

# Registrar's Copy

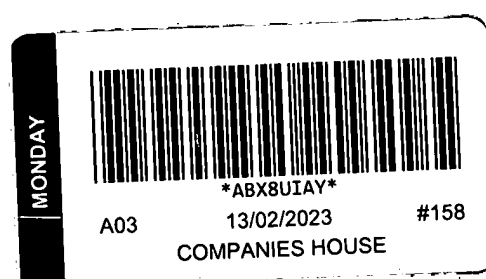
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Company Registration Number: 09952066 (England & Wales)

## **PORTICO ACADEMY TRUST** (A company limited by guarantee)

### **ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**



**PORTICO ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**PORTICO ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

<b>Members</b>	Robert Hellen Garry Lowen (deceased 23 April 2022) Heather Oram Steven Levy
<b>Trustees</b>	Katherine Baynes, Trustee Robert Hellen, Chair of Trustees Graham Lane, Trustee Cheryl Woolf, Accounting Officer Michelle Butler, Trustee (appointed 22 March 2022) Alan Murkin, Trustee Frances Gretton, Trustee Heather Oram, Trustee (resigned 31 December 2021) David Struthers, Trustee (resigned 7 December 2021) Ronald Wright, Trustee Ros Sanders, Trustee Karen Packer, Trustee Claire Smith, Trustee Sue Hay, Trustee Nicole Ramsay, Trustee (appointed 22 March 2022) Tammy McCarthy, Trustee (appointed 22 March 2022, resigned 4 October 2022)
<b>Company registered number</b>	09952066
<b>Company name</b>	Portico Academy Trust
<b>Principal and registered office</b>	59 Ronald Hill Grove Westcliff-On-Sea SS9 2JB
<b>Chief executive officer</b>	Cheryl Woolf
<b>Senior management team</b>	Cheryl Woolf, Chief Executive Officer Richard Queenborough, Head of Learning & Teaching Christine Farrell, Headteacher of Hamstel Junior School Lisa Clark, Headteacher of Hamstel Infant School and Nursery Jonathon Lear, Head of School of West Leigh Junior School (Resigned 31st August 2022) Christopher McClay, Head of School of Friars Primary School and Nursery Deborah Henley, Head of School of Porters Grange Primary School and Nursery
<b>Independent auditors</b>	MWS Chartered Accountants Registered Auditors Kingsridge House 601 London Road Westcliff-On-Sea Essex SS0 9PE

**PORTICO ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

**Bankers**

Lloyds Bank  
77 High St  
Southend-On-Sea  
Essex  
SS1 1HT

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

The Trustees (who are also directors of the company for the purposes of the Companies Act) present their report together with the audited financial statements of Portico Academy Trust for the year ended 31st August 2022. The Trustees confirm that the annual Report and Financial Statements of the Academy comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the Academy Trust's governing document and provisions of the Charities Commission Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2019. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a trustees report, and a directors report under company law.

The Trust operates 5 primary Academies serving a catchment area in Southend-on-Sea. The Academies have a combined capacity of 2,462 and had a roll of 2,332 the January 2022 census.

**Structure, governance and management**

**a. Constitution**

The Academy Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity.

The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing document of the Academy Trust.

The Trustees of Portico Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

The charitable company is known as Portico Academy Trust.

The charitable company includes the following Academies:

- |                                           |                                              |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| • West Leigh Junior School                | joined the Trust on 01/04/2016               |
| • Porters Grange Primary School & Nursery | converted and joined the Trust on 01/04/2016 |
| • Friars Primary School & Nursery         | converted and joined the Trust on 01/09/2016 |
| • Hamstel Infant School & Nursery         | converted and joined the Trust on 01/09/2016 |
| • Hamstel Junior School                   | converted and joined the Trust on 01/09/2016 |

Since 1st October 2020, full governance is controlled by the Trustee board.

The operation of The Trust's Academies and employment of staff are the responsibility of the Trustees. The Trust retains control of the Academies budgets and finances, and monitors these through its Finance Committee. Each Academy has two appointed link Trustees.

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

**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**

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and Officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business.

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

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

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

The arrangements are as set out in the Memorandum and articles of association and Funding Agreement.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is an ex officio member of the Board of Trustees.

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

The Trust is committed to providing adequate opportunities for Trustees to undertake and receive suitable training so as to enable them to perform their role effectively. To this end the Trust links with a number of local training providers. New Trustees are required to attend a training programme. The induction programme involves a tour of the relevant Academy/Academies, meetings with students and staff and provision of policy and procedures documents that are appropriate to the role they undertake with particular emphasis on the committee work that they will undertake.

**f. Organisational structure**

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

The Trustees of Portico Academy Trust are responsible for the strategic direction of the Trust. They are also responsible for setting strategic policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the Trust by the use of those budgets, making major decisions about the direction of the Trust, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments. Trustees are also responsible for implementing strategic policy, ensuring the appropriateness of annual budgets and capital expenditure projects for each Academy and monitoring performance against the budget and authorised capital limits.

The Senior Leadership teams' (SLT'S) control the Academies at an executive level implementing policies and reporting to the Trustees. Each SLT is responsible for the day to day operation of their Academy, in particular organising staff, resources and students. They are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and for the appointment of staff following vetting and safeguarding recruitment processes. The Trust's CEO is the Accounting Officer.

The Trust continues to set a centralised main budget through GAG pooling, to allow for cost savings and efficiencies to be made. Each school has autonomy over their curriculum spend, as well as restricted pots such as Pupil Premium. As a result, reserves are pooled to one main Portico fund.

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

Key management personnel include Trustees and those staff to whom the Trustees have delegated significant authority and responsibility in the day-to-day running of the Trust. Pay and remuneration of key management personnel is decided by a variety of contributory factors, such as the Academy group size, Individual School Range (ISR), the pay scales for each role and the level of experience of each staff member, all of which are in accordance with the Trust's appointment and pay policies. In addition, pay levels may be affected by nationally agreed pay awards and the ability to recruit and retain in post.

All amendments to key managements' pay and remuneration are approved by the appropriate sub-committee and ratified by the Board of Trustees.

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

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

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

Owing to the nature of the Trust's operations, and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that from time to time transactions will take place with organisations in which members of the Board of Trustees may have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Trust's financial regulations and normal procedures. Any transaction where the Trustee may have pecuniary interest in is only undertaken in accordance with the 'at cost' principle described in the Academies Financial Handbook.

The Trust does not have a formal sponsor.

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

Employees have been consulted on issues of concern to them by means of regular consultative committee and staff meetings and have been kept informed on specific matters directly by management. The Academy carries out exit interviews for all staff leaving the organisation and has adopted a procedure of upward feedback for senior management and the Trustees.

The Academy has implemented a number of detailed policies in relation to all aspects of personnel matters including:

- Equal opportunities policy
- Volunteers' policy
- Health & safety policy

In accordance with the Academy's equal opportunities policy, the Academy has long-established fair employment practices in the recruitment, selection, retention and training of disabled staff.

Full details of these policies are available from the Academy's offices.

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

Close working relationships with our suppliers and key stakeholders allow efficient services and best value for money for the Trust. Procurement panels are tailored wherever possible to ensure that the best suppliers are appointed that suits the Trust's needs. Once appointed, we aim to maintain strong contract management by having key personnel in the Trust responsible for monitoring specific suppliers and the services that they provide.

**k. Trade union facility time**

The Trust had no staff who were relevant union officials during the year.

**l. Risk Management**

The Trustees regularly undertake a comprehensive assessment of possible risks to the future of the Academy (Risk Register). The chief risks identified include issues relating to academic performance, child welfare and finances. The Academy has developed policies and procedures to mitigate these risks. Where significant financial risk still remains, the school has ensured adequate insurance cover. There are effective systems of internal financial control (explained in more detail in the Governance Statement). The Risk Register is regularly reviewed by the Trustees.

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

**Objectives and activities**

**a. Objects and aims**

The Academy Trust's objects ('the Objects') are specifically restricted to the following:

- 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 offering a broad and balanced curriculum; and
- to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the areas in which the Academies are situated the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants..

**b. Objectives, strategies and activities**

The principal object and aim for the Charitable Company is the operation of a number of Academies to provide free education and care for pupils of different abilities within its local community between the ages of 3 and 11.

The main objectives, strategies and activities for the year ended 31st August 2022 were:

- Continue to explore the third sector for additional funding sources through fundraising and grant applications
- Narrow the gap between all pupils and dis-advantaged pupils
- Continue with a thorough programme of COVID recovery for all pupils as we come through the pandemic
- Improve progress measures in all schools
- Continue to explore further partnerships with a view to growing the Trust.

**c. Public benefit**

The Trust provides educational opportunities to all children in the local area. The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance provided by the Charity Commission.



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

**Strategic report**

**Achievements and performance**

**a. Achievements**

Some specific achievements from the schools for the year:

**Friars Primary School:**

- Although 2021-22 was not without its COVID-related challenges, the continuing return to normality was a great relief for all stakeholders. The school's staff remained a stable group which supported our school improvement priorities. Significant development areas included English: most notably phonics and writing, parental engagement and getting the most out of the COVID Recovery and School-Led Tutoring funding
- Holding the Enhanced Healthy Schools accreditation and Emotional Health and Wellbeing status shows we think about the whole child and that we are a caring school for both children and adults. We continued our work around this as well as looking for curriculum enhancements to enrich the children's experiences even further. There was, once again, a full calendar of visits, visitors and other events. We hosted a huge range of parent events which was so important after the restrictions from March 2020.
- We saw a very full year of learning which led us to end of year statutory assessment once more. Overall, children across the school made lots of progress and we looked to carefully plug the learning gaps born out of school closures. We were pleased that our 2022 attainment was in line with national figures (Autumn 2022 IDSR).

**Hamstel Infant School**

- We strive for all to be lifelong learners equipped for the future by providing an excellent and inspirational education. Through our revised curriculum we provide wide ranging opportunities for pupils to reach their full potential within a welcoming, caring, safe, happy and supportive school. Pupils' health and wellbeing is a moral priority for us all at Hamstel, it is crucial to pupils' learning
- Our post-Covid recovery has been rapid and targeted resulting in good data outcomes, especially for EYFS, 81% as an average achieved (17.6% increase from previous) and Phonics Screening Check 85.1% achieving expected (4.1% above national)

**Hamstel Junior School:**

- The school was above the expected standard nationally in reading, writing and maths combined by 7%
- The school was above the expected standard nationally in reading, grammar and punctuation, maths and writing with 34% achieving greater depth in reading and 35% achieving greater depth in GPS.
- Out of 144 pupils in Year 4, 76% achieved at score of 20 or more in the national multiplication check.
- Pupils across the rest of the school finished the year with more children attaining at the expected standard or better: Year 3 achieving 75% in maths, Year 4 achieving 35% at greater depth in reading, and Year 5 41% achieving greater depth in Maths.
- The school has enhanced their curriculum for their pupils with increased facilities for the site: refurbished dining hall, whole class kitchen, whole class allotment and the outside gym.

**Porters Grange Primary School**

- The school has had a challenging year welcoming a record number of pupils through in year admissions, but we have successfully settled, inducted and quickly supported where needed.
- We have introduced the Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) project which has made a significant difference to the quality of the break and lunchtime provision. Our children are thoroughly enjoying playing in the mud kitchen, on Porters' Beach, dressing up and swinging in the hammocks. There are far less first aid incidents and the behaviour of all children has improved.
- This is the first year of using our revised curriculum which has seen many successes with teachers finding our learning sequences really helpful. Our subject leaders, especially those leading non-core subjects have become more effective, further embedding the curriculum developments through close monitoring and

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

**Strategic report (continued)**

**Achievements and performance (continued)**

feedback.

- The CPD programme we have provided staff this year has built on previous Portico conferences and work we started during COVID, further developing the understanding of the 'science of learning'. The impact of this has already been seen in our in year data in those classes where teachers have been early adopters.

West Leigh Junior School:

- West Leigh is relentless in its pursuit of an excellent education for all. During the last year when education returned to normal, full term business, West Leigh sought to deliver a full and varied curriculum, within the school day and in extra-curricular activities.
- In November 2021, Ofsted again recognised this drive for excellence and found the school to have maintained its outstanding provision, one of only 17% of schools which maintained their outstanding judgement.
- The Year 6 SATs results and the Year 4 tables results showed the children to be achieving well above expectation.

**b. Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the academy 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 Accounting Policies.

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

The Trust works towards its future strategic aims in close collaboration with Senior Management Teams within the Schools. There is a strong focus on Teaching and Learning within the Trust to enable the best education and wellbeing of the pupils within it, which is the ultimate ambition of the Trust.

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

**Strategic report (continued)**

**Achievements and performance (continued)**

**d. Key performance indicators**

The key performance indicators are used by Portico Academy Trust to monitor progress against the Schools Development Plan, whilst monitoring the net incoming and outgoing resources for the year, prior to any depreciation charge and other recognised gains and losses. Portico Academy Trust complies with all terms and conditions of its Funding Agreement.

The following KPI's were monitored by the Trust for the year ended 31st August 2022:

	2022	2021
GAG as a % of total operational income	72%	73%
Total Income per pupil	£6,107	£5,615
Total GAG per pupil	£4,417	£4,087
Staff costs as % of total expenditure	80%	81%

**Financial review**

**a. Overview and principal source of funding**

The principal source of funding for the Trust is the General Annual Grant (GAG) and other grants that are received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). For the year ended 31 August 2022 the Trust received £12,769,156 (2021: £12,554,184) of GAG and other funding, as well as £817,760 (2021: £430,631) of self-generated income. A high percentage of this income is spent on wages and salaries and support costs to deliver the Trust's primary objective of the provision of education.

During the year the Trust spent £666,710 and transferred £504,300 to support capital new build and improvement projects on the various academy sites. The Trust brought forward from 2020-21, £450,756 restricted funds and £2,635,318 unrestricted funds. No new academies joined in the year. The carry forward for 2021-22 is £369,632 restricted funds and £2,359,752 unrestricted funds.

Due to the accounting rules for the Local Government Pension Scheme under FRS102, the Trust is recognising a significant pension fund deficit of £1,442,000 (2021: £8,941,000). This does not mean that an immediate liability for this amount crystallises and such a deficit generally results in a cash flow effect in the form of increased employer contributions over a number of years. The deficit has been guaranteed by the Department of Education.

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

**b. Reserves policy**

The Trustees are aware of the requirement to balance current and future needs and always aim to set a balanced budget with annual income balancing annual expenditure. The Trustees monitor estimated year-end carry forward figures via the monthly reports from the Finance Director. The budget plan identifies how any carry forward will be allocated for the following academic year, including the identification of any funds earmarked for a specific project or purpose.

The Trust's current level of free reserves (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds) is £2,360,223. This has been built up from a mixture of locally raised income and balances transferred from the predecessor schools. It is the Trust's intention that reserves should never fall below six weeks of total salary costs.

During the year, the Trustees continued to allocate reserve funds towards a rolling program for Capital and IT investment, £150,000 and £50,000 respectively. This allows the Trust to begin to build up a contingency as well as allowing for a rolling programme to begin to ensure that all schools remain well-resourced and maintained.

The Trustees are holding unrestricted funds to cover future increases in costs and expenditure that may arise from uninsurable losses. The Trust plans to have a sufficient carry forward to assist in making strategic decisions to keep in line with national funding changes and curriculum needs.

The Trust's balance on restricted general funds (excluding pension reserve) plus the balance on unrestricted funds at 31 August 2022 was £369,635

The cash balance of the Trust has been healthy all year, ending the year with a balance of £3,812,954. A significant proportion of this cash is held against specific projects and is not available for meeting normal recurring expenditure. The Trustee's finance committee monitors cash flow as part of the Finance Director reports to ensure sufficient coverage of short term cash flow variances.

**c. Investment policy**

There are no investments held beyond cash deposits retained with the major UK banks. Speculative investments are not permitted.

For the year ended 31 August 2022, the charitable company's cash balances generated a return of £29 (2021: £273)

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

**d. Principal risks and uncertainties**

The Trust works to maintain a central risk register identifying the major risks, to which each Academy is exposed, and identifying controls and procedures to mitigate those risks. This register is approved and monitored by the Board of Trustees with a formal review of the process undertaken on an annual basis. The internal audit control systems and the exposure to identified risks were monitored by an internal audit report commissioned by the Trustees. The principal risks facing the Trust are outlined below; those facing the Academies at an operational level are addressed by their systems and by internal financial and other controls.

The Trustees report that the Trust's financial and internal controls conform to guidelines issued by the ESFA, and that improvements to the wider framework of systems dealing with business risk and risk management strategy continue to be made and formally documented.

It is recognised that systems can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks have been adequately managed.

As a group of Academy schools, the level of financial risk is low. Cash flows can be reliably forecast, monitored and reported. Staff costs make up the majority of expenditure and are relatively stable with contingencies in place to cover such items as sickness and maternity.

The Trustees assess the other principal risks and uncertainties facing the Trust as follows:

- Each Academy within the Trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA and there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms.
- Failures in governance and/or management – the risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the Trust's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns, etc. The Trustees continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks.
- Reputational – the continuing success of the individual Academies is dependent on continuing to attract applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk Trustees ensure that student progress and outcomes are closely monitored and reviewed.
- Safeguarding and child protection – the Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety and discipline.
- Staffing – the success of the Academies is reliant on the quality of its staff and the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures and recruitment to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning
- Fraud and mismanagement of funds – The Trust appointed Price Bailey Chartered Accountants to carry out independent and external checks on financial systems and records as required by the Academy Financial handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep up to date with financial practise requirements and develop their skills in this area.
- Financial instruments – the Trust only deals with bank balances, cash and trade creditors, with limited trade (and other) debtors. The risk in this area is considered to be low.
- Defined benefit pension liability – as the Government has agreed to meet the defined benefit pension liability of any Academy ceasing to exist the main risk to the Trust is an annual cash flow funding of part of the deficit - Trustees take these payments into account when setting the annual budget plan

The Trust and each Academy have continued to strengthen the risk management process throughout the year by improving the process and ensuring staff awareness..

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

**Fundraising**

Financing of equipment and services from funds outside the Trust's normal revenue budgets is becoming increasingly important in maintaining the quality of education for our students.

Currently the majority of the additional income from fundraising comes from voluntary donations, through Parents' Associations and other parental contributions for Trips and Clubs, and a small level of Grant fundraising. This has largely returned to pre pandemic levels of income.

Fundraising is seen by the Trust as a legitimate means of improving our ability to purchase goods, equipment or services, which are not available within capital or revenue budgets. For the public, donating cash or equipment, or actively raising funds is seen as a positive way of supporting schools within the Trust.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for ensuring that:

1. Correct procedures are in place and followed for fundraising procedures
2. Expenditure is properly validated
3. All funds raised are properly accounted for and audited
4. The money is expended in accordance with the objectives agreed with the fundraisers

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

**Streamlined energy and carbon reporting**

The Academy's greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption are as follows:

	2022	2021
<b>Energy consumption breakdown (kWh):</b>		
Gas	2,876,439	2,658,885
Electricity	1,912,780	1,965,622
<b>Scope 1 emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent):</b>		
Gas consumption	1,299	1,236
<b>Total scope 1</b>	<u>1,299</u>	<u>1,236</u>
<b>Scope 2 emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent):</b>		
Purchased electricity	837	802
<b>Total gross emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent):</b>	<u>2,136</u>	<u>2,038</u>
<b>Intensity ratio:</b>		
Tonnes of CO2 equivalent per pupil	<u>0.87</u>	<u>0.81</u>

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

**Streamlined energy and carbon reporting (continued)**

**Quantification and Reporting Methodology**

The Academy has followed and used the following quantification and reporting methodologies:

- the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines;
- the GHG Reporting Protocol - Corporate Standard; and
- the 2022 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

**Intensity Measurement**

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is gross total emissions in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

**Measures taken to improve energy efficiency**

The Trust started a rolling programme of lighting replacement across the Trust, starting with Hamstel Infants School to increase energy efficiency as much as possible.

The Trust was also successful in a bid to replace the heating distribution system at Hamstel Infant school.

**Plans for future periods**

The Trustee's priorities for the next year are

- continue to explore the third sector for additional funding sources through fundraising and grant applications;
- narrow the gap between all pupils and dis-advantaged pupils;
- improve progress measures in all schools;
- continue to explore further partnerships with a view to growing the Trust.

**Disclosure of information to auditors**

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.

**Auditors**

The auditors, MWS, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 13 December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

*Robert Hellen*

.....  
**Robert Hellen**  
Chair of Trustees

*Cheryl Woolf - Accounting Officer*

.....  
**Cheryl Woolf**  
Accounting Officer



**PORTICO ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**Scope of responsibility**

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Portico 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 Portico 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.

**PORTICO ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**Governance**

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees Report and in the statement of trustees responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 6 times during the year.

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Katherine Baynes, Trustee	5	6
Robert Hellen, Chair of Trustees	4	6
Graham Lane, Trustee	6	6
Cheryl Woolf, Accounting Officer	6	6
Michelle Butler, Trustee	3	3
Alan Murkin, Trustee	3	6
Frances Gretton, Trustee	6	6
Heather Oram, Trustee	1	2
David Struthers, Trustee	2	3
Ronald Wright, Trustee	5	6
Ros Sanders, Trustee	6	6
Karen Packer, Trustee	6	6
Claire Smith, Trustee	6	6
Sue Hay, Trustee	6	6
Nicole Ramsay, Trustee	2	3
Tammy McCarthy, Trustee	1	3

Trustees are required to complete and submit business interests to the Trust to ensure all potential conflicts of interest are mitigated against and safeguarding is put in place. There are no areas of concern with the current Trust board

During the year the Trust board completed a self-assessment on the skill set of the Trust board in order to identify any areas of weaknesses. As a result the Trust actively sought new Trustees specifically with a financial background in order to strengthen this area of the board.

The finance committee is a sub-committee of the main board of Trustees. Its purpose is to assist the board of Trustees in fulfilling its responsibilities with respect to the monitoring and oversight of the financial health of the Trust. Attendance at the meetings in the year was as follows:

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Graham Lane	6	6
Cheryl Woolf	6	6
Claire Smith	6	6
Michelle Butler	2	2
Tammy McCarthy	2	2
Heather Oram	2	2

The risk committee is a sub-committee of the main board of Trustees. Its purpose is to assist the board of Trustees in fulfilling its responsibilities with monitoring and mitigating the main risks facing the Trust. Attendance at the meetings in the year was as follows:

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Cheryl Woolf	5	5
Ros Sanders	4	5
Ron Wright	5	5
Claire Smith	5	5

**PORTICO ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**Governance (continued)**

Nicole Ramsey

1

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**Review of value for money**

As accounting officer, the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy 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 considered 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 of money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

**Educational outcome**

Educational standards in the academies within the Trust continue to improve. Strong use of data has enabled targeted improvement to specific curriculum areas and individual pupils.

**Finance governance and oversight**

The Trustees, Accounting Officer and Executive Team maintain a strong oversight of the finance system within the academies. All purchase orders and payments are reviewed prior to authorisation so that budget holders can be challenged on the effectiveness of their spending proposals and that they are in line with budget plans previously submitted. Trustees receive regular management accounts which are discussed and challenged at the Finance Committee meetings.

The Trust changed Finance management system during the year, allowing greater scrutiny and visibility of the financial health of the Trust, as well as the ability to implement financial controls in a much tighter fashion.

**Better purchasing**

Centralisation of much of the Trust budget has allowed us to exercise significant economies of scale across the Trust. We also continue to exercise a stronger buying power over suppliers to secure Trust wide discounts to ensure value for money. We will continue to seek central procurement where possible to ensure best value of services for the Trust.

**Reviewing controls and managing risks**

The Trust has submitted a deficit budget and three year forecast. This is primarily due to rising costs against static income, as well as the impact of a programme of drop in classes within the Trust. Current predictions suggest that reserves should be able to absorb these deficits currently, but strategies are being worked through and implemented to ensure that these level of deficits are not realised. We also have a long term asset replacement plans and a building maintenance programme which is continually developed. These will be regularly reviewed by Trustees to ensure the long term viability of the Trust and its objectives.

Regular reports are provided to budget holders, while detailed management accounts are provided to Trustees to assist in ensuring effective use of resources and minimising waste.

Assets are used effectively to generate additional income, such as hire of premises and movement of surplus funds to interest paying accounts.

The Trust has a risk register in place which is reviewed termly during the Audit and Risk committee meetings to ensure risks are mitigated effectively.

**PORTICO ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

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

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy 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 Portico Academy Trust for the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

**Capacity to handle risk**

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

**The risk and control framework**

The 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;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties
- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the Trustees have engaged Price Bailey to perform a comprehensive internal control review during the year at all Academies

The appointee's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's internal control systems.

On an annual basis, the reviewer reports to the Board of Trustees through the the Audit 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 an annual summary report.

For the year ended August 2022, the Audit and Risk committee agreed to review Cyber security internal controls within the Trust. This audit was completed by Price Bailey and reported back to the Trust.

**PORTICO ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**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 reviewer;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the work of the executive 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 the Audit and Risk committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 13 December 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

*Robert Hellen*

.....  
**Robert Hellen**  
Chair of Trustees

*Cheryl Woolf - Accounting Officer*

.....  
**Cheryl Woolf**  
Accounting Officer

**PORTICO ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

As Accounting Officer of Portico Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy board of Trustees and the Education & 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 Academies Financial 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 Academies Financial 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.

*Cheryl Woolf - Accounting Officer*

.....  
**Cheryl Woolf**  
Accounting Officer  
Date:

**PORTICO 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 13 December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

*Robert Hellen*

.....  
**Robert Hellen**  
Chair of Trustees

**PORTICO ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Portico 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.



**PORTICO ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF  
PORTICO 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.

**PORTICO ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF  
PORTICO 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 obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the Company and the industry in which it operates. We determined that the following laws and regulations were most significant: the Companies Act 2006, Safeguarding (including statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education), employment law and public sector pay and conditions. We enquired of management to obtain an understanding of how the Academy Trust is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks and whether they had any knowledge of actual or suspected fraud. We corroborated the results of our enquiries through our review of the board minutes for the year. We did not identify any matters relating to material non compliance with laws and regulation or matters in relation to fraud; as non-material breaches would not normally be communicated within this report.

We obtained an understanding of how the Company is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making inquiries of management and those responsible for legal and compliance procedures.

In assessing the potential risks of material misstatement, we obtained an understanding of the Company's operations, including its objectives and strategies to understand the expected financial statement disclosures and business risks that may result in risks of material misstatement.

In assessing the appropriateness of the collective competence and capabilities of the engagement team, the engagement partner considered the engagement team's:

- understanding of, and practical experience with, audit engagements of a similar nature and complexity through;
- appropriate training and participation;
- the specialist skills required; and
- knowledge of the industry in which the client operates.

We assessed the susceptibility of the Company's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- assessing the design effectiveness of controls management has in place to prevent and detect fraud;
- challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in its significant accounting estimates;
- identifying and testing journal entries, in particular manual journal entries made at year end for financial statement preparation; and
- assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement item.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance.

**PORTICO ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities 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.

**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.

*Jonathan Gorridge*

**Jonathan Gorridge FCA (senior statutory auditor)**

for and on behalf of

**MWS**

Chartered Accountants

Registered Auditors

Kingsridge House

601 London Road

Westcliff-On-Sea

Essex

SS0 9PE

Date: 16 December 2022

**PORTICO ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated November 2018 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 Portico 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 Portico Academy Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Portico 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 Portico Academy Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

**Respective responsibilities of Portico Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Portico Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 24 March 2016 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:

- assessing the risk of material irregularity in the Academy Trust;
- commissioning a self-assessment review of the Trustees' governance arrangements and consideration of any material non-compliance with the Academies Trust Handbook;
- investigating any areas of significant risk identified;
- consideration of the work performed under our audit engagement and any impact this may have on our regularity conclusion or regularity risk assessment;
- a review of the internal controls and internal audit procedures for areas of significant risk and performing further substantive testing where necessary.

**PORTICO ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO PORTICO  
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.

*MWS*

Reporting Accountant  
**MWS**  
Chartered Accountants

Kingsridge House  
601 London Road  
Westcliff-On-Sea  
Essex  
SS0 9PE

16 December 2022

Date:

**PORTICO ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
<b>Income from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	264,065	-	654,153	918,218	458,303
Other trading activities	5	552,916	-	-	552,916	249,537
Investments	6	336	-	-	336	273
Charitable activities		-	12,769,156	-	12,769,156	12,554,184
<b>Total income</b>		<b>817,317</b>	<b>12,769,156</b>	<b>654,153</b>	<b>14,240,626</b>	<b>13,262,297</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities	7,8	-	14,483,864	644,928	15,128,792	13,759,369
Other expenditure	9	-	-	-	-	2,156
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>14,483,864</b>	<b>644,928</b>	<b>15,128,792</b>	<b>13,761,525</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>817,317</b>	<b>(1,714,708)</b>	<b>9,225</b>	<b>(888,166)</b>	<b>(499,228)</b>
Transfers between funds	19	(1,092,883)	588,583	504,300	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)</b>		<b>(275,566)</b>	<b>(1,126,125)</b>	<b>513,525</b>	<b>(888,166)</b>	<b>(499,228)</b>
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	27	-	8,544,000	-	8,544,000	(505,000)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(275,566)</b>	<b>7,417,875</b>	<b>513,525</b>	<b>7,655,834</b>	<b>(1,004,228)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		2,635,318	(8,490,243)	21,454,752	15,599,827	16,604,055
Net movement in funds		(275,566)	7,417,875	513,525	7,655,834	(1,004,228)
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>2,359,752</b>	<b>(1,072,368)</b>	<b>21,968,277</b>	<b>23,255,661</b>	<b>15,599,827</b>

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

The notes on pages 31 to 60 form part of these financial statements.

**PORTICO ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 09952066**

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

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	16	21,466,343	21,444,560
		<u>21,466,343</u>	<u>21,444,560</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	17	900,128	565,430
Cash at bank and in hand	24	3,812,954	3,746,753
		<u>4,713,082</u>	<u>4,312,183</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(1,481,764)	(1,215,916)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>3,231,318</u>	<u>3,096,267</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>24,697,661</u>	<u>24,540,827</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>		<u>24,697,661</u>	<u>24,540,827</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	27	(1,442,000)	(8,941,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u><u>23,255,661</u></u>	<u><u>15,599,827</u></u>
<b>Funds of the Academy</b>			
<b>Restricted funds:</b>			
Fixed asset funds	19	21,968,277	21,454,752
Restricted income funds	19	369,632	450,757
		<u>22,337,909</u>	<u>21,905,509</u>
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	19	22,337,909	21,905,509
Pension reserve	19	(1,442,000)	(8,941,000)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	19	<u>20,895,909</u>	<u>12,964,509</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	19	<u>2,359,752</u>	<u>2,635,318</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><u>23,255,661</u></u>	<u><u>15,599,827</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 28 to 60 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 13 December 2022 and are signed on their behalf, by:

*Robert Hellen*

Robert Hellen  
Chair of Trustees

*Cheryl Woolf - Accounting Officer*

Cheryl Woolf  
Accounting Officer

The notes on pages 31 to 60 form part of these financial statements.

**PORTICO 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	22	446,125	271,420
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	23	(379,924)	(361,154)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	25	66,201	(89,734)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		3,746,753	3,836,487
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	24, 25	<u>3,812,954</u>	<u>3,746,753</u>

The notes on pages 31 to 60 form part of these financial statements



**PORTICO ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**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.

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

**1.2 Going concern**

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate 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.

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

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**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.

- **Grants**

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

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

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

- **Donations**

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

- **Other income**

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

**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.

- **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.

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

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.5 Taxation**

The Academy is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

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

**1.6 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 bases:

Long-term leasehold property	- Straight line 50 years for buildings, land is depreciated over the life of the lease.
Fixtures and fittings	- Straight line 5 years
Plant and machinery	- Straight line 5 years
Computer equipment	- Straight line 3 years

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

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

**1.7 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.

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**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 17. 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 18. 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 Operating leases**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

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

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.12 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.

**1.13 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.

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

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.

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 27, 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**

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
<b>Donations</b>				
DFE Donated assets	-	-	-	99,798
Donations	264,065	-	264,065	81,296
Government grants	-	654,153	654,153	277,209
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u>264,065</u>	<u>654,153</u>	<u>918,218</u>	<u>358,505</u>
	<u>264,065</u>	<u>654,153</u>	<u>918,218</u>	<u>458,303</u>
<b>Total 2021</b>	<u>81,296</u>	<u>377,007</u>	<u>458,303</u>	

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

	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
<b>Educational Operations</b>			
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	10,299,864	10,299,864	9,653,099
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
Other DfE/ESFA grants	523,520	523,520	607,880
Local authority grants	735,456	735,456	793,218
Universal infant free school meals	179,607	179,607	314,474
Pupil premium	1,030,709	1,030,709	998,345
	-	12,769,156	12,367,016
<b>Other Government grants</b>			
Other	-	-	2,928
	-	-	2,928
<b>COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)</b>			
Catch-up Premium	-	-	184,240
	-	-	184,240
	12,769,156	12,769,156	12,554,184
	12,769,156	12,769,156	12,554,184
<b>Total 2021</b>	12,554,184	12,554,184	

The Trust had £99,573 of covid catch up premium brought forward from the year ending 31st August 2021. This has been spent during the year.

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

**5. Income from other trading activities**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Hire of facilities	191,766	<b>191,766</b>	47,045
Catering income	172,549	<b>172,549</b>	125,623
Services provided	160,945	<b>160,945</b>	64,058
School sales	27,656	<b>27,656</b>	5,738
Fundraising	-	-	7,073
	<u>552,916</u>	<u><b>552,916</b></u>	<u>249,537</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>249,537</u>	<u>249,537</u>	

**6. Investment income**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Interest receivable	336	<b>336</b>	273
	<u>273</u>	<u><b>273</b></u>	
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>273</u>	<u>273</u>	



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

**7. Expenditure**

	<b>Staff Costs 2022 £</b>	<b>Premises 2022 £</b>	<b>Other 2022 £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>	<b>Total 2021 £</b>
Educational Operations:					
Direct costs	8,760,419	64,300	562,663	<b>9,387,382</b>	8,770,015
Allocated support costs	3,305,102	1,378,322	1,057,986	<b>5,741,410</b>	4,989,355
Other expenditure	-	-	-	-	2,156
	<u>12,065,521</u>	<u>1,442,622</u>	<u>1,620,649</u>	<u><b>15,128,792</b></u>	<u>13,761,526</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>11,127,649</u>	<u>1,292,428</u>	<u>1,341,449</u>	<u>13,761,526</u>	

**8. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities**

**Summary by fund type**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>	<b>Total 2021 £</b>
Educational Operations	-	15,128,792	<b>15,128,792</b>	13,759,369
	<u>-</u>	<u>15,128,792</u>	<u><b>15,128,792</b></u>	<u>13,759,369</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>11,575</u>	<u>13,747,794</u>	<u>13,759,369</u>	

**9. Other expenditure**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2021 £</b>
Other resources expended 1	-	-	2,156
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,156</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>2,156</u>	<u>2,156</u>	

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**10. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £	Support costs 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Educational Operations	9,387,382	5,741,410	15,128,792	13,759,370
<i>Total 2021</i>	<i>8,770,015</i>	<i>4,989,355</i>	<i>13,759,370</i>	

**Analysis of direct costs**

	Educational Operations 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Staff costs	8,760,419	8,760,419	8,473,816
Technology costs	82,047	82,047	69,942
Educational supplies	443,846	443,846	159,066
Staff development	18,483	18,483	17,265
Educational consultancy	82,587	82,587	35,001
Other direct costs	-	-	14,925
	9,387,382	9,387,382	8,770,015
<i>Total 2021</i>	<i>8,770,015</i>	<i>8,770,015</i>	

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**10. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of support costs**

	Educational Operations 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Net pension finance charge	142,000	142,000	120,000
Staff costs	3,305,103	3,305,103	2,653,833
Depreciation	644,928	644,928	616,316
Technology costs	1,102	1,102	2,593
Maintenance of premises	144,133	144,133	232,546
Cleaning	336,723	336,723	334,077
Rent and rates	74,209	74,209	78,580
Energy costs	176,164	176,164	149,827
Insurance	44,973	44,973	42,858
Security and transport	9,784	9,784	6,251
Catering	537,041	537,041	489,811
Bank interest and charges	1,541	1,541	3,316
Indirect staff costs	4,684	4,684	32
Legal and professional fees	191,026	191,026	196,971
Other support costs	127,999	127,999	62,344
	<u>5,741,410</u>	<u>5,741,410</u>	<u>4,989,355</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>4,989,355</u>	<u>4,989,355</u>	

During the year ended 31 August 2022, the Academy Trust incurred the following governance costs:

£19,630 (2021: £19,600)

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

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2022 £	2021 £
Operating lease rentals	2,052	4,554
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	644,928	616,316
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	14,144	13,600
- other services	3,536	3,400
	<u>172,660</u>	<u>171,870</u>

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**12. Staff**

**a. Staff costs**

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2022 £	- 2021 £
Wages and salaries	8,374,151	8,086,063
Social security costs	758,680	707,456
Pension costs	2,738,200	2,277,046
	<u>11,871,031</u>	<u>11,070,565</u>
Agency staff costs	174,490	57,084
Staff restructuring costs	20,000	-
	<u><u>12,065,521</u></u>	<u><u>11,127,649</u></u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	2022 £	2021 £
Severance payments	20,000	-
	<u><u>20,000</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

**b. Severance payments**

The Academy paid 1 severance payments in the year (2021 - -), disclosed in the following bands:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
£0 - £25,000	<u><u>1</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

**c. Special staff severance payments**

During the year a payment of £20,000 was made to one employee

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

**d. Staff numbers**

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

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Teachers	<b>149</b>	<b>150</b>
Administration and educational support (including part time)	<b>199</b>	<b>200</b>
Management	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>355</b>	<b>357</b>

**e. Higher paid staff**

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

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

**f. 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 employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy was £809,134 (2021 - £772,269).

**13. Central Services**

Starting in September 2020, the Trust centralised the main budget through GAG pooling, to allow for cost savings and efficiencies to be made. As a result there is no top slice charge per central services. Each school has autonomy over the curriculum spend, as well as restricted pots such as Pupil Premium. Arising from this reserves have been pooled to one main Portico fund.

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

- Leadership staff
- Administration supplies
- Legal and professional fees
- Central support staff

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**14. Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

One Trustee has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Academy. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Cheryl Woolf, Accounting Officer	Remuneration	<b>95,000 -</b>	<b>95,000 -</b>
		<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>
	Pension contributions paid	<b>20,000 -</b>	<b>20,000 -</b>
		<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>

During the year, retirement benefits were accruing to 1 Trustee (2021 - 1) in respect of defined benefit pension schemes.

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

**15. Trustees' and Officers' insurance**

The Academy has opted into the Department of 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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**16. Tangible fixed assets**

	Long-term leasehold property £	Assets under construction £	Furniture and equipment £	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>						
At 1 September 2021	23,173,228	-	423,696	18,911	684,437	24,300,272
Additions	305,752	105,270	184,412	-	71,276	666,710
At 31 August 2022	23,478,980	105,270	608,108	18,911	755,713	24,966,982
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At 1 September 2021	2,069,792	-	295,586	13,873	476,460	2,855,711
Charge for the year	463,075	-	55,590	3,101	123,163	644,929
At 31 August 2022	2,532,867	-	351,176	16,974	599,623	3,500,640
<b>Net book value</b>						
At 31 August 2022	20,946,113	105,270	256,932	1,937	156,090	21,466,342
At 31 August 2021	21,103,436	-	128,110	5,037	207,977	21,444,560

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**17. Debtors**

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Trade debtors	9,210	-
VAT repayable	96,757	305,015
Prepayments and accrued income	794,161	260,415
	<u>900,128</u>	<u>565,430</u>

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

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	-	1,091
Other taxation and social security	6,720	6,820
Other creditors	945,608	885,250
Accruals and deferred income	529,436	322,755
	<u>1,481,764</u>	<u>1,215,916</u>

	2022 £	2021 £
Deferred income at 1 September 2021	119,692	124,101
Resources deferred during the year	106,577	119,692
Amounts released from previous periods	(119,692)	(124,101)
	<u>106,577</u>	<u>119,692</u>

Deferred income includes amounts received as follows:

Universal Infant Free School Meals received in advance of entitlement £106,577 (2021: £119,692)



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**19. Statement of funds**

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
<b>Designated funds</b>						
Capital designated funds	150,000	-	-	-	-	150,000
IT designated funds	50,000	-	-	-	-	50,000
	<u>200,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>200,000</u>
<b>General funds</b>						
General Funds	2,435,318	817,317	-	(1,092,883)	-	2,159,752
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<u>2,635,318</u>	<u>817,317</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,092,883)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,359,752</u>
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	216,319	10,299,864	(10,275,496)	(73,417)	-	167,270
Other DfE/ESFA grants	52,439	703,128	(667,415)	-	-	88,152
Local Authority grants	-	735,455	(735,455)	-	-	-
Pupil Premium	82,426	1,030,709	(998,925)	-	-	114,210
Covid catch up	99,573	-	(99,573)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(8,941,000)	-	(1,707,000)	662,000	8,544,000	(1,442,000)
	<u>(8,490,243)</u>	<u>12,769,156</u>	<u>(14,483,864)</u>	<u>588,583</u>	<u>8,544,000</u>	<u>(1,072,368)</u>

**Restricted fixed  
asset funds**

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Assets inherited on conversion	16,894,133	-	(369,253)	-	-	16,524,880
DfE/ESFA grants	10,343	-	-	-	-	10,343
Assets purchased from grants and other funds	4,469,739	654,153	(242,409)	504,300	-	5,385,783
DFE donated assets	80,537	-	(33,266)	-	-	47,271
	<u>21,454,752</u>	<u>654,153</u>	<u>(644,928)</u>	<u>504,300</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,968,277</u>
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	<u>12,964,509</u>	<u>13,423,309</u>	<u>(15,128,792)</u>	<u>1,092,883</u>	<u>8,544,000</u>	<u>20,895,909</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>15,599,827</u>	<u>14,240,626</u>	<u>(15,128,792)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,544,000</u>	<u>23,255,661</u>

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

**Restricted general funds**

These funds relate to the Academy's development and operational activities.

**Restricted pension funds**

These funds represent the LGPS obligation to the employees of the Academy Trust.

**Restricted fixed asset fund**

These funds relate to long term assets held by the Academy Trust and grants to purchase or maintain these assets.

**Unrestricted funds**

These funds relate to amounts generated or acquired with no restricted covenants attached to them other than for use within the charitable objects of the Academy.

**Designated funds**

These funds have been set up to set aside unrestricted funds designated by the trustees for specific projects.

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.

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

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>						
<b>Designated funds</b>						
Capital designated funds	-	-	-	150,000	-	150,000
IT designated funds	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000
	-	-	-	200,000	-	200,000
<b>General funds</b>						
General Funds	2,317,943	331,106	(13,731)	(200,000)	-	2,435,318
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	2,317,943	331,106	(13,731)	-	-	2,635,318
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
Central funds	197,171	-	(197,171)	-	-	-
General Annual Grant (GAG)	316,391	9,653,099	(9,469,248)	(283,923)	-	216,319
Other DfE/ESFA grants	161,412	1,920,699	(1,947,246)	-	-	134,865
Local Authority grants	-	793,218	(793,218)	-	-	-
Covid catch up	-	184,240	(84,667)	-	-	99,573
Other non gov	-	2,928	(2,928)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(7,799,000)	-	(637,000)	-	(505,000)	(8,941,000)
	(7,124,026)	12,554,184	(13,131,478)	(283,923)	(505,000)	(8,490,243)
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Assets inherited on conversion	17,276,626	-	(382,493)	-	-	16,894,133

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

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
DfE/ESFA grants	312,505	-	-	(302,162)	-	10,343
Assets purchased from grants and other funds	3,821,006	277,209	(214,561)	586,085	-	4,469,739
DFE donated assets	-	99,798	(19,261)	-	-	80,537
	<u>21,410,137</u>	<u>377,007</u>	<u>(616,315)</u>	<u>283,923</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,454,752</u>
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	<u>14,286,111</u>	<u>12,931,191</u>	<u>(13,747,793)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(505,000)</u>	<u>12,964,509</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>16,604,054</u>	<u>13,262,297</u>	<u>(13,761,524)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(505,000)</u>	<u>15,599,827</u>

**Total funds analysis by academy**

Fund balances at 31 August 2022 were allocated as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
West Leigh Junior School	69,170	33,055
Porters Grange Primary School and Nursery	38,465	66,030
Hamstel Infant School and Nursery	64,666	50,850
Hamstel Junior School	87,925	98,752
Friars Primary School and Nursery	70,374	37,867
Central funds	<u>2,398,784</u>	<u>2,799,521</u>
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	<u>2,729,384</u>	<u>3,086,075</u>
Restricted fixed asset fund	<u>21,968,277</u>	<u>21,454,752</u>
Pension reserve	<u>(1,442,000)</u>	<u>(8,941,000)</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>23,255,661</u>	<u>15,599,827</u>

Starting in September 2020, the Trust centralised the main budget through GAG pooling, to allow for cost savings and efficiencies to be made. Each school has autonomy over the curriculum spend, as well as restricted pots such as Pupil Premium. As a result, reserves have been pooled to one main Portico fund.

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

**Total cost analysis by academy**

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
West Leigh Junior School	31,637	29,822	106,079	50,434	<b>217,972</b>	58,394
Porters Grange Primary School and Nursery	12,712	29,853	68,381	13,685	<b>124,631</b>	41,454
Hamstel Infant School and Nursery	65,785	3,941	38,179	16,622	<b>124,527</b>	70,345
Hamstel Junior School	130,575	26,493	130,898	59,475	<b>347,441</b>	135,161
Friars Primary School and Nursery	21,896	4,112	66,611	15,829	<b>108,448</b>	51,663
Central funds	8,497,814	3,210,882	197,274	1,654,875	<b>13,560,845</b>	12,788,193
<b>Academy</b>	<b>8,760,419</b>	<b>3,305,103</b>	<b>607,422</b>	<b>1,810,920</b>	<b>14,483,864</b>	<b>13,145,210</b>

Starting in September 2020, the Trust centralised the main budget through GAG pooling, to allow for cost savings and efficiencies to be made. Each school has autonomy over the curriculum spend, as well as restricted pots such as Pupil Premium. Arising from this reserves have been pooled to one main Portico fund.

**20. Transfers between funds**

£504,300 has been transferred from unrestricted funds to restricted fixed asset funds representing fixed assets purchased using unrestricted funds.

£662,000 has been transferred from restricted funds to the pension fund within restricted funds representing employers contribution to the LGPS.

£588,583 has been transferred from unrestricted funds to restricted funds representing direct and support costs purchased using unrestricted funds.

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**21. 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	-	-	21,466,343	21,466,343
Current assets	2,359,752	1,851,396	501,934	4,713,082
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,481,764)	-	(1,481,764)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(1,442,000)	-	(1,442,000)
<b>Total</b>	<u>2,359,752</u>	<u>(1,072,368)</u>	<u>21,968,277</u>	<u>23,255,661</u>

**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	-	-	21,444,560	21,444,560
Current assets	2,635,320	1,666,672	10,191	4,312,183
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,215,916)	-	(1,215,916)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(8,941,000)	-	(8,941,000)
<b>Total</b>	<u>2,635,320</u>	<u>(8,490,244)</u>	<u>21,454,751</u>	<u>15,599,827</u>

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

	2022 £	2021 £
Net expenditure for the year (as per statement of financial activities)	(888,166)	(499,228)
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation	644,928	616,316
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(136,679)	(602,410)
Interest receivable	(29)	(273)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	903,000	517,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	142,000	120,000
Decrease/(increase) in debtors excluding capital	182,774	(280,448)
(Increase) in capital debtors	(517,474)	225,402
Increase in creditors excluding capital	115,771	175,061
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>446,125</b>	<b>271,420</b>

**23. Cash flows from investing activities**

	2022 £	2021 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	29	273
Payments for fixed asset purchases	(516,633)	(864,039)
Capital grants from DfE Group	136,680	502,612
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(379,924)</b>	<b>(361,154)</b>

**24. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash in hand and at bank	3,812,954	3,746,753
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>3,812,954</b>	<b>3,746,753</b>

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**25. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	At 1 September 2021 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	3,746,753	66,201	3,812,954
	<u>3,746,753</u>	<u>66,201</u>	<u>3,812,954</u>

**26. Capital commitments**

At 31 August 2022 the Academy Trust had capital commitments as follows

	2022 £	2021 £
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements	<u>600,050</u>	<u>24,530</u>

**27. Pension commitments**

The Academy's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for teaching and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Essex Pension Fund. 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 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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**27. 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 2023.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,132,304 (2021 - £1,083,420).

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 £817,000 (2021 - £792,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £662,000 (2021 - £641,000) and employees' contributions totalled £155,000 (2021 - £151,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 25.0 per cent for employers and 5.5 per cent to 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.

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**27. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Principal actuarial assumptions**

Local Government Pension Scheme

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.95	3.90
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.95	2.90
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.25	1.65
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.95	2.90
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	50	50
Inflation assumption (RPI)	3.25	3.20

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

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.0	21.6
Females	23.5	23.6
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.3	22.9
Females	24.9	25.1

**Sensitivity analysis**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	£000	£000
Discount rate +0.1%	10,017	16,695
Discount rate -0.1%	10,522	17,558
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	10,559	17,798
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	9,982	16,470
Salary increase +0.1%	10,289	17,166
Salary increase -0.1%	10,243	17,077

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**27. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Share of scheme assets**

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

	At 31 August 2022 £	At 31 August 2021 £
Equities	4,964,000	5,236,000
Gilts	170,000	206,000
Corporate bonds	391,000	380,000
Property	835,000	571,000
Cash and other liquid assets	264,000	228,000
Alternative assets and other managed funds	2,200,000	1,559,000
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>8,824,000</b>	<b>8,180,000</b>

The actual return on scheme assets was £22,000 (2021 - £1,475,000).

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

	2022 £	2021 £
Current service cost	(1,561,000)	(1,270,000)
Settlement gains	-	116,000
Interest income	140,000	103,000
Interest cost	(282,000)	(223,000)
Administrative expenses	(4,000)	(4,000)
<b>Total amount recognised in the Statement of financial activities</b>	<b>(1,707,000)</b>	<b>(1,278,000)</b>

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

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>17,121,000</b>	<b>13,939,000</b>
Current service cost	1,561,000	1,270,000
Interest cost	282,000	223,000
Employee contributions	155,000	151,000
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(8,662,000)	1,877,000
Benefits paid	(191,000)	(119,000)
Effects of non-routine settlements	-	(220,000)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>10,266,000</b>	<b>17,121,000</b>

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**27. Pension commitments (continued)**

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

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>8,180,000</b>	<b>6,140,000</b>
Interest income	140,000	103,000
Actuarial (losses)/gains	(118,000)	1,372,000
Employer contributions	662,000	641,000
Employee contributions	155,000	151,000
Benefits paid	(191,000)	(119,000)
Effects of non-routine settlements	-	(104,000)
Administrative expenses	(4,000)	(4,000)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>8,824,000</b>	<b>8,180,000</b>

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**27. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Impact of the McCloud/Sargeant judgement on the Local Government Pension Scheme**

An allowance was made in 2019 for the Court of Appeal judgement in relation to the McCloud & Sargeant cases which relate to age discrimination within the Judicial & Fire Pension schemes respectively. On 27 June 2019 the Supreme Court denied the Government's request for an appeal, and on 15 July 2019 the Government released a statement to confirm that it expects to have to amend all public service schemes, including the LGPS.

The estimated impact on the total liabilities at 31 August 2019 was allowed for as a past service cost and has resulted in a slight increase in the defined benefit obligation as at 31 August 2022.

This adjustment is an estimate of the potential impact on the Trust's defined benefit obligation as provided by the scheme's actuary.

On 13 May 2021, the Government issued a ministerial statement on the proposed remedy to be applied to LGPS benefits in response to the McCloud and Sargeant cases. It is not anticipated that there are any material differences between the approach underlying the estimated allowance in 2019 and the proposed remedy.

**Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) Equalisation**

As a result of the High Court's Lloyds ruling on the equalisation of GMPs between genders, it is anticipated that the Fund will pay limited increases for members that have reached State Pension Age (SPA) by 6 April 2016, with the Government providing the remainder of the inflationary increase.

For members that reach SPA after this date, it has been assumed in the valuation that the Fund will be required to pay the entire inflationary increase. It is not therefore necessary to make any adjustments to the value placed on the liabilities as a result of the above outcome.

**Goodwin case**

Following a case involving the Teachers' Pension scheme, known as the Goodwin case, differences between survivor benefits payable to members with same-sex or opposite-sex survivors have been identified within a number of public sector pension schemes. As a result, the Government have confirmed that a remedy is required in all affected public sector pension schemes, which includes the LGPS.

It is anticipated that the impact on the value of LGPS liabilities as a whole, and for the majority of employers participating in the LGPS, will not be material. However, the impact on individual employers will vary depending on their specific membership profile.

Sufficient information is not currently available to assess the actual impact on the Academy Trust as such no provision has been included within these financial statements.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**28. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 August 2022 the Academy had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Not later than 1 year	956	2,052
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	956
	<u>956</u>	<u>3,008</u>

The following lease payments have been recognised as an expense in the statement of financial activities:

	2022 £	2021 £
Operating lease rentals	2,052	4,554
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**29. 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.

**30. 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.

**West Leigh Swim School**

West Leigh Swim School Limited a registered charity of which C J Woolf is a Director and Trustee leased a swimming pool from the Academy Trust during the reporting period. The rental charged is considered a fair market rent for the use of the swimming pool.

Rent charged during the accounting period amounted to £54,000 (2021: £12,000) and £nil (2021: £nil) was outstanding at the end of the reporting period.

**31. Controlling party**

There is no ultimate controlling party.

