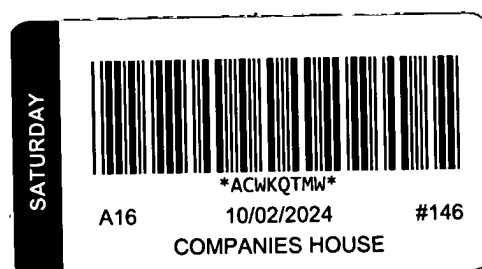


Company registration number 09113542 (England and Wales)

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023



POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and administrative details	1 - 2
Directors' report	3 - 16
Governance statement	17 - 23
Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance	24
Statement of directors' responsibilities	25
Independent auditor's report on the accounts	26 - 28
Independent reporting accountant's report on regularity	29 - 30
Statement of financial activities including income and expenditure account	31 - 32
Balance sheet	33
Statement of cash flows	34
Notes to the accounts including accounting policies	35 - 60

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

Fr Jonathan Veasey (Chair of the Diocesan Academy Strategy Board and Lead Trustee for Catholic Education)
Mr Eric Kirwan (Chief Operating Officer for the Archdiocese of Birmingham)
Jacqui Francis (Member)
Peter Vella (Member)
Christopher Loughran (Member)
His Grace, the Archbishop of Birmingham (Whilst not a Member, is formally registered as a Person of Significant Control)

Directors

Mr P Concannon (Foundation Director and Chair)
Mr Anthony O'Donnell (Foundation Director) (Appointed 8 March 2023 and resigned 5 December 2022)
Mr J O'Neill (Foundation Director)
Mr M Robarts (Foundation Director) (Resigned 30 August 2023)
Mrs J Schmidt (Foundation Director)
Mr M Tower (Foundation Director)
Mr A Waters (Foundation Director and Vice Chair)
Mr P Armstrong (Foundation Director) (Appointed 11 May 2023)
Mrs M Brabin (Foundation Director) (Appointed 15 September 2023)
Mr S Taylor (Foundation Director) (Appointed 28 September 2023)

Senior management team

Mr Fraser Long (Catholic Senior Executive Leader and Accounting Officer)
Mr Martin Bayliss (Chief Financial Officer)

Company registration number

09113542 (England and Wales)

Registered office

Blessed George Napier Catholic School
Addison Road
Banbury
Oxon
Oxfordshire
OX16 9DG

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Academies operated	Location	Principal
Blessed George Napier School	Banbury	Ms M Dolan
Holy Trinity Catholic School	Chipping Norton	Ms L Buchanan
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Banbury	Banbury	Mrs C Smith
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Carterton	Carterton	Ms C MacLennan (from October 2023), Mrs L Smith (until October 2023)
St John's Catholic Primary School	Banbury	Mrs M Collier (from September 2023), Mr B Moreton (until September 2023)
St Gregory the Great Catholic School	Oxford	Ms L Caldwell
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Thame	Thame	Ms R Gowers
St John Fisher Catholic Primary School	Oxford	Mr P Higgins (Acting Headteacher), Ms Luisa Penman (until September 2023)
St Thomas More Catholic Primary School	Kidlington	Ms J Exley
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	Witney	Mr D O'Connor
Our Lady's Catholic Primary School	Oxford	Miss T Davies
Independent auditor	Critchleys Audit LLP Beaver House 23-38 Hythe Bridge Street Oxford OX1 2EP	
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Commercial Education CST 3rd Floor Queen Square Wolverhampton WV1 1TF	
Solicitors	Browne Jacobson LLP Mowbray House Castle Meadow Road Nottingham NG2 1BJ	

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

The academy trust operates nine primary and two secondary academies in Oxfordshire. Its academies have a combined pupil capacity of 3,850 and had a roll of 3,227 on the school census at October 2022.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. The trustees of The Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as The Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company (hereafter PFMAC or the MAC).

The following schools trade under the Academy Company name:

- Greyfriars Catholic Secondary School, Oxford
- Our Lady's Catholic Primary School
- Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School
- St John Fisher Catholic Primary School
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Thame
- St Thomas More Catholic Primary School
- Blessed George Napier Catholic Secondary School
- Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Banbury
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Carterton
- St John's Catholic Primary School

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.

Directors' indemnities

The PFMAC has opted into the Department of Education's Risk Protection Arrangement ('RPA'), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. The scheme protects Members, Directors and the Local Governing Body members from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy Company business. The scheme provides cover up to £10,000,000.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of directors

In accordance with the Articles of Association the Diocesan Bishop shall appoint such number of Foundation Directors as shall ensure that at all times the number of Foundation Directors exceeds the other Directors (including any Co-opted Directors) by at least two. The Board may appoint Co-opted Directors.

Foundation Directors are appointed for a four-year period. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Director, any Director can be re-appointed or re-elected. Co-opted Directors shall be appointed for a period of one year.

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of directors

Induction is provided by the Diocesan Education Service and the PFMAC's Governance Professional. Additional training, depending on the individuals' skills and experience is made available from third-party providers.

All Directors are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents they will need to undertake their role as a Director.

Organisational structure

- Greyfriars Catholic Secondary School, Oxford
- Our Lady's Catholic Primary School
- Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School
- St John Fisher Catholic Primary School
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Thame
- St Thomas More Catholic Primary School
- Blessed George Napier Catholic Secondary School
- Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Banbury
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Carterton
- St John's Catholic Primary School

The Directors are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual development plan and budget, approving the annual statutory accounts, monitoring the MAC using budgets and other data and making the major decisions about the direction of the Academy Company, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The Board of Directors normally meet at least four times each year. The Board of Directors establishes an overall framework for the governance of the MAC and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of Committees of the Board of Directors and other groups. It receives reports from its Committees for ratification. It monitors the activities of the Committees through the minutes of their meetings and through direct reporting from the elected Chair of each Committee. The Board of Directors may, from time to time establish working groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

There are five Committees of the Board of Directors: Catholic Ethos and Mission, Education Standards, Executive Committee, Finance and Audit, and Pay and Human Resources. Each Committee has its own terms of reference detailing the responsibilities discharged to it.

The following decisions are reserved to the full Board of Directors:

- To consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the MAC and its' Committee structure;
- To appoint or remove the Chair and / or Vice Chair; and
- To appoint a Catholic Senior Executive Leader.

The Directors have devolved the day-to-day management of the MAC to the CSEL, the Headteachers, the Chief Financial Officer and the school Senior Leadership Teams (SLT). The MAC's' Accounting Officer is the CSEL and has overall responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances. The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) works closely with the Accounting Officer. He is responsible to the Directors, has direct access to the MAC Board and attends all Committee meetings. The CFO has been delegated the responsibility for the delivery of the MAC's accounting processes.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Directors consider the Board of Directors and the senior management team to comprise the key management personnel of the PFMAC in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the PFMAC on a day-to-day basis. All Directors give of their time freely and no Director received any remuneration in the current or prior year. The pay of the Senior Management Team is reviewed on an annual basis by the Pay and HR Committee, in line with MAC's pay and remuneration policy and by reference to published pay scales for both teaching and support staff in line with job evaluation. Recommendations for Headteacher pay awards are received from Local Governing Bodies and considered and approved by the Pay and HR Committee in line with MAC's pay and remuneration policy and by reference to published pay scales for both teaching and support staff in line with job evaluation.

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Engagement with employees

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

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

During employment, the Trust seeks to work with employees, taking into account their personal circumstances, to ensure appropriate training, development and advanced employment opportunities are available to them to reach their full potential.

Applications for employment by disabled persons are considered fully, bearing in mind the aptitudes of the applicant concerned.

In the event of members of staff becoming disabled, every effort is made to ensure that their employment within the PFMAC continues and that the appropriate training is arranged. It is the PFMAC's policy that the training, career development and promotion of disabled persons should, as far as possible, be identical to that of other employees.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Related Party	Nature of Relationship	Total value of non-payroll transactions
Frassati Catholic Academy Trust	Directorship held by PFMAC Director	
St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, Havant	Governorship held by PFMAC Director	
Waters Property Investments Limited	Directorship held by PFMAC Director	
Waters Property Management	Directorship held by PMFAC Director	
Fenner Pension Scheme	Directorship held by PMFAC Director	
JP Morgan UK Pension Plan	Directorship held by PFMAC Director	
Wroxton C of E Primary School	Governorship held by spouse of PMFAC Director	
Mrs S O'Donnell	Spouse of PFMAC Director. Employed in the PFMAC as an Assistant Headteacher.	Pay scale leadership range
Archdiocese of Birmingham	Supplier of Professional services for Catholic Schools to secure, support and improve Catholic Education.	£28,017

Trade union facility time

There were three employees who were relevant union officials during the year, no time was spent on union facility duties.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The Company's objects are specifically restricted to the advancement of the Catholic religion in the Diocese by such means as the Diocesan Bishop may think fit and proper by, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing the establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing of Catholic schools in the United Kingdom conducted in accordance with the principles, and subject to the regulations and discipline of the Catholic Church.

Subject to the approval of the Diocesan Bishop, during the period that the objects above are being fulfilled and form the majority of the activities of the Company, the advancement of education by the establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing of schools which are not Catholic in the United Kingdom.

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company has been established to be the family of Catholic schools in Oxfordshire, who work together to promote the teaching of Christ and the Catholic faith.

The PFMAC believe each person is a unique creation made in the image of and likeness of God, called by name, with a special vocation and gifts to bring to the world. It seeks to develop these talents in each individual by being a beacon for Catholic education in Oxfordshire.

The MAC's vision is:

- To provide a culture, ethos and practice in each school that is distinctively Catholic, with the love of God at the centre, offering service and reconciliation to all.
- To grow, develop and continue to provide opportunities and experiences to encourage our students, at every stage of progress, to achieve their full potential, preparing them to face the future with confidence and a sense of their place in our diverse society.
- To provide outstanding teaching and learning enabling our pupils to become self-motivated, aspirational lifelong learners.
- To enhance, broaden and strengthen effective relationships between our parishes, homes and schools, thereby continuing to grow in faith and understanding together.
- To value all students, staff, parents and carers who attend and/or work in our schools, whether Catholic, of other faiths or none.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The key priorities for the period are contained in the MAC's Development Plan, which is available on the MAC's website. The key activities of the MAC for this reporting period were focused on:

Catholic ethos

- Provide Catholic Christian education for all pupils in our schools, creating better citizens of the future by nurturing reflective, caring individuals who have a clear moral compass, derived from Gospel values and virtues.
- Demonstrate the highest possible standards and aspirations for our children to prepare them for the future.
- Offer service and support to all Catholic schools in the area.
- Develop charitable networks and include an international dimension in our reach.

Standards

- Pursue proactively and rigorously the highest standards in education for all pupils in our schools.
- Support each other in a shared drive to becoming outstanding (Ofsted and Diocesan inspections).
- Nurture fully rounded pupils, capable of demonstrating the correct balance of personal development and academic attainment.
- Develop all members of our community and provide high quality continued professional development.

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Staff development and succession planning

- Develop a pool of talented, effective and visionary Catholic leaders at all levels across the PFMAC.
- Nurture the talents of our staff and provide development opportunities across all PFMAC schools to build and share innovative practice.
- Attract, recruit and retain the best practitioners and provide opportunities for creative sharing, when appropriate.

Improving facilities

- Provide learning environments which reflect the dignity of the individual and our obligation to care for one another is reflected within the environment in our schools.
- Have facilities which facilitate the delivery of a modern curriculum.
- Ensure there are appropriate maintenance plans and funding in place and they are acted on in a timely manner.

Leadership and governance

- Have high quality leadership at all levels.
- Retain the individual character of each school within the partnership of schools.
- Ensure high quality communication at all levels and with all stakeholders.
- Manage the PFMAC's finances to ensure excellent opportunities and facilities for all.
- Provide the highest standards of welfare and safeguarding for all.
- Ensure everyone involved in the governance of the PFMAC knows their personal responsibilities.

Public benefit

The Academy Company aims to advance for the public benefit education in Oxfordshire and the surrounding area, offering a broad curriculum and an excellent education environment for its pupils. The Academy Company also allows use of its facilities for recreational and other leisure time occupation for the community at large in the interests of social welfare and with the interest of improving the life of that community.

The details of the particular activities of the Academy Trust during the year and how these have provided public benefit are detailed in the Achievements and Performance section below.

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

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

The PFMAC is in its eighth year of operation since conversion to a Multi Academy Company on 1 August 2014. It is committed to continual improvement, which is achieved in several ways including

- improvement planning
- review meetings
- continual professional development
- lesson observations
- performance management
- self-evaluation
- data analysis and
- action planning individual school reports

The academic year 2022-2023 has seen each school re-introducing its programme of teaching, pastoral care and community engagement following Covid. The schools have been guided by DfE advice around issues that have resulted from Covid in both education delivery and pastoral care.

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

School Performance

Ofsted Inspections	Date of inspection	Overall Effectiveness
Blessed George Napier Catholic Secondary School	November 2022	Good
Greyfriars Catholic School	October 2023	Good
Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School	March 2023	Outstanding
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Banbury	January 2023	Requires Improvement
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Carterton	November 2023	Good
St John's Catholic Primary School, Banbury	May 2023	Good
Our Lady's Catholic Primary School	March 2022	Good
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	May 2023	Good
St John Fisher Catholic Primary School	June 2023	Good
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Thame	November 2019	Good
St Thomas More Catholic Primary School	September 2018	Good
Section 48 Inspection	Date of inspection	Overall Effectiveness
Blessed George Napier Catholic Secondary School	September 2023	Good
Greyfriars Catholic School	March 2022	Requires Improvement
Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School	July 2012	Good
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Banbury	May 2022	Good
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Carterton	July 2022	Requires Improvement
St John's Catholic Primary School, Banbury	December 2021	Good
Our Lady's Catholic Primary School	May 2017	Good
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	May 2022	Good
St John Fisher Catholic Primary School	October 2022	Requires Improvement
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Thame	June 2017	Good
St Thomas More Catholic Primary School	June 2022	Good

Results

Primary Key Stage 1	Early Years GLD %	Year 1 Phonics %	KS1 Reading %	KS1 Writing %	KS1 Maths %
Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School	81	76	80	81	85
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Banbury	68	78	56	48	60
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Carterton	75	63	75	75	67
St John's Catholic Primary School, Banbury	88	75	78	56	78
Our Lady's Catholic Primary School	78	86	67	67	69
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	88	73	86	79	89
St John Fisher Catholic Primary School	70	81	64	76	68
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Thame	60	83	67	67	87
St Thomas More Catholic Primary School	79	79	59	45	59
Average	76.3	77.1	70.2	66.0	73.6
National Figures		75.0	67.0	58.0	68.0

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Primary Key Stage 2	KS2 Reading %	KS2 Writing %	KS2 Maths %	KS2 Combined %	KS2 GPS %
Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School	86	86	83	80	80
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Banbury	82	75	86	68	82
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Carterton	67	50	25	25	67
St John's Catholic Primary School, Banbury	84	81	65	59	71
Our Lady's Catholic Primary School	82	75	82	75	77
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	81	81	81	74	81
St John Fisher Catholic Primary School	73	67	77	67	67
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Thame	70	57	40	40	53
St Thomas More Catholic Primary School	84	84	88	80	84
Average	78.8	72.9	69.7	63.1	73.6
National Figures	73.0	71.0	73.0	59.0	72.0

Secondary	Progress Score	8 Attainment Score	8 English %	Maths%
Blessed George Napier Catholic School	+0.35	49.0	66% (5+)	64% (5+)
			(Nat. 55%)	(Nat. 52%)
			83% (4+)	76% (4+)
			(Nat. 72%)	(Nat. 72%)
Greyfriars Catholic School	-0.40	36.4	39% (5+)	39% (5+)
			(Nat. 55%)	(Nat. 52%)
			51% (4+)	51% (4+)
			(Nat. 72%)	(Nat. 72%)

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Key performance indicators

Pupil Numbers, October 2022 Census

School	Early Years	Primary	Secondary	16 to 19	Total Pupils
Blessed George Napier Catholic Secondary School			739	132	871
Greyfriars Catholic School			496	130	626
Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School		192			192
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Banbury	20	190			210
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Carterton	22	72			94
St John's Catholic Primary School, Banbury		173			173
Our Lady's Catholic Primary School	21	287			308
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School		177			177
St John Fisher Catholic Primary School	19	171			190
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Thame		194			194
St Thomas More Catholic Primary School	14	178			192
Total	96	1634	1235	262	3227

Delivering Excellence in Catholic Education

Over previous year, Ofsted have inspected eight schools, of these Holy Trinity remained outstanding and it should be noted that both St Johns in Banbury and Greyfriars in Oxford moved from an inadequate rating to Good. This is down to all our staff in schools and the support team, and the school improvement processes that have been implemented.

The PFMAC now has a full time primary school improvement lead, and a school improvement partner for the secondary schools. There is much higher level of collaboration across schools, this has lead to enhanced sharing of best practice, resulting in improved experience of all our pupils across PFMAC.

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Financial performance

A key financial performance indicator for the Company is the level of reserves held at the balance sheet date and, in particular, the amount of unrestricted reserves plus restricted income reserves at year end. At 31 August 2023, the balance of the unrestricted and restricted income reserves was £354,064 (2022 £1,270,702). Further details on the level of reserves held by the PFMAC are set out in the Reserves Policy section below.

As the majority of the PFMAC's funding is based on student numbers, student numbers is also a key performance indicator. The total student numbers at the most recent census were 3,390, which is an increase of over 5% from the previous census.

Staffing costs are another key performance indicator for the PFMAC and the percentage of total staff costs to total educational grant funding (being GAG funding plus other operating educational grants from the ESFA and/or Local Authority) for the year was 83% (2022 - 82%). The percentage of staff costs to total costs (excluding depreciation and LGPS FRS102 pension cost charges) was 74% (2022 - 76%).

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Directors has a reasonable expectation that the PFMAC has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the near 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 within the financial statements.

The MAC continues to evolve and adapt to changes in the educational environment and is continually monitoring the additional budget pressures relating to increased staffing and other costs which will impact the schools during the 2023/24 academic year.

Promoting the success of the company

With respect to suppliers, the MAC's policy for the payment of suppliers is to agree to terms of payment in advance in line with normal commercial practices and, provided a supplier performs in accordance with the agreement, to abide by such terms.

The MAC is also committed to contributing towards combating the threat of global warming by using energy efficient measures to reduce CO2 emissions throughout its buildings, facilities and operations.

Our stakeholders

The schools within the PFMAC were founded by and are part of the Catholic Church. It is one of the formal mechanisms through which the Church's educative mission is fulfilled. They are conducted as a Catholic School in accordance with the canon law and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, and in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

In addition to our students, parents, suppliers and wider local community, the Directors also recognise the importance of their relationship with the Department for Education (DfE) and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), as principal funders, regulators and stakeholders. The Directors are committed to effective engagement with the DfE and the ESFA (and their representatives), who recognise that its success depends on the Directors and senior management's ability to engage with them effectively; to work with them constructively, taking into account their guidance and best practice initiatives, whilst also working in line with the specific requirements of the MAC's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook.

Our people

The PFMAC's key asset is its people. It employs over 450 staff, and it is only through the combined effort of this workforce, together with our supporters and volunteers, that we can change the lives of the children under our care. The MAC encourages the involvement of all employees in decision making processes that impact on them directly and further details on our engagement with our people is detailed in the "Engagement with Employees (including Disabled Persons)" section of the Directors' report above.

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Our Members

The Trustees are committed and openly engaged with our Members through regular and effective dialogue with them, including various Diocesan meetings and strategy and vision days. The Members and their representatives are actively engaged in understanding our strategy and vision for the future, our culture and ethos, our people and our educational performance and standards.

Maintaining a reputation for high standards

The PFMAC has been in existence for eight years, and is committed to continual improvement, which it achieves in a number of ways; including improvement planning, review meetings, continual professional development, lesson observations, performance management, self-evaluation, data analysis and action planning. The MAC also continually develops strategies to maintain and grow its student base, including looking for new schools and academies to join the MAC, and further improve relationships with our suppliers.

The information in the "Achievements and Performance" section of the Directors' report provides full details of our achievements during the year and the standards of educational performance we have achieved for all.

Financial review

Review of the year

The majority of the PFMAC's income is received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency ('ESFA') in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure of these grants are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. The PFMAC also receives grants for fixed assets from the ESFA and these are shown as restricted fixed asset funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. The balance of the restricted fixed asset fund is reduced by the depreciation charges on the assets acquired using these funds.

For the year ended 31 August 2023, the PFMAC's total operating income (excluding capital grants, the net assets transferred on conversion from new schools and the net assets transferred from academies joining the MAC in the year) was nil (2022 - nil). The total operating expenditure (excluding depreciation, improvements to Diocesan owned properties and LGPS FRS102 pension cost charges) was £22,360,216 (2022 - £17,121,022), resulting in a net operating deficit for the year of £916,633 (2022 – deficit of £218,754). The balance of operating reserves at 31 August 2023, excluding the restricted fixed asset funds and LGPS liability fund, was £354,064 (2022 - £1,270,702).

The net book value of fixed assets at 31 August 2023 were £312,354 (2022 – £391,007). The fixed assets held by the PFMAC are used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to the students of the PFMAC.

Included within the Academy's balance sheet at year end is a defined benefit pension scheme liability of £1,372,000 (2022 - £4,439,000), which arises from the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme ("LGPS") that is attributable to the Academies within the MAC. Further details regarding the deficit in the LGPS at 31 August 2023 are set out in note 29 to the financial statements.

The key financial policies reviewed and adopted during the period included the Pay policy and the Financial Procedures Policies and Manual, which lays out the framework for the PFMAC's financial management, including financial responsibilities of the Board of Directors, Executive Headteacher, managers, budget holders and other staff, as well as the delegated authorities for spending. The other financial policies under review are the Charging and Remissions and the Anti Fraud and Corruption policies.

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Reserves policy

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

The Directors have determined that the appropriate level of free cash reserves at 31 August 2023 should be approximately 25% of income and expenditure that is considered to be the most variable in nature, this equates to approximately £680,000. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipts of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance, long term staff absences etc. These reserves will typically be held in a combination of restricted funds and unrestricted funds, with the unrestricted funds representing the Academy Trust's free reserves.

The PFMAC's current level of operating reserves at 31 August 2023 is £354,064 (2022 - £1,270,511), of which £354,064 is represented as free reserves, with the remaining £0 being represented by restricted income funds. Although the current level of free reserves is below the target level identified above, the Directors continue to look at and evaluate strategies for raising additional income whilst also reviewing key areas of operational expenditure to ensure the targeted reserves can be achieved in future years.

The Directors have asked all schools to set a balanced in year budget and through rigorous budget monitoring, to maintain budget expenditure with the aim of returning an in-year surplus.

The budgets for 2023/2024 will include a reserves figure as part of the "balanced in year budget" setting criteria.

This approach will be continued in the three year and five-year budget plans, with an aim to build reserves to the recommended level by August 2027.

The value of the restricted fixed asset fund at 31 August 2023 is £834,589 (2022 - £1,189,292), which is represented by the fixed assets that are used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to the students of the Trust, together with unspent capital grants and funding.

The pension reserve fund has a deficit balance at 31 August 2023 of £1,372,000 which represents the deficit in the LGPS at the balance sheet date. The effect of the LGPS deficit is that PFMAC is required to make additional pension contributions over a number of years in order to fund the deficit. These additional pension contributions will be funded from the Trust's annual recurring income, which may significantly affect its ability to continue to deliver its educational outcomes with the available public funding it receives. The Directors have noted however that the Government has provided a guarantee that in the event of an Academy closure, any outstanding LGPS liabilities would be met by the Department for Education.

Investment policy

The PFMAC's Accounting, Finance and Resources Policy states that reserve funds will be held with Lloyds TSB or in other instruments and investments as agreed from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Directors have assessed the major risks to which the PFMAC is exposed, especially in the operational areas, such as teaching, health and safety, safeguarding and school trips, and in relation to the control of finances and strategic development of the PFMAC.

Relevant areas of risk register are reviewed by the Board's Committees, with an annual review undertaken by the Board. The Risk Management Plan is constantly reviewed in the light of any new information and reviewed formally annually.

The main risk to the PFMAC the short and medium term is financial. The PFMAC has considerable reliance on continued government funding through the ESFA. There can be no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that the public funding will continue at the same level or on the same terms. There is also the continued risk that successive poor Ofsted results will continue in a decline in student numbers. Where significant financial risk remains, the Directors have ensured the PFMAC has adequate insurance cover in place.

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the PFMAC are as follows:

1. Educational

The continuing success of the PFMAC is dependent on continuing to attract student applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards across all key stages. To mitigate this risk, the Directors ensure that student success and achievement are closely monitored and reviewed, with corrective actions embedded at an early stage, and that relationships and partnerships with parents, the local community and other organisations and groups are maintained and are effective in producing a cohesive and supportive community.

2. Safeguarding and child protection

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

3. Financial

The PFMAC has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA (and Local Authority). In the year, approximately 91% of the PFMAC's income was ultimately Government funded. Whilst this level is expected to continue, there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms, particularly in light continuing changes into the National Funding Formula for schools. Continuing increases in employment costs, including pension costs association with both the Teachers' Pension Scheme and the Local Government Pension Scheme, and premises costs will also continue to place significant pressure on the Trust's financial position and its ability to deliver balance budgets in the future. The Directors examine the financial health of the PFMAC formally every month, reviewing performance against budgets and overall expenditure by means of regular update reports at all full Directors and Finance Committee meetings.

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

4. Staffing

The success of the PFMAC is reliant on the quality of its staff so the Directors monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning.

5. Catholic Ethos

Risks in this area include failure to recruit and retain Catholic staff, especially SLT leading to an erosion of the Catholic ethos of the school, difficulties in recruiting highly skilled RE teachers resulting in poor teaching of RE and understanding amongst pupils and Lack of support from the Parish leading to an erosion of the Catholic ethos of the school. In order to mitigate these risks the Board has developed Succession planning strategies, seeks to raise leadership skills through CPD, identifies MAC wide opportunities for staff progression and provides coaching & mentoring of staff. Additionally, Directors communicate the schools' vision and strategy in the local community, involve the parish in school activities and the school in parish activities and make the schools attractive and welcoming places for community volunteer work around school programs

6. Improving Facilities

Risks in this area relate to school infrastructure noting being able to meet educational needs and vulnerabilities arising from poor maintenance. This area also includes loss or damage through natural disaster or intentional vandalism. The Board ensures that these risks are mitigated through condition and assets surveys, School SEF and SIP, Asset management & register, CIF Monitoring group and developed funding application strategy to enhance success of infrastructure funding bids.

The Board ensures that the school estate is safe and complies with regulations through external audit and internal review, which is reported regularly Directors.

7. Failures in governance and / or management

The risk in this area arises from the potential failure to manage effectively the PFMAC's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns etc. The Directors continue to review and ensure appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks, which includes those relating to fraud and mismanagement of funds.

8. Fraud and mismanagement of funds

The PFMAC has engaged School Business Services as internal auditor to perform a program of work aimed at checking and reviewing the financial systems and records as required by the Academies Trust Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and to develop their skills in this area. At the balance sheet date, the PFMAC had no significant liabilities arising from trade creditors or debtors where there would be a significant effect on the PFMAC's liquidity. The Directors recognise that the LGPS deficit represents a significant potential liability to the PFMAC. However, as the Directors consider the PFMAC is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the near future, the risk from this liability is minimised.

Fundraising

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

Plans for future periods

The Directors are committed to continued improvement and development of the MAC. They have agreed the following priorities:

- Systems will be in place to measure the full development of every learner, clearly aligned with the CSI framework, and demonstrating personal development, as well as academic achievement.
- The PFMAC will be able to demonstrate that all schools have made progress together towards being at least good or better
- Ensuring strong Catholic leadership is maintained across all our schools
- Safeguarding is effective across all levels of the PFMAC

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Auditor

In so far as the directors are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the directors 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 auditors, Critchleys Audit LLP, have indicated their willingness to continue in office and Directors will propose a motion of reappointment in accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

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



Mr P Concannon

Foundation Director and Chair

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Scope of responsibility

As directors, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company 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 Directors, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The board of directors has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the principal, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is also responsible for reporting to the board of directors any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

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

Directors	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mr P Concannon (Foundation Director and Chair)	5	6
Mr Anthony O'Donnell (Foundation Director) (Appointed 8 March 2023 and resigned 5 December 2022)	5	5
Mr J O'Neill (Foundation Director)	5	6
Mr M Roberts (Foundation Director) (Resigned 30 August 2023)	4	6
Mrs J Schmidt (Foundation Director)	5	6
Mr M Tower (Foundation Director)	4	6
Mr A Waters (Foundation Director and Vice Chair)	6	6
Mr P Armstrong (Foundation Director) (Appointed 11 May 2023)	1	1
Mrs M Brabin (Foundation Director) (Appointed 15 September 2023)	0	0
Mr S Taylor (Foundation Director) (Appointed 28 September 2023)	0	0

Conflicts of interest

The Academy Company has a Conflicts of Interest policy in place, which is regularly reviewed and updated by management and the Board of Directors. This policy is communicated to all Directors, Governors and employees of the academy company and all Directors, Governors and employees are required to confirm they have read the Conflicts of Interest policy on annual basis.

In line with the policy, all Directors, Governors and employees are required to complete a declaration of any business or pecuniary interests on an annual basis or, in the case of individuals taking up these roles during the year, at the point of taking up their role. A register of interests is then maintained by the Academy Company's Governance Manager and any conflicts are declared at the start of each Directors meeting.

The declaration registers are stored where they can be accessed by the Headteacher, Chair of Governors, central team, as well as inspected by Ofsted or anyone else who has a right to it to carry out their statutory duties. Any transactions with organisations in which any interests have been declared are reported to the Board of Directors in advance of the transactions, so that formal approval can be provided by the Board where the transaction is considered appropriate and formal notification to the ESFA can then be made, including where relevant, seeking pre-approval.

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Governance reviews

The Board last commissioned a governance review in 2022. It is expected that the next external review will take place in 2025. During 2022-2023 the Board and management of the PFMAC focused on implementing the recommendations of the governance review:

1) Issues concerning the vision, ethos and strategic direction
a) The MAC board should work with the CSEL to develop more robustness in the strategic plan with the addition of clear targets and KPIs.
A revised strategic plan has been produced which includes clear goals over a three-year period. This was approved by the Board at their May 2023 meeting.
b) The MAC board must consider how it plans to manage the potential significant increase in number of schools, as this will provide additional challenges and risks that it is not yet ready to react to.
We have a due diligence process in place regarding schools coming into the MAC. Our CFO is working with Sacred Heart, Henley and we have also spoken with St Mary's, Aston-le-Walls. In addition, we know that in 18 months we have a number of other schools wishing to come into the MAC. We have a good appreciation of their strengths and weaknesses, and are in contact with their governing boards.
c) The MAC should encourage the LGBs to develop a local longer-term vision relevant to their local community and individual challenges but still aligned to the overall MAC priorities.
The CSEL addressed this within a termly meeting to which all MAC governors were invited. Templates and a format for developing vision within an LGB Action Plan were sent to all LGBs in January and further work will be undertaken with LGBs.
2) Issues concerning the roles and responsibilities of governance
a) The MAC board should consider how it might significantly simplify the scheme of delegation in order to make it more relevant and useful to both the MAC, LGBs and senior leaders
A new Scheme of Delegation was approved by the Board and took effect from September 2023, preceded by training for governors and Headteachers.
b) The MAC board should consider how it engages and communicates with the LGB's to ensure that they feel part of the MAC and get the benefit of best practice and common approaches and also improve how close the directors are to the actual education of the children.

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

A full programme of communication with LGBs is undertaken by the MAC. This includes termly written briefings and termly online briefings, where local governors can contribute. A new Governance Handbook has been produced and, as part of their induction, all new governors have a meeting with the Governance Manager.

The CSEL, Governance Manager and Chair of the Board have all attended LGB meetings where there have been specific issues to address or by invitation. Members of the MAC's Support Team are in regular contact with local governors to answer queries and provide support and advice. An annual governor retreat day is provided for local governors. Directors all have link schools and there is an expectation around visits and reporting. This is not as effective as it could be due to a lack of capacity; however, greater capacity will be introduced following the reduction in Committee meetings (see 3b below).

c) The MAC board should reconsider the suggestion that LGBs mirror the MAC structure of six committees. The review of the scheme of delegation should consider where there is duplication of governance functions and/or lines of accountability (specific focus should be on the clarification and simplification in the areas of financial oversight and performance management) and this along with common terms of reference for all the MAC's LGBs would enable smaller more focused LGBs with no need for sub-committees.

The new Scheme of Delegation and common Terms of Reference for LGBs will address this point. We are unlikely to reduce the size of our LGBs because of the importance in having key participants around the table i.e. foundation, parent and staff governors. Under the new Terms of Reference LGBs will be able to structure any Committees in the way that will be most effective for their context.

3) Issues concerning the right people around the table

a) The MAC board may wish to reconsider their requirement for all individuals to personally hold and maintain the Catholic faith and allow the co-opting of non-Catholic directors and governors in order to make recruitment to the board and its LGBs easier and increase diversity.

Having practising Catholics as foundation directors and governors is central to our vision and calling as a Catholic MAC and finds legal expression in the Articles of Association. However, both the Board and LGBs are aware that they can co-opt non-Catholics where this would be beneficial. The Board is committed to diversifying its membership in other ways and is particularly looking to recruit more younger, female and ethnic minority members.

b) The MAC board should significantly increase the size of the board and/or reduce the number of committees.

The Board has appointed three new Directors and approved a new Committee structure consisting of three committees from September 2023.

c) The MAC board should consider funding a MAC wide training programme addressing roles and responsibilities to raise standards.

A training programme is provided for all governors across the MAC. For example, recent sessions have included: the role of governors in Section 48 inspections, a session for Safeguarding link governors, GDPR responsibilities and the governor's role in the exclusions process. Moreover, the MAC provides training through several third parties: Modern Governor, BDES, Formation VLE, Catholic Primary Partnership and The School Bus. Several of our schools also subscribe to training from the LA governor services team.

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Finance and Audit Committee met on six occasions. The specific purpose of this committee is to monitor the work of the academy trust in terms of its financial control. To make appropriate comments and recommendations on such matters, to the Board of Directors on a regular basis and refer major issues to the Board of Directors for ratification.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Director	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Paul Concannon	4	6
Anthony O'Donnell (term of office ended 5 December 2022, reappointed 8 March 2023)	5	5
Michael Roberts (resigned 30 August 2023)	5	6
Adrian Waters (chairperson)	5	6

The Catholic Ethos and Mission Committee

The Catholic Ethos and Mission Committee met on two occasions. The Committee is responsible for ensuring that the MAC maintains and develops its distinctive Catholic identity.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Director	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Paul Concannon	1	2
James O'Neill	2	2
Mervyn Tower (chairperson)	2	2

The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on three occasions. The specific purpose of this Committee is to enable Directors to respond to events and matters that have a strategic impact on the wider work of the Board.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Director	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
James O'Neill	3	3
Judith Schmidt (chairperson)	3	3
Mervyn Tower	1	3
Adrian Waters	3	3

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Education Standards Committee

The Education Standards Committee met on four occasions. The specific purpose of this committee is to monitor the work of the PFMAC in terms of the quality and standards of its schools' education curriculum delivery and outcomes for its pupils.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Director	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
James O'Neill (chairperson)	4	4
Judith Schmidt	3	4
Mervyn Tower	2	4

The Pay and HR Committee

The Pay and HR Committee met on three occasions. The specific purpose of this committee is to assist the PFMAC Board of Directors with regard to pay and HR/personnel matters.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Director	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Paul Concannon (chairperson)	3	3
James O'Neill	3	3
Michael Robarts (resigned 30 August 2023)	2	3
Judith Schmidt	3	3
Mervyn Tower	1	3
Adrian Waters	3	3

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the principal has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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 directors where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data or by using a framework where appropriate. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by: The Headteachers of the schools and the CFO, HR and Operations Manager meet monthly to discuss improving educational outcomes, by sharing good practice and planning together for future collaborative activities, which utilise the skills of staff across the MAC. These activities have proved to benefit the students of all the schools. These meetings always discuss the shared business practices across the schools and how they can be improved to ensure that resources are directed effectively to improve the outcomes of all our students.

- This year intervention strategies for targeted students at all the schools have proved to be effective by the attainment gained across the MAC. Careful planning of these interventions has ensured that there has been a successful outcome.
- The Sixth Form options in both secondary schools continue to be reviewed in response to demand and, where it is found to be uneconomical to deliver, changes are made.
- At both secondary schools, SLT have been involved with Group Mentoring of targeted Year 11 students at tutor time to provide support in their GCSE year.
- The MAC is a member of several local partnerships that promotes sharing best practice including The Banbury Partnership of Schools and, as such, has been working collaboratively to raise the attainment of certain ethnic groups by targeted intervention.
- The MAC is part of the Diocese CFO Network who work together to produce a framework of suppliers that meets the needs of the Academies within the Diocese. This is the Church Marketplace Framework and gives us the ability to use nominated suppliers that cover a wide scope of services.
- The MAC is also a member of the Oxfordshire Business Managers group that meets termly with the main aim to collaborate effectively.

The purpose of the system of internal control

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

Capacity to handle risk

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

The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of directors;
- 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.

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Board of Directors has decided to buy-in an internal audit service from School Business Services.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the MAC's financial systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current year included a review of the financial controls in place at five schools.

On an annual basis, the internal auditor report to the Board of Directors through the Finance, Resources and Audit Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Directors' financial responsibilities.

The internal auditor has delivered their program of work during the year ended 31 August 2023 as planned.

While no significant internal control weaknesses were identified, the Directors and management have developed an action plan to continue to strengthen and improve internal controls and processes over the coming year.

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the external auditors;
- the work of the internal auditors; and
- the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the MAC 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 Committee and a plan to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the board of directors on 12 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr P Concannon
Foundation Director and Chair

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

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

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



Mr F Long

Accounting Officer

12 December 2023

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The directors (who also act as trustees for Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company) are responsible for preparing the directors' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

In preparing these accounts, the directors 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 accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of directors on 12 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr P Concannon
Foundation Director and Chair

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF POPE FRANCIS
CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the accounts, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the statement of directors' responsibilities, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the accounts, the directors are responsible for assessing the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

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

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reviewing relevant correspondence.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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

Use of our report

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



Katherine Wilkes (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Critchleys Audit LLP

18/12/23

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Beaver House
23-38 Hythe Bridge Street
Oxford
OX1 2EP

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON
REGULARITY TO POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY AND THE
EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY*****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023***

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 30 June 2023 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 Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 28 July 2014 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Reviewing the internal control policies and procedures implemented by the Academy Company and evaluating their design and effectiveness to understand how the Academy Company has complied with the framework of authorities;
- Reviewing the minutes of meetings of the Trustees, relevant sub committees and other evidence made available to us, relevant to our consideration of regularity;
- Enquiries of the Accounting Officer, including reviewing the work undertaken by the Accounting Officer in relation to their Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance; and
- Detailed testing of income and expenditure of the Academy Company based on our assessment of the risk of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance. This work was integrated with our audit of the financial statements where appropriate and included analytical review and detailed substantive testing of transactions.

Conclusion

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

Critchleys Audit LLP

Reporting Accountant
Critchleys Audit LLP

Dated: 18/12/23

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	31,778	22,845	1,862,627	1,917,250	4,446,828
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	1,263,638	19,830,364	-	21,094,002	20,319,707
Other trading activities	5	294,560	-	-	294,560	375,977
Investments	6	395	-	-	395	358
Total		1,590,371	19,853,209	1,862,627	23,306,207	25,142,870
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	9	1,294,633	21,557,585	2,217,330	25,069,548	27,428,822
Total	7	1,294,633	21,557,585	2,217,330	25,069,548	27,428,822
Net income/(expenditure)		295,738	(1,704,376)	(354,703)	(1,763,341)	(2,285,952)
Transfers between funds	19	(1,131,145)	1,131,145	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	21	-	3,559,000	-	3,559,000	14,271,000
Net movement in funds		(835,407)	2,985,769	(354,703)	1,795,659	11,985,048
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		1,189,471	(4,357,769)	1,189,292	(1,979,006)	(13,964,054)
Total funds carried forward		354,064	(1,372,000)	834,589	(183,347)	(1,979,006)

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Comparative year information		Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
Year ended 31 August 2022		funds	General	Fixed asset	2022
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	35,716	-	4,411,112	4,446,828
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	965,154	19,354,553	-	20,319,707
Other trading activities	5	375,977	-	-	375,977
Investments	6	358	-	-	358
Total		<u>1,377,205</u>	<u>19,354,553</u>	<u>4,411,112</u>	<u>25,142,870</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	9	598,454	22,289,428	4,540,940	27,428,822
Total	7	<u>598,454</u>	<u>22,289,428</u>	<u>4,540,940</u>	<u>27,428,822</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		778,751	(2,934,875)	(129,828)	(2,285,952)
Transfers between funds	19	(366,744)	313,059	53,685	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	21	-	14,271,000	-	14,271,000
Net movement in funds		412,007	11,649,184	(76,143)	11,985,048
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		777,464	(16,006,953)	1,265,435	(13,964,054)
Total funds carried forward		<u>1,189,471</u>	<u>(4,357,769)</u>	<u>1,189,292</u>	<u>(1,979,006)</u>

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		312,354		391,007
Current assets					
Debtors	15	1,007,927		1,454,732	
Cash at bank and in hand		3,240,372		3,820,568	
		4,248,299		5,275,300	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(2,724,000)		(2,274,313)	
Net current assets			1,524,299		3,000,987
Total assets less current liabilities			1,836,653		3,391,994
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	17		(648,000)		(932,000)
Net assets excluding pension liability			1,188,653		2,459,994
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	21		(1,372,000)		(4,439,000)
Total net liabilities			(183,347)		(1,979,006)
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds	19				
- Fixed asset funds			834,589		1,189,292
- Restricted income funds			-		81,231
- Pension reserve			(1,372,000)		(4,439,000)
Total restricted funds			(537,411)		(3,168,477)
Unrestricted income funds	19		354,064		1,189,471
Total funds			(183,347)		(1,979,006)

The accounts on pages 31 to 60 were approved by the directors and authorised for issue on 12 December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:



Mr P Concannon
Foundation Director and Chair

Company registration number 09113542 (England and Wales)

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash used in operating activities	22		(2,181,179)		(3,660,429)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		395		358	
Capital grants from DfE Group		(154,057)		-	
Capital funding received from sponsors and others		1,926,254		4,411,112	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(21,609)		(63,775)	
Net cash provided by investing activities			1,750,983		4,347,695
Cash flows from financing activities					
New long term bank loan		-		204,000	
New other loan		-		50,000	
Repayment of long term bank loan		(134,000)		-	
Repayment of other loan		(16,000)		(8,763)	
Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities			(150,000)		245,237
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(580,196)		932,503
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			3,820,568		2,888,065
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			3,240,372		3,820,568

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

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

1.2 Going concern

Although the Academy Company has a deficit of total net assets (i.e. total net liabilities) at 31 August 2023 of £183,347, this arises due to the deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme, this does not represent a current liability and is an actuarial assessed liability which depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The Government has provided a guarantee that in the event of an Academy closure, any outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. As such, the Directors consider that a more accurate view of the Academy Company's financial position is the value net assets excluding pension liability, which at 31 August 2023, totalled £1,188,653.

The directors 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 charitable company to continue as a going concern. The directors make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the accounts and have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

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.

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Other income

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

Transfer of existing academies into the Academy Company

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

Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Academy Trust; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Charitable activities

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

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the academy trust's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management, directors' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £2,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

The Academy Company occupies land and buildings which are provided to it and owned by the Birmingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees ('the site trustees'). The Academy Company occupies this land and buildings under the terms of Supplemental Agreements between the Birmingham Diocese Board of Education, the Site Trustees and the Academy Company, which provide the academy trust with the right to use the land and buildings of the Academies for an indefinite period, subject to a 2 year termination notice period, which amounts to a mere licence. Having considered the fact that the Academy Company occupies the land and such buildings as may be or may come to be erected on it by a mere licence, which transfers to the Academy Company no rights or control over the sites save that of occupying it at the will of the Site Trustees under the terms of the relevant site trust, the Directors have concluded that the value of the land and buildings occupied by the Academy Company will not be recognised on the balance sheet.

As it is the Academy Company's policy that land and buildings occupied under Supplemental Agreements do not constitute fixed assets, capital expenditure incurred by the Academy Company on new buildings, improvements and significant additions are not capitalised. Any such expenditure is recognised charitable expenditure as improvements to properties owned by the Diocesan Trustees. Where this expenditure has been funded by specific grants, it is charged directly to the restricted asset funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Academy Company also occupies land being school playing fields, under 125 year leases within Oxfordshire County Council. As these are considered to have negligible value, no value is assigned to school playing fields where assigned to the Academy Company.

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

Plant and equipment	33% straight line
Furniture and fixtures	15% 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 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.

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

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

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

Financial liabilities

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

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

1.9 Taxation

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

1.10 Pensions benefits

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

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

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

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.11 Fund accounting

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

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

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

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

1.12 Agency arrangements

The Academy Company acts as an agent in distributing bursary funds from the ESFA. Payments received from the ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds.

The funds receivable and any balances held are recognised in note 30.

1.13 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.14 Cash at bank and in hand

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

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 21, will impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

(Continued)

Critical areas of judgement

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

The Academy Company occupies land and buildings which are provided to it and owned by the Birmingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees ('the Site Trustees'). The Academy Company occupies this land and buildings under the terms of Supplemental Agreements between the Birmingham Diocese Board of Education, the Site Trustees and the Academy Company, which provide the Academy Company with the right to use the land and buildings of the Academies for an identified period, subject to a 2 year termination notice period, which amounts to a mere licence. Having considered the fact that the Academy Company occupies the land and buildings as may be or may come to be erected on it by a mere licence, which transfers the academy Company no rights or control over the sites save that of occupying it at the will of the Site Trustees under the terms of the relevant site trust, the Directors have concluded that the value of the land and buildings occupied by the Academy Company will not be recognised on the balance sheet.

The Academy Company also occupies land being school playing fields, under 125 year leases with Oxfordshire County Council. As these are considered negligible value, no value is assigned to school playing fields where assigned to the Academy Company.

The classification of expenditure between restricted and unrestricted funds is considered a critical area of judgement as certain expenditure can be applied to both funds. Where this is the case and the amounts in question are considered material, the expenditure is apportioned to both funding streams on an appropriate basis.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Capital grants	-	916,373	916,373	774,099
Other donations	31,778	969,099	1,000,877	3,672,729
	<u>31,778</u>	<u>1,885,472</u>	<u>1,917,250</u>	<u>4,446,828</u>

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

4 Funding for the academy trust's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	16,594,559	16,594,559	16,912,726
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- Pupil premium	-	702,199	702,199	602,875
- Re-brokerage / Sponsorship	-	-	-	12,500
- Supplementary grant	-	447,242	447,242	176,094
- Others	-	811,382	811,382	665,590
	-	18,555,382	18,555,382	18,369,785
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	1,139,833	1,139,833	822,773
COVID-19 additional funding				
DfE/ESFA				
COVID Catch-up premium	-	55,611	55,611	15,658
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	25,365	25,365	73,636
School Led Tutoring grants	-	54,173	54,173	72,701
	-	135,149	135,149	161,995
Other incoming resources	1,263,638	-	1,263,638	965,154
Total funding	1,263,638	19,830,364	21,094,002	20,319,707

The Academy Trust received £25,365 (2022: £73,636) of COVID Recovery Premium funding and £54,173 (2022: £72,701) of School Led Tutoring funding in the year, all of which was spent during the year.

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Lettings income	95,724	-	95,724	93,822
Other income	198,836	-	198,836	282,155
	294,560	-	294,560	375,977

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Other investment income	395	-	395	358

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure Premises £	Other £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	13,951,054	-	2,022,408	15,973,462	14,638,380
- Allocated support costs	3,517,511	1,536,579	4,041,996	9,096,086	12,790,442
	17,468,565	1,536,579	6,064,404	25,069,548	27,428,822

Of the above expenditure £1,294,633 (2022 - £598,454) was allocated to unrestricted funds, £21,557,585 (2022 - £22,289,428) was allocated to restricted funds and £2,217,330 (2022 - £4,540,940) was allocated to restricted fixed assets funds.

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Operating lease rentals	36,868	25,207
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	100,262	125,928
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	28,500	25,250
- Other services	3,835	4,500
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	195,000	292,000

8 Central services

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

- Educational improvement, Ofsted preparation;
- Finance support, including payroll services;
- HR advice and support;
- Operational support including premises and health and safety; and
- Governance support and advice.

The academy trust charges for these services on the following basis:

6% of AWPU plus lump sum funding

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

8 Central services

(Continued)

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Blessed George Napier School	261,351	253,632
Holy Trinity Catholic School	44,336	46,680
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Banbury	45,322	44,196
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Carterton	22,040	26,184
St John's Catholic Primary School	40,981	42,852
St Gregory the Great Catholic School	174,824	202,956
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Thame	46,703	46,104
St John Fisher Catholic Primary School	46,901	46,488
St Thomas More Catholic Primary School	42,363	39,588
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	44,928	40,164
Our Lady's Catholic Primary School	61,698	59,316
	<u>831,447</u>	<u>848,160</u>

9 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Direct costs				
Educational operations	371,634	15,601,828	15,973,462	14,638,380
Support costs				
Educational operations	922,999	8,173,087	9,096,086	12,790,442
	<u>1,294,633</u>	<u>23,774,915</u>	<u>25,069,548</u>	<u>27,428,822</u>

Analysis of costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	13,951,054	13,211,070
Staff development	51,728	-
Technology costs	201,988	21,581
Educational supplies and services	646,271	-
Examination fees	175,701	-
Educational consultancy	595,493	-
Other costs	351,227	1,405,729
	<u>15,973,462</u>	<u>14,638,380</u>
Support costs		
Staff costs	3,517,511	4,518,084
Depreciation	100,262	125,928
Technology costs	488,098	367,342
Premise costs	519,831	1,217,188
Cleaning	281,915	-
Energy costs	517,180	-

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

9 Charitable activities (Continued)

Rent, rates and other occupancy costs	91,717	-
Insurance	7,255	-
Depreciation	45,158	-
Improvements to properties owned by Diocesan Site Trustees	2,954,578	4,414,640
Finance costs	195,000	292,000
Legal costs	10,276	-
Other costs	328,252	1,828,175
Governance costs	39,053	27,085
	<u>9,096,086</u>	<u>12,790,442</u>

10 Governance costs

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
All from restricted funds:		
Amounts included in support costs		
Legal costs	10,276	-
Auditor's remuneration		
- Audit of financial statements	28,500	25,250
- Other audit costs	9,117	1,835
Other governance costs	1,436	-
	<u>49,329</u>	<u>27,085</u>

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

11 Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	12,431,044	11,968,785
Social security costs	1,201,140	1,172,372
Pension costs	3,108,835	4,086,521
Staff costs - employees	16,741,019	17,227,678
Agency staff costs	716,635	451,460
Staff restructuring costs	10,911	50,016
	17,468,565	17,729,154
Staff development and other staff costs	51,728	-
Total staff expenditure	17,520,293	17,729,154
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Severance payments	10,911	50,016

Severance payments

The academy trust paid 1 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

£0 - £25,000	1
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Staff numbers

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Teachers	172	196
Administration and support	318	456
Management	32	30
	522	682

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

11 Staff

(Continued)

Higher paid staff

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	9	7
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	5	2
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	3	2
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	2	1
In the band £120,001 - £130,000	-	1
In the band £130,001 - £140,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the directors and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £264,723 (2022: £273,395).

12 Directors' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Director received any remuneration or other benefits (2022: £nil).

During the year ended 31 August 2023, no Director expenses have been incurred (2022: £nil).

13 Directors' and officers' insurance

The Academy Company has opted into the Department of Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. The scheme protects Directors 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 Directors and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme membership.

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and equipment £	Furniture and fixtures £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 September 2022	302,182	970,016	1,272,198
Additions	2,010	19,599	21,609
At 31 August 2023	304,192	989,615	1,293,807
Depreciation			
At 1 September 2022	210,619	670,572	881,191
Charge for the year	17,781	82,481	100,262
At 31 August 2023	228,400	753,053	981,453
Net book value			
At 31 August 2023	75,792	236,562	312,354
At 31 August 2022	91,563	299,444	391,007

The Academy Company occupies land and buildings of its academies which are provided to it and owned by the Birmingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees ('the Site Trustees'). The Academy Company occupies the land and buildings under the terms of Supplemental Agreements between the Birmingham Diocese Board of Education, the Site Trustees and the Academy Company, which provide the Academy Company with the right to use the land and buildings of the Academies for an indefinite period, subject to a 2 year termination notice period, which amounts to a mere licence. Having considered the fact that the Academy Company occupies the land and such buildings as may come to be erected on it by a mere licence, which transfers to the Academy Company no rights or control over the sites save that of occupying it at the will of the Site Trustees under the terms of the relevant site trust, the Directors have concluded that the value of the land and buildings occupied by the Academy Company will not be recognised on the balance sheet.

The Academy Company also occupies land being school playing fields, under 125 year leases with Oxfordshire County Council. As these are considered to have negligible value, no value is assigned to school playing fields where assigned to the Academy Company.

15 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	-	13,075
VAT recoverable	266,659	514,522
Other debtors	45,513	28,251
Prepayments and accrued income	695,755	898,884
	<u>1,007,927</u>	<u>1,454,732</u>

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
ESFA Deficit loan (see note 17)	134,000	-
CIF loan (see note 17)	16,000	16,000
Trade creditors	1,091,406	459,421
Other taxation and social security	278,303	135,269
Other creditors	352,407	479,352
Accruals and deferred income	851,884	1,184,271
	<u>2,724,000</u>	<u>2,274,313</u>

17 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023 £	2022 £
ESFA Deficit loan	536,000	804,000
CIF loan	112,000	128,000
	<u>648,000</u>	<u>932,000</u>

Analysis of loans	2023 £	2022 £
Wholly repayable within five years	798,000	948,000
Less: included in current liabilities	(150,000)	(16,000)
	<u>648,000</u>	<u>932,000</u>
Amounts included above	<u>648,000</u>	<u>932,000</u>
Loan maturity		
Debt due in one year or less	150,000	16,000
Due in more than two years but not more than five years	648,000	868,000
Due in more than five years	-	64,000
	<u>798,000</u>	<u>948,000</u>

ESFA loans totalling £536,000 (2022: £804,000) relate to recoverable deficit funding provided for the rebrokerage of the academies from the Dominic Barberi Multi Academy Company to the Academy Company on 1 January 2021. The loans are interest free and the repayment terms are to be reviewed with the ESFA on annual basis with the earliest anticipated date for repayments to commence being August 2024.

Other loans totalling £112,000 (2022 - £128,000) are repayable to the ESFA in respect of CIF projects. These loans attract interest at the Public Works Loan Board rate and are repayable in monthly instalments over a 10 year period commencing from 1 September 2020 and 1 September 2022. Of this balance, £48,000 (2022 - £64,000) is repayable by instalments after more than 5 years.

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18 Deferred income

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	424,012	621,550
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	621,550	323,710
Released from previous years	(621,550)	(323,710)
Resources deferred in the year	424,012	621,550
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	424,012	621,550

Deferred income relates to various DfE/ESFA grant funding and other funding received in advance of the year end which relates to the 2022/23 academic year.

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	16,594,559	(17,725,704)	1,131,145	-
Pupil premium	584	702,199	(702,783)	-	-
Catch-up premium	-	55,611	(55,611)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	25,365	(25,365)	-	-
Other Coronavirus funding	-	54,173	(54,173)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	66,743	1,258,624	(1,325,367)	-	-
Other government grants	-	1,139,833	(1,139,833)	-	-
Other restricted funds	13,904	22,845	(36,749)	-	-
Pension reserve	(4,439,000)	-	(492,000)	3,559,000	(1,372,000)
	<u>(4,357,769)</u>	<u>19,853,209</u>	<u>(21,557,585)</u>	<u>4,690,145</u>	<u>(1,372,000)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	555,866	916,373	(943,970)	(21,609)	506,660
Capital expenditure from GAG	391,007	-	(100,262)	21,609	312,354
Private sector capital sponsorship	242,419	946,254	(1,173,098)	-	15,575
	<u>1,189,292</u>	<u>1,862,627</u>	<u>(2,217,330)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>834,589</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>(3,168,477)</u>	<u>21,715,836</u>	<u>(23,774,915)</u>	<u>4,690,145</u>	<u>(537,411)</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>1,189,471</u>	<u>1,590,371</u>	<u>(1,294,633)</u>	<u>(1,131,145)</u>	<u>354,064</u>
Total funds	<u>(1,979,006)</u>	<u>23,306,207</u>	<u>(25,069,548)</u>	<u>3,559,000</u>	<u>(183,347)</u>

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 Funds

(Continued)

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

The General Annual Grant funding must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy Company in line with the Company's charitable objects and the terms and conditions of the company's funding agreement.

All ESFA /DfE grants, which include Pupil Premium grants, Teacher pay grants, Teachers' pension grants, Supplementary grants, other ESFA/DfE grants, COVID Catch-up Premium, COVID Recovery Premium, School Led Tutoring grants and other DfE/ESFA COVID related funding are all used in accordance with the specific restrictions of individual grants.

Other grants, which include Local Authority funding, other Government grants and other restricted income, are all used in accordance with the specific restrictions of the individual grants and funding provided.

The Teaching School funds must be used for the operation of the Teaching School activities operated through the Academy Company.

The Pension reserve represents the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit.

Restricted fixed asset funds represent the investment in fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation, and include the value of fixed assets transferred to the Academy Company on conversion of the academies within the Academy Company. Unspent capital grants and capital income are also held in this fund and their use is restricted to the capital projects for which the grant was awarded.

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

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 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)	478,402	16,912,726	(17,704,187)	313,059	-
Pupil premium	14,898	602,875	(617,189)	-	584
Catch-up premium	38,707	15,658	(54,365)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	73,636	(73,636)	-	-
Other Coronavirus funding	-	72,701	(72,701)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	405,136	854,184	(1,192,577)	-	66,743
Other government grants	-	822,773	(822,773)	-	-
Other restricted funds	13,904	-	-	-	13,904
Pension reserve	(16,958,000)	-	(1,752,000)	14,271,000	(4,439,000)
	<u>(16,006,953)</u>	<u>19,354,553</u>	<u>(22,289,428)</u>	<u>14,584,059</u>	<u>(4,357,769)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	567,950	774,099	(776,093)	(10,090)	555,866
Capital expenditure from GAG	453,160	-	(125,928)	63,775	391,007
Private sector capital sponsorship	244,325	3,637,013	(3,638,919)	-	242,419
	<u>1,265,435</u>	<u>4,411,112</u>	<u>(4,540,940)</u>	<u>53,685</u>	<u>1,189,292</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>(14,741,518)</u>	<u>23,765,665</u>	<u>(26,830,368)</u>	<u>14,637,744</u>	<u>(3,168,477)</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>777,464</u>	<u>1,377,205</u>	<u>(598,454)</u>	<u>(366,744)</u>	<u>1,189,471</u>
Total funds	<u>(13,964,054)</u>	<u>25,142,870</u>	<u>(27,428,822)</u>	<u>14,271,000</u>	<u>(1,979,006)</u>

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 Funds

(Continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:		
Blessed George Napier School	387,768	423,654
Holy Trinity Catholic School	44,812	83,973
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Banbury	231,445	214,915
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Carterton	(9,478)	124,105
St John's Catholic Primary School	(79,735)	66,806
St Gregory the Great Catholic School	(875,639)	(684,796)
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Thame	11,226	102,906
St John Fisher Catholic Primary School	11,172	125,572
St Thomas More Catholic Primary School	(207,571)	(47,950)
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	133,351	136,265
Our Lady's Catholic Primary School	706,982	653,792
Central services	(263)	71,460
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	354,070	1,270,702
Restricted fixed asset fund	834,589	1,189,292
Pension reserve	(1,372,000)	(4,439,000)
Total funds	(183,341)	(1,979,006)

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 Funds

(Continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff	Other support staff costs	Educational supplies	Other costs excluding depreciation	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Blessed George Napier School	3,695,911	1,313,821	561,406	669,192	6,240,330	5,838,813
Holy Trinity Catholic School	741,845	108,688	68,344	108,620	1,027,497	923,119
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Banbury	789,313	227,622	73,212	127,720	1,217,867	1,162,436
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Carterton	493,871	90,493	35,409	178,144	797,917	599,983
St John's Catholic Primary School	669,861	195,655	68,660	130,971	1,065,147	945,105
St Gregory the Great Catholic School	2,743,801	614,509	440,962	844,097	4,643,369	4,910,139
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Thame	729,561	159,836	106,654	188,027	1,184,078	1,005,609
St John Fisher Catholic Primary School	824,913	291,414	101,716	205,697	1,423,740	1,252,689
St Thomas More Catholic Primary School	754,601	204,961	82,571	212,432	1,254,565	1,041,571
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	682,955	108,753	105,329	191,857	1,088,894	932,110
Our Lady's Catholic Primary School	1,043,939	160,206	135,867	223,478	1,563,490	1,446,533
Central services	294,041	372,699	41,913	648,770	1,357,423	1,077,795
	<u>13,464,612</u>	<u>3,848,657</u>	<u>1,822,043</u>	<u>3,729,005</u>	<u>22,864,317</u>	<u>21,135,902</u>

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	312,354	312,354
Current assets	354,064	3,260,000	634,235	4,248,299
Current liabilities	-	(2,708,000)	(16,000)	(2,724,000)
Non-current liabilities	-	(552,000)	(96,000)	(648,000)
Pension scheme liability	-	(1,372,000)	-	(1,372,000)
Total net assets	<u>354,064</u>	<u>(1,372,000)</u>	<u>834,589</u>	<u>(183,347)</u>

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	391,007	391,007
Current assets	1,189,471	3,143,544	942,285	5,275,300
Current liabilities	-	(2,258,313)	(16,000)	(2,274,313)
Non-current liabilities	-	(804,000)	(128,000)	(932,000)
Pension scheme liability	-	(4,439,000)	-	(4,439,000)
Total net assets	1,189,471	(4,357,769)	1,189,292	(1,979,006)

21 Pension and similar obligations

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

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

Contributions amounting to £301,194 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022: £292,367) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

21 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £1,826,260 (2022: £1,743,730).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 20.5% for employers and 6.6% 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.

Total contributions made	2023 £	2022 £
Employer's contributions	947,000	940,000
Employees' contributions	253,000	250,000
Total contributions	<u>1,200,000</u>	<u>1,190,000</u>

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

21 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions	2023 %	2022 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.00	3.05
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.00	3.05
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.20	4.25
Commutation of pensions to lumps sums	50.00	50.00

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

	2023 Years	2022 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	20.7	22.2
- Females	24.9	24.5
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.8	23.1
- Females	26.7	26.1

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

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Discount rate - 0.1%	390	451
Mortality assumption + 1 year	711	-
CPI rate + 0.1%	371	424
Salary increase +0.1%	27	32

Defined benefit pension scheme net liability	2023 £	2022 £
Scheme assets	16,392,000	15,075,000
Scheme obligations	(17,764,000)	(19,514,000)
Net liability	(1,372,000)	(4,439,000)

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

21 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2023 Fair value £	2022 Fair value £
Equities	11,802,000	11,306,000
Bonds	2,623,000	2,261,000
Property	1,639,000	1,357,000
Other assets	328,000	151,000
Total market value of assets	16,392,000	15,075,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £357,000 (2022: £(610,000)).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Current service cost	297,000	1,460,000
Interest cost	195,000	292,000
Total operating charge	492,000	1,752,000

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations

	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 September 2022	19,514,000	31,510,000
Current service cost	1,244,000	2,400,000
Interest cost	855,000	541,000
Employee contributions	253,000	250,000
Actuarial gain	(3,862,000)	(15,130,000)
Benefits paid	(240,000)	(57,000)
At 31 August 2023	17,764,000	19,514,000

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

	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 September 2022	15,075,000	14,552,000
Interest income	660,000	249,000
Actuarial loss	(303,000)	(859,000)
Employer contributions	947,000	940,000
Employee contributions	253,000	250,000
Benefits paid	(240,000)	(57,000)
At 31 August 2023	16,392,000	15,075,000

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

22 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(1,763,341)	(2,285,952)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(1,862,627)	(4,411,112)
Investment income receivable	6	(395)	(358)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	21	297,000	1,460,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	21	195,000	292,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		100,262	125,928
Decrease in debtors		537,235	612,721
Increase in creditors		315,687	546,344
Net cash used in operating activities		(2,181,179)	(3,660,429)

23 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	31 August 2023 £
Cash	3,820,568	(580,196)	3,240,372
Loans falling due within one year	(16,000)	(134,000)	(150,000)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(932,000)	284,000	(648,000)
	2,872,568	(430,196)	2,442,372

24 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts due within one year	15,005	32,126
Amounts due in two and five years	14,585	11,682
	29,590	43,808

POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

25 Capital commitments

	2023 £	2022 £
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	3,911,727	2,936,372

Improvements to properties owned by Diocesan Site Trustees under Local Authority funded School expansion projects and ongoing DfE funded CIF projects

26 Related party transactions

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

The following related party transactions took place during the year ended 31 August 2023:

The Academy Company paid £28,017 (2022: £12,430) to the Archdiocese of Birmingham Diocesan Education Services, an organisation in which members of the Academy Company are connected to, for the provision of services related to the religious and ethical character of the Academy Company's Schools. All transactions with the Archdiocese of Birmingham Diocesan Education Service were undertaken on an arms length basis and in line with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook although the transactions were not reported to the ESFA until after the transactions had taken place. Under the conditions set out in the Academy Trust Handbook, the transactions relating to the provision of the religious and ethical character of the Academy Company's Schools are deemed to have met the at cost requirements.

Mrs S O'Donnell, the spouse of Mr Tony O'Donnell who is a Director of the Academy Company, is employed by the Academy Company as a Deputy Head Teacher at Blessed George Napier School. The company employed Mrs S O'Donnell following an arm's length recruitment process in which Mr Tony O'Donnell neither participated in nor influenced. Mrs S O'Donnell is paid within the normal pay scale (£60,000 - £70,000) for her role at and receives no special treatment as a result of her relationship to a Director.

27 Members' liability

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

28 Agency arrangements

The Academy Company distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the year ended 31 August 2023 the Company received £18,228 (2022 - £15,303) and distributed £9,107 (2022 - £9,930). An amount of £18,054 (2022 - £8,933) is included as undistributed funds that are ultimately repayable to the ESFA if not utilised in line with the terms of the funding.