
Current liabilities	-	-	(1,190,128)	(5,498)	(1,195,626)
	2,018,395	-	1,939,604	29,238,540	33,196,539
Creditors due after one year	-	-	(6,656)	(26,434)	(33,090)
Pension scheme liability	-	(4,184,000)	-	-	(4,184,000)
Total net assets	2,018,395	(4,184,000)	1,932,948	29,212,106	28,979,449

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

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted pension funds £	Restricted general funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	28,257,124	28,257,124
Current assets	1,975,842	-	6,934,440	754,236	9,664,518
Current liabilities	-	-	(5,030,369)	(5,497)	(5,035,866)
	1,975,842	-	1,904,071	29,005,863	32,885,776
Creditors due after one year	-	-	(7,986)	(30,451)	(38,437)
Pension scheme liability	-	(10,435,000)	-	-	(10,435,000)
Total net assets	1,975,842	(10,435,000)	1,896,085	28,975,412	22,412,339

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

17. Capital commitments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Contracted for but not provided in the financial statements	684,000	2,002,000

18. Commitments under operating leases

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

	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	37,729	20,016
Amounts due between one and five years	37,768	34,029
	<u>75,497</u>	<u>54,045</u>

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

	2022/23 Total	2021/22 Total
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for reporting year (as per the SoFA)	82,110	(1,926,682)
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation (note 12)	1,048,543	1,072,865
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(1,125,360)	(691,644)
Interest receivable (note 5)	(630)	(600)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 25)	(204,000)	652,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 25)	438,000	460,000
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	430,300	(56,079)
(Decrease) / increase in creditors	(3,840,240)	4,385,442
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities	<u>(3,171,277)</u>	<u>3,895,302</u>

20. Cash flows from investing activities

	2022/23 Total	2021/22 Total
	£	£
Interest received	630	600
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,241,879)	(1,100,928)
Capital grants from DfE Group	1,125,360	691,644
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(115,889)</u>	<u>(408,684)</u>

21. Cash flows from financing activities

	2022/23 Total	2021/22 Total
	£	£
Loan repayments in period	(5,347)	(3,514)
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(5,347)</u>	<u>(3,514)</u>

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 31 August 2023 £	At 31 August 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	5,059,219	8,351,732
	<u>5,059,219</u>	<u>8,351,732</u>

23. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 31 August 2022 £	Cash flows £	Other non-cash changes £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	8,351,732	(3,292,513)	-	5,059,219
Loans falling due within one year	(6,828)	-	-	(6,828)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(38,437)	5,347	-	(33,090)
	<u>8,306,467</u>	<u>(3,287,166)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,019,301</u>

24. Members' liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while he/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.

25. Pension and similar obligations

The multi 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 West Midlands Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined-benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the year ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2022.

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

25. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,275,228 (2022 : £1,178,940).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £1,343,000 (2022 : £1,735,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £1,113,000 (2022 : £1,512,000) and employees' contributions totalled £230,000 (2022 : £223,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 30.9% for employers and between 5.5% and 9.9% for employees.

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

The trustees have agreed that the trust will make additional contributions in addition to normal funding levels over the next 26 years.

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

25. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions

	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2022
Rate of increase in salaries	4.00%	4.05%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	3.00%	3.05%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.20%	4.25%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	3.00%	3.05%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	50.00%	50.00%

Sensitivity analysis

	At 31 August 2023 £'000s	At 31 August 2022 £'000s
Discount rate +0.1%	(440)	(556)
Discount rate -0.1%	440	556
Mortality assumption 1 year increase	382	456
Mortality assumption 1 year decrease	(382)	(456)
CPI rate +0.1%	732	946
CPI rate -0.1%	(732)	(946)

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

	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2022
Retiring today		
Males	20.6	21.2
Females	23.6	23.6
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	22.9	22.9
Females	24.8	25.4

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

	31 August 2023 £	31 August 2022 £
Gilts	9,605,000	8,846,000
Bonds	2,966,000	2,773,000
Property	989,000	1,056,000
Cash and other liquid assets	565,000	528,000
Total market value of assets	14,125,000	13,203,000

The actual negative return on scheme assets was 1.2% (2022 :3.3% negative return):

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities		
Current service cost	909,000	2,164,000
Interest income	(584,000)	(212,000)
Interest cost	1,022,000	672,000
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	1,347,000	2,624,000

Leigh Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

25. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
At 1 September 2022	23,638,000	39,496,000
Current service cost	909,000	2,164,000
Interest cost	1,022,000	672,000
Employee contributions	230,000	223,000
Actuarial gains/(losses) - financial assumptions	(5,241,000)	(18,634,000)
Actuarial gains/(losses) - demographic assumptions	(1,151,000)	(120,000)
Actuarial gains/(losses) - experience gains/losses	(849,000)	57,000
Benefits paid	(249,000)	(220,000)
At 31 August 2023	18,309,000	23,638,000

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
At 1 September 2022	13,203,000	12,078,000
Interest income	584,000	212,000
Return on assets less interest	(743,000)	(602,000)
Employer contributions	1,113,000	1,512,000
Employee contributions	230,000	223,000
Benefits paid net of transfers in	(249,000)	(220,000)
Actuarial gains/(losses) - experience gains/losses	(13,000)	-
At 31 August 2023	14,125,000	13,203,000
Net pension scheme liability	(4,184,000)	(10,435,000)

26. Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest.

No related party transactions took place in the year of account other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 10.

27. Contingent liabilities

Following the recent decision in the Harpur Trust vs Brazel case the trust is considering the potential liability in respect of this. At this time it is not possible to quantify any liability, if any, and no provision has been made in these accounts.