

**THE SABDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**

(A company limited by guarantee)

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**



**THE SABDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**THE SABDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

<b>Members</b>	Dr Laurie Bush Margaret Southworth Joe Galvin Anne Gibbins
<b>Trustees</b>	Gillian Sole, Chair Chris Thompson, Vice Chair Erika Balkam Barbara Molog Frank Stanford Jo Foulkes, Chief Executive and Accounting Officer
<b>Company registered number</b>	09611796
<b>Company name</b>	The Sabden Multi Academy Trust
<b>Principal and registered office</b>	Eastbourne Road Seaford East Sussex BN254BA
<b>Company secretary</b>	Sandra Waters (appointed 1 September 2021)
<b>Chief executive officer</b>	Jo Foulkes
<b>Senior management team</b>	Jo Foulkes, Chief Executive and Accounting Officer Frank Stanford, Consultant CEO and NLE Carol Curd, Chief Financial Officer Anna Morse, Head of Operations & Development Jim Cameron, Principal Paul Murphy, Principal Gavin Thomas, Principal Simone Hopkins, Principal Martyn Patterson, Principal
<b>Independent auditors</b>	Landau Baker Limited Chartered Accountants Mountcliff House 154 Brent Street London NW4 2DR
<b>Bankers</b>	Lloyds Bank PLC 104 Terminus Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN213AH
<b>Solicitors</b>	Browne Jacobson LLP Mowbray House Castle Meadow Road Nottingham NG21BJ

**THE SABDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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

The academy trust operates 3 all-through academies for pupils with special educational needs, two primary Flexible Learning provisions, two secondary alternative provisions which form the county wide Pupil Referral Unit, an Alternative Provision Free School and an education provision within a secure children's home. There is a combined pupil capacity of 451 with 413 pupils on roll at the last school census.

**Structure, governance and management**

**a. Constitution**

The academy trust was incorporated in May 2015 and opened as an Academy Trust on 1 September 2015, as a charitable 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 SABDEN Multi Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. 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 the preceding pages of this document.

**b. 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.

**c. Trustees' indemnities**

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

**d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees**

The management of the academy is the responsibility of the trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association and funding agreement as follows:

- Up to 7 Trustees (including 2 parent trustees)
- The CEO /Executive Leader is a trustee

2 trustees can be staff member (including the CEO), provided that the maximum number of staff trustees does not exceed one third of the total number of trustees.

The term of office for any trustee is 4 years. The CEO term of office runs parallel with their term of appointment. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of trustee, any trustee may be reappointed or re-elected. Trustees are appointed for a 4-year period, except that this time limit does not apply to the CEO. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be re-appointed or re-elected. When appointing new Trustees, the Board of Trustees will give consideration to the skills and experience mix of existing Trustees in order to ensure the Board of Trustees has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the Academy Trust's ongoing development and vision.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

**e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees**

The training and induction provided for new trustees will depend on their individual experience and expertise. Where necessary an induction will provide training on charity and educational, legal and financial matters. All new trustees are given an optional tour of the trust and the chance to meet with staff and students. All trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to understand their role as trustees and directors of the academy.

All Trustees have the opportunity to undertake relevant online training through online learning portals such as the NSPCC and where appropriate face to face training takes place relevant to trustee role.

As there are normally only very few new Trustee appointments each year, induction tends to be undertaken informally and is tailored specifically to the individual. Advantage is taken of specific courses offered by various external organisations as appropriate.

**f. Organisational structure**

As at 31 August 2022, the Academy Trust comprised the following individual academies:

- College Central – Alternative Provision (county wide Pupil Referral Unit)
- Cuckmere House School – SEMH Special School
- New Horizons School – SEMH Special School
- St Mary's School – SEMH Special School
- The Work Place – Alternative Provision Free School
- Lansdowne School – Education unit within Secure Children's Home

The Trustees are responsible for setting strategic policy, adopting an annual development plan and budget, approving the annual statutory accounts, monitoring the Academy Trust by the use of budgets and other data, and making the major decisions about the direction of the Academy Trust, capital expenditure and staff appointments.

The full Board of Trustees meet at least three times each year. The following decisions are reserved to the full Board of Trustees:

- to consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Trust and its committee structure;
- to appoint or remove the Chair and / or Vice Chair
- to appoint and / or consider the performance of the CEO

In addition to these full board meetings there are Trustee subsidiary committees:

- Finance, Risk & Audit Committee (at least 3 meetings per year)
- Safeguarding & Quality (at least 3 meetings per year)
- Performance Management of the CEO Committee (1 meeting per year)

The Board of Trustees establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Academy Trust and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of each committee. The full board receives reports including policies from each committee for ratification. The full board 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 Trustees may from time to time establish working groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale for discreet projects.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

Each Trustee holds an area of responsibility feeding into each committee:

<b>Health and Safety/Risk</b>	¤	<b>Safeguarding &amp; Child Protection</b>
Governance Lead: Chris Thompson (Trustee) ¤	¤	Governance Lead: Gill Sole (Trustee) ¤
H&S compliance—premises, Risk Register ¤	¤	Child Protections, DSL Link, External Agencies, LAC, KCSIE, Policy ¤
<b>Quality of Education</b>	¤	<b>Finance</b>
<b>Personal Development / SEN</b>		
Governance Lead: Frank Stanford (Trustee) ¤	¤	Governance Lead: Erika Balkham (Parent Trustee) ¤
Teaching & Learning, Curriculum, Attendance, Behaviour & Exclusions ¤	¤	Budget setting & monitoring, Annual Accounts, Internal controls, Cash flow, Delegation of Duties, Policy ¤
<b>Leadership &amp; Management</b>	¤	<b>Post 16 and Careers</b>
Governance Lead: Jo Foulkes (CEO/Trustee) ¤	¤	Governance Lead: Barbara Molog (Trustee) ¤
Personnel, Performance Management, CPD & Talent Management, Complaints, Legal Compliance, Policy, Risk Management ¤	¤	Examinations, CEIAG, Work experience ¤

The Trustees have devolved the day-to-day management of the Academy Trust to the Chief Executive Officer and the Senior Leadership Team ('SLT'). The SLT comprises the Chief Executive Officer, CFO, Head of Operations & Development & Academy Heads/Principals. The Chief Executive Officer is the Academy Trust's Accounting Officer and has overall responsibility for the day to day financial management of the Academy Trust. The SLT implements the policies laid down by the Trustees and reports back to them on performance.

The academy trust has established a management structure to enable its efficient running. The structure consists of two levels: the trustees and the senior leadership team.

The trustee board has considered its role thoughtfully and decided that the role of the trustees is to approve the strategic direction and objectives of the academy and monitor its progress towards these objectives.

**g. Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel**

The Board has delegated the arrangement for setting the pay and remuneration for CEO and senior leadership to the Finance & Audit committee. This committee reviews the performance of the CEO and senior leaders and ensures that succession planning is in line with the plans of the Trust. This committee sets the bands of annual pay increases for all staff through the setting of the annual trust pay policy.

**h. Related parties and other connected charities and organisations**

There are no related parties or connected organisations which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of the Academy Trust.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

**i. Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)**

The Trust's policy is to consult and discuss with employees, through unions and at meetings, matters likely to affect employees' interests. Information about matters of concern to employees is given through information emails, reports, meetings and access to the central 'SABDEN Information Hub' portal which seeks to achieve a common awareness on the part of all employees of the financial and economic factors affecting the Academy Trust's performance. This hub provides consistent information and access to up to date policies and procedures and supports compliance and consistency across all Trust schools.

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.

The Trust seeks to support the welfare, good mental health and emotional wellbeing of all staff. School level wellbeing teams operationally drive welfare and wellbeing within Trust Schools. The Trust strategically supports staff through consistent and fair treatment, access to resources such as a free 24/7 staff counselling phone line and engagement.

Applications for employment by disabled persons are always fully considered, 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 Academy Trust continues and that the appropriate training and support is arranged. It is the Academy Trust's policy that the training, career development and promotion of disabled persons should, as far as possible, be identical to that of other employees.

**j. Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the Academy**

The Trust policy endeavours to build strong relationships and engagement with all stakeholders including suppliers, parent/carers and the wider community, this is achieved through:

- Effective Communication - Information and interaction is encouraged to ensure effective and open two-way communication.
- Respect - Mutual appreciation and a willingness to consider the needs and opinions of all parties maximising the interests of both parties. This includes respect for appropriate payment timeframes and notice.
- Openness & Fairness - Sharing information and being transparent about intentions and goals
- Flexibility & Willingness - Listen, adapt and embrace innovation as a means of improving

**Objectives and activities**

**a. Objects and aims**

The principal objectives of The SABDEN Academy Trust, as set out in its Articles of Association, are to:

- Specifically restricted to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools
- offer a broad and balanced curriculum; or educational institutions which are principally concerned with providing full-time or part-time education for children of compulsory school age who, by reason of exclusion from school may not for any period receive suitable education unless alternative provision is made for them.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**Objectives and activities (continued)**

More specifically, the aims /core aspirations of The SABDEN Multi Academy Trust during the year ended 31 August 2022 were:

- To develop and improve safeguarding & quality of education programmes/cycles (post the covid-19 pandemic))
- To promote mental health and emotional wellbeing across the Trust
- To improve and increase administrative and resource support across the Trust
- To pilot the use of Classcharts in one of the AP settings
- Induction and smooth transition of newly appointed CEO
- To secure improved finance reporting in support of resource management and scalable growth
- To plan a research project reviewing 'The SABDEN Way'
- To submit and secure Condition Improvement Fund bids to improve the Trust estate

**b. Public benefit**

The Academy Trust aims to advance for the public benefit education in the geographical town locations of each academy and surrounding area, offering a broad curriculum and an excellent education environment for its pupils. The Academy Trust is considering allowing 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 Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirement 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 Trust's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

**Strategic report**

**Achievements and performance**

**a. Key performance indicators**

Aim: To develop quality assurance mechanisms in support of safeguarding & quality of education (post the covid-19 pandemic)

The SABDEN wide DSL network and Quality Assurance Visits held during terms 1&2 provided key and relevant data to inform trustees of necessary support needs at the two SABDEN AP settings. SABDEN targeted and focused resources to support both settings throughout 21/22

The Workplace received an external advisor visit in July 2022 confirming transformational improvement in the 2021/22 academic year and since the previous visit.

College Central engaged and supported the local authority with a full internal review of 6 day provision use during the year and SABDEN engaged with a wide range of stakeholders to support the process. The first two phases of the review took place in 2021/22 and findings of the review has not moved to the implementation phase.



**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**Strategic report (continued)**

**Achievements and performance (continued)**

Aim: To promote mental health and emotional wellbeing across the Trust

A series of initiatives were developed in all of the Trust's Schools to promote wellbeing:

- Additional member of staff introduced to support attendance and engagement as a pilot at one of the SEMH schools
- Mental Health support systems developed in all schools – access to hub relevant info / free lunches /absence requests and pilot of Mental Health Support Teams in two settings
- Staff & pupil resilience during the pandemic has been acknowledged and promoted

Aim: Improve and increase admin and resource support across the Trust

- Introduction of central project officer role in support of recruitment/personnel, ICT, resource improvement and control of supply bookings.
- Pilot of Head of Risk & Environment to support health and safety management across the Trust.

Aim: To pilot the full use of Classcharts in one of the AP settings

- Successful implementation of Class charts at one of the AP settings 'Class charts - an attendance and behaviour management tool quick and simple to use giving ability to instantly monitor and motivate pupils with achievement and behaviour points. Instant reports for teachers, pastoral teams and SLT.'
- Class charts was successful implemented at The WP and is now to be rolled out at College Central.

Aim: Induction and transition of newly appointed CEO (1September 2021)

The newly appointed CEO was inducted with close mentoring of the previous CEO. This has supported a smooth transition for both internal and external stakeholders.

Aim: To secure improved finance reporting in support of resource management and scalable growth

SABDEN engaged with an external finance support company during 21-22 to review and evaluate financial processes and systems. Implementation to support efficiency of reporting will continue to be a focus during 22-23.

Aim: To plan search project of 'The SABDEN Way' looking at relationship and brain development

Key staff across the SABDEN were instructed to work together to plan the implementation of a research network. The group gave consideration to the Neurosequential Model in Education (NME) (a classroom-based approach to support school staff and children to learn more about brain development and the impact of developmental trauma on a child's ability to function in a classroom) as well as giving consideration to real life examples/considerations described by experienced SABDEN colleagues. A significant training programme was planned for the 2022/23 academic year and the first phase of the research report is due to be shared early next year.

Aim: Consideration of submission of Condition Improvement Fund bids to improve the Trust estate

4 bids were prepared and submitted - 3 were successful:

- St Mary's – porta cabin classroom replacement with a modular unit
- St Mary's – secure fencing (safeguarding)
- College central – secure fencing (safeguarding)

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**Strategic report (continued)**

**Achievements and performance (continued)**

**b. Going concern**

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

**c. Promoting the success of the company**

The Trustees have acted in the way which they consider, in good faith, promotes the success of the Academy Trust for the benefit of its pupils and their parents, the Department for Education and the Education and Skills Funding Agency as principal funders and regulators, its suppliers and local wider school community as a whole, and in doing so have given regard to (amongst other matters):

Our educational business relationships and community

With a highly committed and dedicated workforce, the Academy Trust takes great pride in listening to what our pupils, parents and local community want and continues to provide the level of education outcomes and results that they have come to expect. The Academy Trust continues to evolve and to adapt to the ever-changing educational environment, leading to the continued increase in the awareness of the Academy Trust's overall activities and educational performance.

As an educational focused charitable organisation, public benefit is also at the heart of all we do. The details in the "Objectives and Activities" and "Achievements and Performance" section of the Trustees' report above provide full details of the impact of our activities and our achievements for the year.

With respect to suppliers, the Academy Trust'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 Academy Trust 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

In addition to our pupils, parents, suppliers and wider local community, the Trustees 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 Trustees are committed to the effective engagement with the DfE and the ESFA (and their representatives) and recognise that its success depends on the Trustees and senior management's ability to engage with them effectively and 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 Academy Trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook.

Our people

The Academy Trust's key asset is its people. It employs over 210 staff, excluding agency workers, 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 and young people in our care. The Academy Trust 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 Trustees' report above.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**Strategic report (continued)**

**Achievements and performance (continued)**

**Our Members**

Trustees are committed to open engagement with our Members through dialogue with them, including the sharing of the Annual Accounts and invitation to annual events. Members understand 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 SABDEN Multi-Academy Trust has been in existence for seven 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 Academy Trust also continually develops strategies to maintain and grow its pupil base, including exploring free school application opportunities, and endeavours to further improve relationships with our stakeholders and suppliers.

Whilst the challenges of Covid-19 and our return to full-time education has tested the resilience of the Trust, it has verified the effectiveness of continuity and risk planning and the agile deployment of staff and resources where they are needed most.

**Financial review**

The majority of the Academy's income is obtained 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 period ended 31 August 2022 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

**a. Reserves policy**

The definition of reserves in the SORP is 'that part of a charity's income funds that is freely available for its general purposes'. This definition of reserves therefore normally excludes:

- permanent endowment funds
- expendable endowment funds
- restricted income funds
- any part of unrestricted funds not readily available for spending, specifically income funds which could only be realised by disposing of fixed assets held for charitable use

Reserves are therefore the resources the Academy has or can make available to spend for any or all of the Academy's purposes once it has met its commitments and covered its other planned expenditure. More specifically 'reserves' are income which becomes available to the Academy and is to be spent at the Trustees' discretion in furtherance of any of the Academy's objects (sometimes referred to as 'general purpose' income) but which is not yet spent, committed or designated (ie is 'free').

The level of reserves held takes into account the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match them with commitments, including future capital projects, and the nature of reserves. The Trustees will keep this level of reserves under review at each board meeting and aim to build and maintain the reserves level by entering into cost effective agreements whilst in keeping with the principal object of the Academy.

The Trustees review the reserve levels of the Academy Trust 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 Trustees also take into consideration the future plans of the Academy Trust, the uncertainty over future income streams and other key risks identified during the risk review.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

The Trustees have agreed that the appropriate level of reserves should include two critical aspects:

- The ongoing viability of the Trust: At least one month of operational costs to the Trust. This level will provide sufficient liquid funds to cover committed expenditure, including employee costs, for one months, and 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. For the year ended 31 August 2022 the monthly operational costs are approximately £800,000.
- The future development of the Trust: £100,000 held in reserves to cover significant developments in the Trust and provide the flexibility to enhance provision and impact on outcomes in innovative ways.

Total reserves at the end of the period amounted to £17,138,405. This balance includes unrestricted funds (free reserves) of £838,819, which are considered appropriate for the Academy Trust, and restricted funds of £16,299,586 and a pension surplus of £nil. The actuarial valuation as at 31 August 2022 calculated the value of the LGPS fund for The SABDEN Multi Academy Trust at a surplus of £1,368,000. This amount has not been recognised within the financial statements because the recognition criteria of a pension scheme asset has not been met per FRS 102 28.13 (a). The difference has therefore been included within the Actuarial gain/loss in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Within the reserves policy users should note that, because of accounting for the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), the Trust recognises a significant pension fund deficit totalling to £nil (2021: £5,072,000). This deficit is included within restricted funds. This does not lead to an immediate asset or liability for this amount. Similarly, if there were a pension surplus included in the restricted fund this would not create an immediately realisable asset that can be released straight away and expended for the specific purposes of that fund.

Users should also note that a surplus or deficit position of the pension scheme would generally result in a cash flow effect for the Trust in the form of an increase or decrease in employers' pension contributions over a period of years. The Trust thus takes this fact into account when reviewing current business plans and budgets, ascertaining how the pension costs might affect budgets in the future. On the basis that increased pension contributions should generally be met from the Trust's budgeted annual income, whilst the deficit might not be eliminated, there should be no actual cash flow deficit on the fund or direct impact on the unrestricted reserves of the Trust due to the recognition of the deficit.

**b. Investment policy**

Investment policies are determined by the Trust Board. This ensures the level of funds the Trust holds can cover any immediate expenditure, without exposing the Trust to additional risk. Should any potential investment opportunity arise this would be escalated to the Trust Board for consideration.

As at 31 August 2022, no investments were held.

**c. Principal risks and uncertainties**

The Companies Act 2006 s417(3b) requires disclosure of the principal risks and uncertainties facing a company. The Trust is exposed to a number of financial risks including credit, cash flow and liquidity risks. Given the Trust's exposure to financial instruments being limited, the exposure principally relates to bank balances, cash and trade creditors, with limited trade (and other) debtors. The trust's system of internal controls ensures risk is minimal in these areas.

A risk register has been established and is updated regularly. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the Trust faces. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the Trust, and its finances. The trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the Academies face, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying and school trips) and in relation to the control of

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

finance. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors, supervision of school grounds) and internal financial controls (see below) in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover.

The Trust has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement.

It should also be noted that procedures are in place to ensure compliance with the health and safety regulations, pertaining to both staff and pupils.

Please refer to the Reserves Policy above for a description of the defined benefit pension scheme, in which there was a deficit at 31 August 2022. 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.

**Fundraising**

The Trust does not engage in any formal fundraising.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**Plans for future periods**

**Strategic Objective 1 - Quality of Education**

**Securing outstanding outcomes for all pupils through:**

Appropriate and enriching curriculum offers at each Sabden school which are regularly reviewed, meets evolving pupil needs and is aligned with the Ofsted framework;

Consistently outstanding teaching and assessment across all Sabden settings,

The further development and articulation of 'The Sabden Way' and clarity of Trust non-negotiables and areas of school autonomy (the degree of which varies depending on school performance).

**Strategic Objective 2 – Safeguarding, Attendance & Behaviour**

**Securing safety and wellbeing all pupils through:**

KEY PRIORITY: Above (comparative setting) attendance with a target of above 85% for all SABDEN settings (95%+ aspiration) with secure, accurate baselines for new pupils;

Robust/high quality safeguarding processes and procedures in support of annual KCSiE updates and capacity to undertake new responsibilities;

**Strategic Objective 3 (Personnel/People)**

**Recruiting, developing and retaining effective staff through:**

Strengthen induction processes for new staff and their on-going development. Including the development of a shared model to support short-term absences.

**Strategic Objective 4 (Capital investment – Risk Management & Development)**

**Developing quality infrastructure through:**

The continuous development of Trust and School based policy, ensuring policy is enacted in practice and is communicated and understood by all staff;

Sound integrated curriculum and financial planning to ensure value for money and the best use of resources which improve outcomes for pupils.

**Strategic Objective 5 (Strategic oversight – Finance, Accountability & Performance)**

**Consolidating effective leadership and governance through:**

Ensure clear expectation and accountability of Principal roles and secure individual support for newly appointed Principals.

Focussed visits between Trustees, Central Team, External Advisors and Sabden School Principals in order to develop a shared picture of Sabden Schools (including classroom practice) and inform school improvement priorities

Ensure clear expectation and accountability of finance roles and secure improved robust reporting information

Continuously review the effectiveness of governance arrangements in support of scalable growth

**Funds held as custodian on behalf of others**

The Academy Trust and its trustees did not act as custodian trustee during the current or previous period.

**Auditor**

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 21 December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



**Gillian Sole**  
**Chair of Trustees**

**THE SABDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**Scope of responsibility**

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

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

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between The SABDEN Multi Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

**Governance**

The composition of the board of Trustees remains unchanged. A governance review is planned to take place in 2022-23 as part of pre-opening preparations for consideration of growth (TCAF) and also the pre-opening of a new SEMH Free School in Sheppey which is due to open in September 2024.

The information on governance included here supplements that information that is described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 3 times during the year ended 31 August 2022.

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Gillian Sole, Chair	3	3
Chris Thompson, Vice Chair	3	3
Erika Balkam	3	3
Barbara Molog	3	3
Frank Stanford	2	3
Jo Foulkes, Chief Executive and Accounting Officer	3	3

The Board of Trustees reviewed the Trust's governance structure during the year to evaluate its impact and effectiveness. The Board of Trustees has a wide range of skills that contribute to the successful governance of the Trust and are satisfied that the current structure in place is appropriate and effective for the Trust.

Although the Board of Trustees met less than six times during the year, they have maintained effective financial oversight and governance through the formal work undertaken by the Finance Committee as detailed further below. This is sub-Committees of the Board of Trustees and they met 3 times during the year.

- Finance, Risk & Audit Committee (at least 3 meetings per year)
- Safeguarding & Quality assurance (at least 3 meetings per year)
- Performance Management of the CEO Committee (1 meeting per year)

The minutes of both sub-Committee meetings are provided to the full Board of Trustees and the Chairs of these sub-Committees report to each full Board of Trustee meeting on the key matters considered at their meetings and the impact for consideration by the full Board of Trustees.

The Finance, Risk and Audit Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to provide oversight, guidance and assistance to the Board of Trustees on all matters related to finance and resources. This committee also acts as the Academy Trust's Audit Committee, where its purpose is to maintain an oversight of the Trust's governance, risk management, internal control and value for money framework.



**THE SABDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**Governance (continued)**

The key issue dealt with by the Finance Committee during the year was the review of the Academy Trust's 3 year financial forecasts and the actions required to address the reduced funding expected over this period. The Finance committee also maintained an oversight of the Trust's internal control and value for money framework. It reported its findings to the Board of Trustees and the Accounting Officer as a critical element of the Trust's annual reporting requirements. This committee holds regular review of the risk register reviewing all matters related to risk, finance, Health & Safety, estates and resources of the trust.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Frank Stanford	2	3
Gillian Sole	2	3
Erika Balkam	2	3
Jo Foulkes	3	3
Chris Thompson	1	1

The Safeguarding and Quality Committee is also a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Frank Stanford	2	3
Gillian Sole	3	3
Chris Thompson	1	3
Barbara Molog	2	3

**Review of value for money**

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

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

- A coordinated recycling programme of redundant ICT hardware included the reselling of working (but out of date and unserviceable) assets. Credit was given for these assets and pupils benefited from new CleverTouch Smartboards which offers value for money and demonstrates the prudent management of ICT asset disposal.

**The purpose of the system of internal control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in The SABDEN Multi Academy Trust for the period 2 September 2021 to and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

**THE SABDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**Capacity to handle risk**

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period [insert the start date of the period for which the financial statements have been prepared] to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

**The risk and control framework**

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

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

The Board of Trustees has decided to buy-in an internal audit service from SAAF.

The reviewer's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy's financial systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

[insert details of the checks carried out.]

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

The agreed schedule of work has been delivered as planned. No material control issues were identified as a result of the work undertaken.

**Review of effectiveness**

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

- the work of the internal auditor/reviewer;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the work of the leadership managers within the Academy who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- the work of the external auditors;

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

**THE SABDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 21 December 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



**Gillian Sole**  
**Chair of Trustees**



**Jo Foulkes**  
**Accounting Officer**

**THE SABDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

As accounting officer of The Sabden Multi Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Board of Trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the Academy, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2021.

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

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



**Jo Foulkes**

**Accounting Officer**

Date: 21 December 2022

**THE SADDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 21 December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



**Gillian Sole**  
Chair of Trustees

**THE SABDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE  
SABDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**

**Opinion**

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

**Basis for opinion**

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

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

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

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

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

**THE SABDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**Other information**

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

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

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

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

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

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

**Responsibilities of trustees**

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

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

**THE SABDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

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

We considered the nature of the industry and its control environment, and reviewed the academy's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to fraud and compliance with laws and regulations. We also enquired of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the academy's operates in, and identified the key laws and regulations that:

- had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. These included the UK Companies Act and tax legislation; and
- do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.
- We discussed among the audit engagement team regarding the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements.

In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluated the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to the risks identified included the following:

- reviewing financial statement disclosures by testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- enquiring of management, and external legal counsel concerning actual and potential litigation and claims, and instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

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



**THE SABDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**Use of our report**

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

 FOR LANDAU BAKER LIMITED

**Carly Pinkus (Senior statutory auditor)**

for and on behalf of

**Landau Baker Limited**

Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor

Mountcliff House  
154 Brent Street  
London  
NW4 2DR

21 December 2022

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE  
SABDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 15 June 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Sabden Multi Academy Trust during the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

**Respective responsibilities of The Sabden Multi Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Sabden Multi Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 20 August 2015 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2021, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

**Approach**

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- review of management reporting documents.
- review of Trustees/Governors meeting minutes.
- confirming compliance with the Academy Trust's Scheme of Delegation.
- compliance with delegated authorities.
- consideration of whether any personal benefit has been derived from the Academy Trust's transactions by staff or related parties.
- adherence to tendering policies.

**THE SABDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**Conclusion**

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

*Landau Baker Limited*

**Reporting Accountant**

**Landau Baker Limited**

Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor

Mountcliff House  
154 Brent Street  
London  
NW4 2DR

Date: 21 December 2022

**THE SABDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

		Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
	Note					
<b>Income from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	9,252	-	131,666	140,918	858,338
Other trading activities	5	10,383	2,789	-	13,172	-
Investments	6	169	-	-	169	148
Charitable activities	4	-	11,177,032	-	11,177,032	10,259,955
Teaching schools		-	-	-	-	40,000
<b>Total income</b>		<b>19,804</b>	<b>11,179,821</b>	<b>131,666</b>	<b>11,331,291</b>	<b>11,158,441</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities		20,021	11,703,839	567,319	12,291,179	10,768,336
Teaching schools		-	-	-	-	56,958
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>20,021</b>	<b>11,703,839</b>	<b>567,319</b>	<b>12,291,179</b>	<b>10,825,294</b>
<b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>		<b>(217)</b>	<b>(524,018)</b>	<b>(435,653)</b>	<b>(959,888)</b>	<b>333,147</b>
Transfers between funds	17	-	(476,490)	476,490	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)</b>		<b>(217)</b>	<b>(1,000,508)</b>	<b>40,837</b>	<b>(959,888)</b>	<b>333,147</b>
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	23	-	5,834,000	-	5,834,000	(706,000)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(217)</b>	<b>4,833,492</b>	<b>40,837</b>	<b>4,874,112</b>	<b>(372,853)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		839,036	(4,710,922)	16,136,179	12,264,293	12,637,146
Net movement in funds		(217)	4,833,492	40,837	4,874,112	(372,853)
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>838,819</b>	<b>122,570</b>	<b>16,177,016</b>	<b>17,138,405</b>	<b>12,264,293</b>

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

The notes on pages 29 to 49 form part of these financial statements.

**THE SABDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)  
REGISTERED NUMBER: 09611796

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022**

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	14	16,177,016	15,769,060
		<u>16,177,016</u>	<u>15,769,060</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	15	560,806	904,566
Cash at bank and in hand		1,791,242	1,970,500
		<u>2,352,048</u>	<u>2,875,066</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(1,390,659)	(1,307,833)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>961,389</u>	<u>1,567,233</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>17,138,405</u>	<u>17,336,293</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension asset / liability</b>		<u>17,138,405</u>	<u>17,336,293</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme asset / liability	23	-	(5,072,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u>17,138,405</u>	<u>12,264,293</u>
<b>Funds of the Academy</b>			
<b>Restricted funds:</b>			
Fixed asset funds	17	16,177,016	16,136,179
Restricted income funds	17	122,570	361,078
		<u>16,299,586</u>	<u>16,497,257</u>
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	17	16,299,586	16,497,257
Pension reserve	17	-	(5,072,000)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	17	<u>16,299,586</u>	<u>11,425,257</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	17	<u>838,819</u>	<u>839,036</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<u>17,138,405</u>	<u>12,264,293</u>

The financial statements on pages 26 to 49 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 21 December 2022 and are signed on their behalf, by:

Gillian Sole  
Chair of Trustees



The notes on pages 29 to 49 form part of these financial statements.

**THE SABDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	19	572,024	323,251
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	20	(751,282)	174,162
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		(179,258)	497,413
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,970,500	1,473,087
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	21, 22	<u>1,791,242</u>	<u>1,970,500</u>

The notes on pages 29 to 49 form part of these financial statements

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**1. Accounting policies**

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

**1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements**

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

**1.2 Going concern**

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

**1.3 Income**

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

• **Legacies**

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Academy has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Academy, can be reliably measured.

• **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.

**1.4 Expenditure**

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

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.4 Expenditure (continued)**

• **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

**1.5 Interest receivable**

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

**1.6 Tangible fixed assets**

Assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Long-term leasehold property	-	2% straight line for buildings, land is depreciated over the term of the lease
Furniture and equipment	-	15% straight line
Computer equipment	-	33% straight line
Motor vehicles	-	20% straight line

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

**1.7 Debtors**

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

**1.8 Cash at bank and in hand**

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



**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.9 Liabilities**

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

**1.10 Financial instruments**

The Academy only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the Academy and their measurement bases are as follows:

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. 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 as detailed in note 16. 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.

**1.11 Pensions**

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

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

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

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

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.12 Fund accounting**

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

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

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

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

**2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment**

Estimates and judgments 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 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 23, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2022. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

**3. Income from donations and capital grants**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>	<i>As restated Total funds 2021 £</i>
Donations	9,252	-	9,252	89
Capital Grants	-	131,666	131,666	858,249
	<u>9,252</u>	<u>131,666</u>	<u>140,918</u>	<u>858,338</u>
<i>Total 2021 as restated</i>	<u>89</u>	<u>858,249</u>	<u>858,338</u>	

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**4. Funding for the Academy's charitable activities**

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	4,780,000	4,780,000	4,632,000
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
Start up grants	-	-	-	30,000
Pupil premium	-	166,314	166,314	212,312
DfE/ESFA grants	-	439,519	439,519	108,154
	-	5,385,833	5,385,833	4,982,466
<b>Other Government grants</b>				
SEN funding	-	3,908,418	3,908,418	3,517,191
Local authority grants	-	7,700	7,700	648,918
	-	3,916,118	3,916,118	4,166,109
<b>Other income from the Academy Trust's educational activities</b>	-	1,816,133	1,816,133	880,780
<b>COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)</b>				
Catch-up Premium	-	-	-	94,560
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	58,948	58,948	136,040
	-	58,948	58,948	230,600
	-	11,177,032	11,177,032	10,259,955
	-	11,177,032	11,177,032	10,259,955
<b>Total 2021</b>	<b>495,848</b>	<b>9,764,107</b>	<b>10,259,955</b>	

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**5. Income from other trading activities**

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Trip income	1,571	-	1,571	-
Uniforms	-	2,789	2,789	-
Catering income	8,812	-	8,812	-
	<u>10,383</u>	<u>2,789</u>	<u>13,172</u>	<u>-</u>

**6. Investment income**

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Investment income	169	169	148
	<u>169</u>	<u>169</u>	<u>148</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>148</u>	<u>148</u>	

**7. Expenditure**

	Staff Costs 2022 £	Premises 2022 £	Other 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Direct costs	7,248,239	-	1,080,900	8,329,139	7,236,276
Allocated support costs	1,455,907	467,320	2,038,813	3,962,040	3,532,060
Teaching school	-	-	-	-	56,958
	<u>8,704,146</u>	<u>467,320</u>	<u>3,119,713</u>	<u>12,291,179</u>	<u>10,825,294</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>9,102,375</u>	<u>455,229</u>	<u>1,267,690</u>	<u>10,825,294</u>	

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**8. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £	Support costs 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Direct costs	8,329,139	3,962,040	12,291,179	10,768,336
<i>Total 2021</i>	<i>7,236,276</i>	<i>3,532,060</i>	<i>10,768,336</i>	

**9. Net (expenditure)/income**

Net (expenditure)/income for the year includes:

	2022 £	2021 £
Operating lease rentals	71,915	71,915
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	474,823	439,082
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	10,000	11,250
- other services	5,000	9,100

**10. Staff**

**a. Staff costs**

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	6,412,915	7,890,560
Social security costs	600,518	-
Pension costs	1,401,178	991,000
	8,414,611	8,881,560
Agency staff costs	289,535	220,815
	8,704,146	9,102,375

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**10. Staff (continued)**

**b. Staff numbers**

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

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Teachers	106	86
Management	24	24
Other support staff	190	134
	<u>320</u>	<u>244</u>

**c. Higher paid staff**

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

	2022 No.	2021 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	3	1
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	3	1
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	3	4
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	-	2
In the band £110,000 - £120,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

**d. Key management personnel**

The key management personnel of the Academy comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy was £344,029 (2021 - £330,611).

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**11. Central services**

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

- Procurement of certain goods and services, including utilities, maintenance, insurance and professional services, together with the provision of central finance, ICT, HR and operational services.

The Academy charges for these services on the following basis:

- an amount equal to 8% of base funding provided by the ESFA and LA was charged to each individual academy.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Cuckmere House School	198,650	177,247
College Central	178,448	158,115
New Horizons School	167,383	148,687
St Mary's School, Horam	150,973	132,945
The Work Place	131,835	68,960
<b>Total</b>	<b>827,289</b>	<b>685,954</b>

**12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2021 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 August 2022, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2021 - £NIL).

**13. Trustees' and Officers' insurance**

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

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**14. Tangible fixed assets**

	Freehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>					
At 1 September 2021	17,079,525	155,584	642,272	206,704	18,084,085
Additions	626,600	57,253	198,926	-	882,779
At 31 August 2022	17,706,125	212,837	841,198	206,704	18,966,864
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 September 2021	1,629,897	135,234	402,123	147,771	2,315,025
Charge for the year	279,421	24,011	130,050	41,341	474,823
At 31 August 2022	1,909,318	159,245	532,173	189,112	2,789,848
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 August 2022	15,796,807	53,592	309,025	17,592	16,177,016
At 31 August 2021	15,449,628	20,350	240,149	58,933	15,769,060

**15. Debtors**

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Trade debtors	19,005	4,561
Other debtors	498,623	16,395
Prepayments and accrued income	43,178	883,610
	560,806	904,566

**16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	548,116	139,364
Other taxation and social security	213,705	-
Other creditors	157,217	331,854
Accruals and deferred income	471,621	836,615



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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year (continued)**

<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b><u>1,390,659</u></b>	<b><u>1,307,833</u></b>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**17. Statement of funds**

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds - all funds	839,036	19,804	(20,021)	-	-	838,819
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
Restricted Funds - all funds	361,078	-	-	(476,490)	-	(115,412)
General Annual Grants(GAG)	-	4,874,610	(4,636,628)	-	-	237,982
Pupil premium	-	166,314	(166,314)	-	-	-
DfE/ESFA grants	-	439,519	(439,519)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	1,796,661	(1,796,661)	-	-	-
Local Authority grants	-	3,833,280	(3,833,280)	-	-	-
Other local authority grants	-	7,700	(7,700)	-	-	-
Covid19 Catch up grant	-	58,948	(58,948)	-	-	-
Other	-	2,789	(2,789)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(5,072,000)	-	(762,000)	-	5,834,000	-
	(4,710,922)	11,179,821	(11,703,839)	(476,490)	5,834,000	122,570
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Restricted fixed asset fund	16,136,179	131,666	(567,319)	476,490	-	16,177,016
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	11,425,257	11,311,487	(12,271,158)	-	5,834,000	16,299,586
<b>Total funds</b>	12,264,293	11,331,291	(12,291,179)	-	5,834,000	17,138,405

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

The General Annual Grant is used for educational purposes in line with the Academy's charitable objects and its funding agreement with the ESFA.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**17. Statement of funds (continued)**

Other ESFA/DfE grants, Local Authority funding and Teaching School grants are all used in accordance with the restriction of the individual grants or funding which are all for the provision of education to the pupils of the Academy Trust, with the SEN funding being used to provide specialist support for the children.

The pension reserve represents the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Restricted fixed asset funds represent the investment in fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation, and includes the value of fixed assets transferred to the Academy Trust on conversion of the Schools within the Academy Trust and the value of fixed assets transferred from academies joining the trust in the current or previous years, together with any capital expenditure funded from restricted or unrestricted funds. 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 was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2022.

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

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds - all funds	833,227	496,085	(490,276)	-	-	839,036
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
General Annual Grants(GAG)	-	4,632,000	(4,152,871)	(118,051)	-	361,078
Pupil premium	-	212,312	(212,312)	-	-	-
Start-up grants	-	30,000	(30,000)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	108,154	(108,154)	-	-	-
Local Authority grants	-	648,918	(648,918)	-	-	-
SEN funding	-	3,517,191	(3,517,191)	-	-	-
Teaching School funding	16,958	40,000	(56,958)	-	-	-
Other restricted funding	-	384,932	(384,932)	-	-	-
Catch-up premium	-	94,560	(94,560)	-	-	-
Mass Testing grants	-	136,040	(136,040)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(3,812,000)	-	(554,000)	-	(706,000)	(5,072,000)

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**17. Statement of funds (continued)**

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
	(3,795,042)	9,804,107	(9,895,936)	(118,051)	(706,000)	(4,710,922)
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Fixed assets	15,523,907	-	(439,082)	684,235	-	15,769,060
Capital grants and funds	75,054	858,249	-	(566,184)	-	367,119
	15,598,961	858,249	(439,082)	118,051	-	16,136,179
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	11,803,919	10,662,356	(10,335,018)	-	(706,000)	11,425,257
<b>Total funds</b>	12,637,146	11,158,441	(10,825,294)	-	(706,000)	12,264,293

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**18. Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current year**

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	16,177,016	16,177,016
Current assets	838,819	1,513,229	-	2,352,048
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,390,659)	-	(1,390,659)
<b>Total</b>	<b>838,819</b>	<b>122,570</b>	<b>16,177,016</b>	<b>17,138,405</b>

**Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year**

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	15,769,060	15,769,060
Current assets	839,036	1,668,911	367,119	2,875,066
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,307,833)	-	(1,307,833)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(5,072,000)	-	(5,072,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>839,036</b>	<b>(4,710,922)</b>	<b>16,136,179</b>	<b>12,264,293</b>

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

	2022 £	2021 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the year (as per Statement of financial activities)	(959,888)	333,147
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation	474,823	439,082
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(131,666)	(858,249)
Interest receivable	(169)	(148)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	679,000	494,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	83,000	60,000
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	344,098	(372,798)
Increase in creditors	82,826	228,217
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>572,024</b>	<b>323,251</b>

**20. Cash flows from investing activities**

	2022 £	2021 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(169)	147
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(882,779)	(684,234)
Capital grants from DfE Group	131,666	858,249
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities</b>	<b>(751,282)</b>	<b>174,162</b>

**21. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash in hand and at bank	1,791,242	1,970,500
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>1,791,242</b>	<b>1,970,500</b>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**22. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	At 1 September 2021 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,970,500	(179,258)	1,791,242
	<u>1,970,500</u>	<u>(179,258)</u>	<u>1,791,242</u>

**23. Pension commitments**

The Academy's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by East Sussex 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 of the LGPS 31 March 2019.

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

**Teachers' Pension Scheme**

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

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

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**23. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme**

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,223,538 (2021 - £921,000).

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

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

**Local Government Pension Scheme**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2022 was £574,000 (2021 - £444,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £448,000 (2021 - £339,000) and employees' contributions totalled £126,000 (2021 - £105,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 5.5 per cent for employers and 12.5 per cent 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.

The actuarial valuation as at 31 August 2022 calculated the value of the LGPS fund for the SABDEN Multi Academy Trust at a surplus of £1,368,000. This amount has not been recognised within the financial statements because the recognition criteria of a pension scheme asset has not been met per FRS 102 28.13 (a). The difference has therefore been included within the Actuarial gain/loss in the Statement of Financial Activities.



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**23. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Principal actuarial assumptions**

East Sussex County Council Pension Fund

	2022 %	2021 %
Rate of increase in salaries	2.90	2.85
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.90	2.85
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.25	1.70

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

	2022 Years	2021 Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.2	21.2
Females	23.8	23.7
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.1	22.0
Females	25.1	25.1

**Share of scheme assets**

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

	At 31 August 2022 £	At 31 August 2021 £
Equities	6,966,000	6,768,000
Bonds	1,423,000	1,475,000
Property	826,000	655,000
Cash and other liquid assets	231,000	163,000
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>9,446,000</b>	<b>9,061,000</b>

The actual return on scheme assets was £133,000 (2021 - £1,101,000).

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**23. Pension commitments (continued)**

The amounts recognised in the Statement of financial activities are as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Current service cost	(1,121,000)	(991,000)
Interest income	156,000	131,000
Interest cost	(239,000)	(197,000)
Administrative expenses	(6,000)	(6,000)
<b>Total amount recognised in the Statement of financial activities</b>	<b>(1,210,000)</b>	<b>(1,063,000)</b>

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

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>14,133,000</b>	<b>11,243,000</b>
Current service cost	1,121,000	991,000
Interest cost	239,000	191,000
Employee contributions	126,000	132,000
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(5,857,000)	1,676,000
Benefits paid	(316,000)	(100,000)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>9,446,000</b>	<b>14,133,000</b>

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

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>9,061,000</b>	<b>7,431,000</b>
Interest income	156,000	131,000
Actuarial (losses)/gains	(23,000)	970,000
Employer contributions	448,000	503,000
Employee contributions	126,000	132,000
Benefits paid	(316,000)	(100,000)
Administration expenses	(6,000)	(6,000)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>9,446,000</b>	<b>9,061,000</b>

**24. Members' liability**

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

**THE SABDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**25. Related party transactions**

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

The following transactions took place in the current and previous year:

E Samuels, the daughter of Barbara Molog, a Trustee, is employed by the Academy Trust as a member of the support staff. E Samuels appointment was made prior to Barbara Molog's appointment as a Trustee. E Samuels is paid within the normal pay scale for her role and receives no special treatment as a result of her relationship with a Trustee.

The Trust purchased services from CTB Training Ltd during the year for a total cost of £16,890. CTB Training Ltd is a related party by virtue of being wholly owned by a Trustee of Sabden Multi Academy Trust. The Trustee – C Thompson – had no involvement in the decision making process. The Trust also carried out a cost comparison exercise on the services to ensure that, in their opinion, the best value for money was being obtained.