

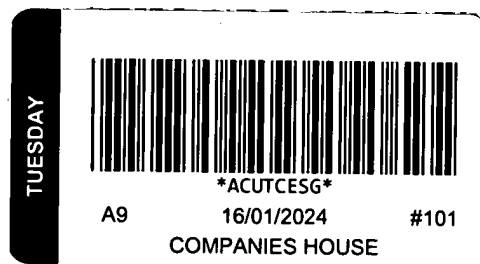


THE BRIGSHAW LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

(A company limited by guarantee)

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended
31 August 2023**



Company Registration No. 10301662

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The Brigshaw Learning Partnership REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

Martin Dove
Kenneth Morton
Kirsty Siobhan Malloch
Peter Laurence

Trustees

Rachael Bajulaiye
Neil Clephan OBE
Emma Jackson
Anne-Marie Lewis
Nicholas Mitchell (resigned on 17 March 2023)
Kenneth Morton (resigned 2 March 2023)
Stewart Ross (resigned on 31 August 2023)
Robert Stott (resigned 10 November 2022)
Stuart John McDougall
David Noble (appointed 1 September 2022)
Jane l'Anson (appointed 1 September 2023)

Company Secretary

Julie Lawson (appointed 1 September 2022)

CEO and Accounting Officer

Aidan Sadgrove

Finance Director

Tiana Walker

Executive Leadership Team:

Headteacher, Allerton Bywater Primary School
Headteacher, Brigshaw High School
Headteacher, Kippax Ash Tree Primary School
Head of School, Kippax Greenfield Primary School
Headteacher, Kippax North Primary School
Headteacher, Swillington Primary School
Headteacher, Methley Primary School
Chief Operating Officer

Sarah Scotland
Maria Williams (up to 31 December 2022)
Amanda Campbell
Beth Hartshome
Richard Howitt
Mark Cahill
Sallie Elliott
Julie Lawson

Registered Office

Brigshaw High School
Brigshaw Lane
Allerton Bywater
WF10 2HR

Company Registration Number

10301662 (England and Wales)

Independent Auditor

TC Group
6 Queen Street
Leeds
LS1 2TW

Bankers

Lloyds Bank Plc
25 Gresham Street
London
EC2V 7HN

Solicitors

Schofield Sweeney
76 Wellington Street
Leeds
West Yorkshire
LS1 2AY

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees of The Brigshaw Learning Partnership present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership is a multi-academy trust serving communities in outer East Leeds. The Trust was established in July 2016. The Trust currently comprises one 11-18 secondary school in the trust, Brigshaw High School and six primary schools – Allerton Bywater, Kippax Ash Tree, Kippax Greenfield, Kippax North, Swillington and Methley. There were 3,100 pupils on roll on the October 2022 Census.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The Trustees of The Brigshaw Learning Partnership are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as The Brigshaw Learning Partnership.

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

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

There are no qualifying third-party indemnity provisions in respect of the Trustees, other than trustees' and officers' insurance arrangements, which are in place.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

Membership of the Board is in accordance with the structure contained within its Articles of Association. Trustees are appointed by the Members of The Brigshaw Learning Partnership, under the rules contained within its Memorandum and Articles of Association. Potential new trustees are identified by the Board, ensuring that their skills and experience are complementary to those of existing Board members.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

The Trust has kept Trustees and those involved in governance up to date with relevant sector developments including safeguarding this year. Training has been provided throughout the year by a range of sector experts including CST, Trust Governance Professionals and other local and national bodies, as well as the Trust governance professional. During 2022-3 the trust commissioned a full external review of governance to support and challenge the board's work. This external review was completed by CST and the outcomes serve as a basis for ongoing development and strategic planning.

All Trustees are provided with copies of procedures, minutes, accounts, budget plans and other documents required to undertake their roles. All Trustees are aware of relevant information in The Academy Trust Handbook and updates. The Chair and CEO meet regularly with individual Trustees to discuss their roles and how they can make a positive contribution to the life and work of the Brigshaw Learning Partnership.

Organisational structure

As a charity and company limited by guarantee, the Academy Trust is governed by Trustees who are responsible for, and oversee, the management and administration of the Trust and the academies operated by the Trust. The Trust board is accountable to external government agencies including the Charity Commission and the DfE for the quality of education provided. They are required to have systems in place through which they can assure themselves of quality, safety and good practice.

The Academy Trust has a number of committees, which meet at least once per term to manage and oversee delegated areas. These committees have specific responsibility for Audit and Risk, Finance and Resources, and Curriculum and Standards. There is also a Pay Committee which meets once a year to ratify pay recommendations for school staff.

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

In addition to the committees, the Trustees delegate a number of functions to Local Governing Bodies (LGBS) and the executive team. The scheme of delegation explains the ways in which trustees fulfil their responsibilities for the leadership and management of each school, the respective roles and responsibilities of trustees, the executive, headteachers and LGB members and the commitments to each other to ensure the success of the Trust.

The CEO has responsibility for the running of the multi-academy trust as an organisation, including the accounting officer role. He works closely with school leaders in the headteacher leadership team, which meets regularly to decide how best to implement school improvement priorities in their schools and to review progress. Headteachers are responsible for the day-to-day operational running and oversight of individual schools. The Scheme of Delegation allows for higher levels of support and intervention if a school is considered vulnerable. There is also a small executive team, consisting of the Director of Primary, Finance Director and Chief Operating Officer. The team oversees trust-wide functions and specifically finance, payroll, HR, estates, IT, health and safety, compliance, governance and operations.

Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Local Governing Bodies of Brigshaw Learning Partnership schools as well as specialist link governors meet each term to encourage networking, promote good practice and to enable dialogue between themselves and The Brigshaw Learning Partnership Board.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

All teaching staff salaries, including those of the CEO, Head Teachers, Deputy Head Teachers and Assistant Headteachers are reviewed annually to take effect from September 1st. The pay committee reviews pay in accordance with the latest performance review. The pay policy is kept under annual review by this committee. The pay and remuneration of the CEO is set and reviewed by the Pay Committee. The performance management of the CEO is guided by relevant external advisers who provide advice and support on the performance management review.

Trade union facility time

Under the provisions of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017, we are required to provide the following information:

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full time equivalent employee number
6 Brigshaw Learning Partnership employees and de-delegated Leeds time	6

Percentage of time spent on facility time	Number of employees
0%	6
1%-50%	0
51% - 99%	0
100%	0

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time	
Provide the total cost of facility time	£16,689
Provide the total pay bill	£14,524,514
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (total cost of facility time ÷ total pay bill) x 100	0.11%

Time spent on paid trade union facilities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours calculated as: (total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period ÷ total paid facility time hours) x 100	0%
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Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

One Brigshaw Learning Partnership (BLP) trustee was an uncontracted school improvement advisor for the Red Kite Learning Trust (RKLT) during 2022-23. The Brigshaw Learning partnership has worked with RKLT as partners for teacher training and as the responsible body for the induction of BLP ECTs.

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The BLP recognises that communication and engagement with staff is crucial for advancing educational outcomes. All Trust schools hold regular meetings between all staff and leadership, both to provide employees with information and to consult them on potential changes. Staff are aware of the determining factors affecting the performance of the Trust.

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

The annual cycle of staff voice activities, surveys and responsive action planning enables Head Teachers and the Trust Board to understand and respond to staff needs and to provide assurance to Trustees. The executive team, head teachers and LGB chair/vice chair forums are the main conduit for relaying key decisions taken at Trust Board level to staff and for feeding back to the board.

The Trust continues to be an equal opportunities employer as set out in its hiring procedures and Equality statement. Should any member of staff become disabled, the necessary individual assessments would be made by the senior management team to ensure that equality is maintained on behalf of the Trust Board.

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

The trust is operated with very clear values of Equality, Integrity, and Resilience. These are the guiding principles for all staff engaging with suppliers, customers or other business relationships. These values are worked into practice through the implementation of our financial procedures which are regularly reviewed, looking for relevant key indicators. Ongoing contract management ensures continued engagement.

The CEO meets regularly with the Regional Director's office to undertake review activities and to update the Dfe as to school improvement progress. Communication with the DfE, Local Authority and ESFA is conducted by the executive team and Head teacher's on a daily basis. Where significant issues arise, or where key decisions need to be made these are fed back and discussed at Trust board level.

Risk management

The Trust board assess the major risks to which the Trust is exposed in particular those relating to facilities, finances, teaching, staffing and other operational areas. The Trust has implemented a number of systems to continually assess the risks that each school faces and to provide assurance that appropriate mitigations are in place. The Trust has an effective system of internal financial controls which is explained in more detail in the following sections.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and aims

The objectives of The Brigshaw Learning Partnership set out in its Articles of Association are specifically restricted to the following: "to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum".

Objectives, strategies and activities

Through partnership, challenge, support and collaboration the Trust will support all of its schools to realise the mission to provide a cradle to career education that allows our children to enjoy lives of choice and opportunity. The Trust aims to play an anchor role in the community by developing great schools that grow knowledge, character and cultural capital, to prepare children for lives of choice and opportunity.

The Trust operated on the belief that strong schools are essential to this end, and our core purpose is therefore one of school improvement and the advancement of education through the development of strong and resilient schools. The Trust is committed to becoming a strong trust, working together as one entity under a single governance structure for the benefit of all students across our family of schools. The Trust aims to nurture school environments of love, structure and high expectations where all children and adults can flourish in a network of supportive and developmental relationships.

These aims are based on the belief that strong schools are necessary but not sufficient in achieving our mission, and we also aim for our schools to play a civic role, building capacity in the community and reducing stress for our families.

To this end the main objectives of The Brigshaw Learning Partnership are to:

1. Improve outcomes for children and young people and expand opportunities for all in school communities by:

- developing a 'cradle to career' curriculum model that builds powerful knowledge, raises aspiration and develops cultural capital.
- improving levels of progress, attainment and achievement for all pupils and students.
- developing and sustaining Brigshaw Learning Partnership approaches to removing barriers to learning linked to behaviour, attendance, additional needs.
- continuing to develop guidance and support capacity to work with vulnerable children and their families; and
- working more effectively with further education, training and employment sectors in the Leeds area and wider city region to enable young people to access and contribute to a thriving and dynamic regional economy.

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

- 2. Establish The Brigshaw Learning Partnership as a well-governed and effective multi-academy trust by:**
 - developing highly effective operational systems and processes that support leaders to improve their schools
 - ensuring an effective scheme of delegation provides clarity of responsibility and accountability at all levels of governance.
 - ensuring that effective support and challenge occurs at all levels of governance and that governance drives school improvement.
 - ensuring compliance with all statutory and relevant policies; and
 - developing sustainable school improvement capacity.
- 3. Develop effective operational, financial and support systems that ensure good stewardship of public funds by:**
 - ensuring alignment of HR, IT, estates, health and safety, financial and operational systems.
 - ensuring the effectiveness of all financial, accounting and audit systems and processes at The Brigshaw Learning Partnership and school level.
 - ensuring buildings, land and assets are fit for purpose to provide an outstanding learning and working environment for pupils, students and staff; and
 - exploring robust and effective approaches to better value, business continuity and sustainability to ensure we are a viable and thriving learning community.
- 4. Develop an effective school improvement model to sustain and strengthen the MAT by:**
 - developing our school improvement capacity to accelerate and sustain better outcomes for all children and young people.
 - developing a powerful primary school improvement and curriculum model for use within the trust and outside of it in partnership with other schools in the locality; and
 - encouraging and supporting engagement with other secondary schools within the wider locality to share school improvement approaches; and
- 5. Develop great staff by:**
 - developing and delivering a Brigshaw Learning Partnership-wide programme of staff training and professional development aligned with school improvement priorities.
 - reviewing and developing staff appraisal and performance management so that it is effective across all staff and Brigshaw Learning Partnership schools.
 - developing and delivering a recruitment, talent management, leadership development and succession planning strategy, which enables the trust to grow capacity, recruit and retain high quality staff across our schools; and
 - developing a range of cross-trust communities of practice, staff networks and activities to allow staff working in similar areas to collaborate, support and challenge each other effectively, including tackling workload and promoting health and well-being.

Key Values

Our shared ambition is underpinned by a commitment to our values of equality, integrity and resilience.

Integrity:

- We always do what is right, and do it well
- We do what we say we will do.
- We are open about our successes and areas for growth and take responsibility to become better, every day.
- We have a shared moral purpose that enables us to deliver on our commitments.

Resilience:

- We give 100% effort.
- We don't make excuses or give up when it's hard
- We embrace challenges as opportunities for growth.
- We know success is achieved incrementally.
- We are unapologetically ambitious for all and work hard so that every child can achieve, regardless of their background or socio economic status.

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Equality:

- We are one team with one goal.
- We know that together we are greater than the sum of our parts.
- We work together to overcome difficulties. When one of us succeeds, we all do.
- We consider our impact on others and treat every interaction as an opportunity
- We stand shoulder to shoulder

Public benefit

In exercising its powers and duties The Brigshaw Learning Partnership has complied with its duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission. The main public benefit delivered by The Brigshaw Learning Partnership is the free provision of education to its learners. In setting our objectives and planning our activities the trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and consider that the Trust's aims are demonstrably to the public benefit.

Working with other organisations

The Academy Trust is working closely with the Department for Education (DfE), the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and the Local Education Authorities. Other links include the Area Inclusion Partnership, CST, The Reach Foundation, Local Councils, Steplab and the Coaching Collective.

STRATEGIC REPORT

During this period the trust focussed on improving outcomes for children at all key stages, enhancing our school improvement offer, and developing the curriculum. We also focused on accessing further financial efficiencies in order to maximise resources which have an impact on children's outcomes and lives.

Achievements and Performance

The Trust has continued the journey of improving its schools. This has been with the support of various partners including Teaching School Alliances, experts locally and nationally, and external partners who have supported schools with various activities. These have included a review and monitoring programme and school improvement activities, targeted to the needs of each school which have supported the MAT's own independent audits of provision, strategic developments and their impact on outcomes.

A major focus of our work was to respond to areas for development identified through internal or external self evaluation or by Ofsted. During this period, three Trust schools were inspected by Ofsted with the following outcomes:

School	Previous Ofsted Grade	2022 Ofsted Grade
Methley Primary School	Inadequate	Good
Kippax Greenfield Primary School	Requires Improvement	Good
Allerton Bywater Primary School	Requires Improvement	Good

Attainment Measures

KS4 outcomes (GCSE)*

*Progress 8 scores are most usefully compared against 2019, when similar grade boundaries were used rather than in 2022 where grades were moderated by Ofqual to allow for the uneven impact of the pandemic on this cohort.

Measure	2023	2019
Progress 8	+0.14	-0.09
Attainment 8	45.51	45.56
5+ Eng and maths	43.2%	43.2%
4+ Eng and maths	66.0%	67.0%

EBacc APS	3.89	3.99
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The Brigshaw Learning Partnership TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Element	A8	P8
English	4.98	+0.23
Maths	4.55	+0.28
EBacc	4.30	+0.11
Open	4.53	+0.05

Post 16 Outcomes*

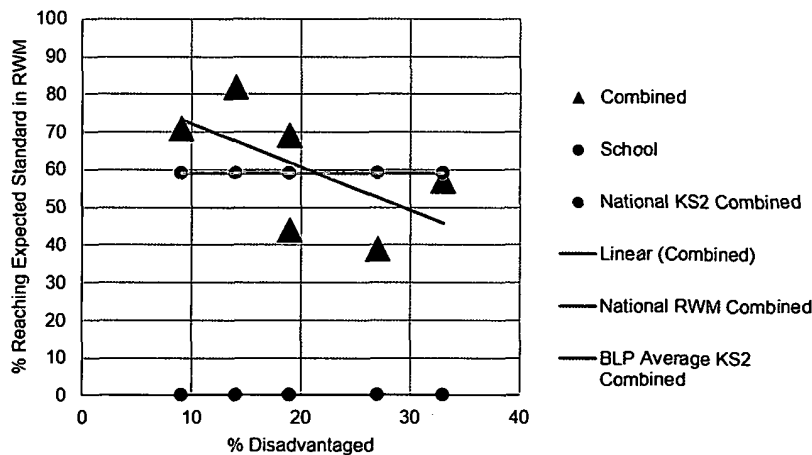
*2023 grades are most usefully compared against 2019, when similar grade boundaries were used rather than in 2022 where grades were moderated by Ofqual to allow for the uneven impact of the pandemic on this cohort.

Measure	2023	2019
Average Points per entry (overall)	32.3	30.14
Average grade (overall)	C+	C
Best 3 A Levels Average Points	32.67	29.17
Best 3 A Levels (Average grade)	C+	C
Students achieving AAB (in 3 facilitating subjects)	14.3%	4.2%

Primary Outcomes (KS2)

School	Reading	Writing	Maths	RWM Combined	National KS2 Combined	Trust RWM Combined Average
Kippax Ash Tree	55%	73%	66%	39%	59%	60%
Swillington	67%	67%	73%	57%	59%	60%
Methley	81%	72%	83%	71%	59%	60%
Kippax Greenfield	65%	61%	83%	44%	59%	60%
Kippax North	89%	82%	89%	82%	59%	60%
Allerton Bywater	88%	76%	88%	69%	59%	60%
BLP Average	74%	71%	80%	60%	59%	60%
National	73%	71%	73%	61%	59%	60%

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)



- As a Trust, the strongest subject at KS2 was maths which was above national in five of the six primaries. At least 80% of students achieved the expected standard which is over 7% above national figures.
- Allerton Bywater performed exceptionally well particularly in reading with 53% of students achieving GDS compared to 27% nationally.
- Kippax Ash Tree and Greenfield were below national figures for RWM combined and leaders are ensuring that actions are taken to ensure outcomes improve this year.

Going concern

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

Promoting the success of The Brigshaw Learning Partnership

The Board takes its responsibility to 'promote the success of the company' - as outlined in Companies Act 2006 - very seriously. Trustees have considered the academic outcomes, performance at Ofsted inspection, safeguarding performance and financial stability of The Trust as core factors that determine the success of The Trust. These factors are reported on and discussed at length. Trustees have also been able to consider the wider context such as the Covid 19 recovery, Brexit and the impact of the Trust's work on local communities which continues to inform the Trust's work.

The Board's actions are reviewed through the lens of our charitable aims and our vision and values. All trustees adhere to these values in their contributions to the Trust. As outlined throughout this report, careful compliance with all requirements and a long-term strategy underpinned by clear rationale, vision and values, ensures trustees act accordingly.

The consequences of all decisions and activities of the BLP are assessed by how they drive us towards achieving our aim of furthering education for the public good. Well-established involvement and consultation mechanisms, both direct (through parent and staff surveys) and indirect (through the involvement of parents and local people on our Local Governing Bodies and Trust Board) ensure that decisions made by the trustees are informed by the needs of the organisation's stakeholders.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership has had a successful financial year. The net deficit was £357,000 (2022: £1,155,000), after depreciation of £1,451,000 (2022: £1,434,000). Net current assets as at 31 August 2023 were £3,492,000 (2022: £3,174,000).

As at 31 August 2023 The Brigshaw Learning Partnership had cash at bank of £4,969,000 (2022: £4,193,000).

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership's income is derived in the main from the Department for Education (DfE) and the Local Authority (LA) in the form of recurrent and capital grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes.

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

The grants received from the DfE and LA during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership also received grants for the acquisition of fixed assets from the DfE. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2019), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed assets fund is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

Statement of principal financial management policies adopted

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership implements and regularly reviews a full set of required financial policies and procedures. The following financial management policies were adopted:

- Finance Regulations manual (incorporating reserves, procurement and tender, fixed assets, gifts and hospitality, staff expenses, trustee and governor expenses policies)
- Management of Funds policy;
- Anti-Fraud, Corruption and Bribery policy;
- Accounting policies;
- Charging and Remissions policy; and
- Risk Management policy

Reserves policy

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership has three categories of reserves:

- Restricted funds, which is the General Annual Grant, used to carry out the principal objectives of the organisation;
- Fixed asset reserve used to finance fixed assets; and
- Unrestricted reserves which are used under the discretion of the Board of Trustees and are delegated to Local Governing Bodies.

The unrestricted reserves of £1,330,000 (2022: £1,344,000) are freely available for general purposes. Unrestricted funds are allocated in line with the strategic objectives of The Brigshaw Learning Partnership.

The restricted fixed asset reserve of £50,413,000 (2022: £50,911,000) includes the transfer of fixed assets from Leeds City Council for the seven schools' conversions in previous years.

Trustees review the level of reserves on an annual basis. The review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. Reserves are held to ensure the academy has sufficient resources to continue to advance the education of learners, including the necessary capital expenditure.

As at 31 August 2023 and 31 August 2022 the Academy Trust held the following reserves:

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Restricted Pension Reserve	625	(902)
Restricted Fixed Asset Fund	50,413	50,911
General funds	1,619	1,167
Unrestricted Fund	1,330	1,344
Total	53,987	52,520

The Restricted General Fund relates to the pension liability which is described in more detail in note 25 to the financial statements. The Trustees will continue to monitor the position of this liability closely.

The Board has reviewed the level of reserves and considered them to be adequate. The Finance and Resources Committee have reviewed the Reserves Policy and identified a target level of reserves for the trust. This equates to a percent of funding.

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Investment policy

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership has an investment policy (Management of Funds Policy) based on treasury management as defined by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) Code of Practice. The objectives of treasury management are: to provide a means by which The Brigshaw Learning Partnership can meet its commitments; to ensure that sufficient sums are available at short notice or no notice to meet foreseeable requirements; to earn an acceptable rate of return on surplus funds without undue risk; and monitoring the placement of monies in institutions with very strong credit ratings.

The Chief Education Officer and The Brigshaw Learning Partnership Board have responsibility for the overall security and management of funds. The day to day management of the treasury function is controlled by the Finance Director. The Finance Director will liaise with the CEO and The Brigshaw Learning Partnership Board in relation to strategy and market conditions.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks and uncertainties identified by The Brigshaw Learning Partnership concern finance and funding, estates pupil outcomes, governance, HR, H&S and cyber security.

The Trust is mitigating these risks in the following ways:

- Finance and funding – robust financial controls, efficient procurement approaches across all schools in The Brigshaw Learning Partnership, and improved reporting procedures.
- Pupil outcomes – focused school improvement strategies and interventions to secure better outcomes and create sustainable school improvement capacity.
- Governance – a full external governance review took place in Spring 2023 that serves the basis for strategic planning going forward
- HR – Following the introduction of a new payroll system from June 2022, the trust implemented the recruitment portal and Employee Self Serve system, enabling staff to have visibility of their payroll and absence. This will improve data and control on key areas such as sickness monitoring.
- Buildings – maximise impact of the School Condition Allowance, and further develop an estates strategy.
- Health and Safety - the trust has successfully introduced a full Health and Safety compliance package. This will ensure management has oversight of compliance on key H&S areas.
- The Trust has a robust risk management strategy at individual school level which is reviewed termly with the trust board and which informs the overall trust-wide position and the trust strategy decisions on risk management.
- Cyber security – comprehensive staff training, managed network access, internal audit, scenario exercises and breach reporting procedures keep systems secure. Potential breaches modelled and responses planned for in the Cyber Recovery Plan and covered by additional cyber insurance.

Fundraising

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

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Use Data for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023	1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023	1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kwh)	2,733,478	3,328,865
Energy consumption breakdown <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas • Electricity • Transport Fuel 	1,558,275 1,175,203 6,165	2,094,169 1,230,095 4,601
Scope 1 – Emissions in metric tonnes CO2e	284.48	382.27
Gas consumption	0.00	0.00
Owned Transport – Mini Buses	284.48	382.27
Total Scope 1		

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Scope 2 – Emissions in metric tonnes CO2e Purchased Electricity	243.35	237.88
Scope 3 – Emissions in metric tonnes CO2e Business travel in employee owned vehicles	1.51	1.10
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e	529.35	621.25
Intensity Ratio Tonnes CO2e per pupil	0.17	0.19

Quantification and Reporting Methodology

We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2023 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

Intensity Measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

The Trust commissioned energy efficiency surveys for all sites in Spring 2023, to inform the next round of estate spending, addressing priorities. The Trust invested in priority one works, to address issues with water ingress and heat loss in addition to priority two projects to install LED lighting and PIR detectors to reduce consumption.

Plans for future periods

The Trust will move forward with a relentless focus on providing a transformative cradle to career education that allows our children to enjoy lives of choice and opportunity.

Over the next 3 years, we will be working relentlessly on achieving our vision of ensuring:

- That we are consistently among the highest performing MATs nationally for student outcomes.
- That those students or groups who are at risk of underachieving make at least the same progress as all students nationally.
- The Trust of choice for students, families, and staff.
- Promote the work of Trust schools to build further links with local and national partners to drive improvements locally and contribute to the wider educational landscape, allowing for Trust growth to at least 10 schools.

The above will ensure that we become a strong trust with all schools at least good and most schools judged outstanding by the end of the next ofsted cycle.

We have 3 strategic anchors which we believe are essential in achieving our mission to provide a cradle to career education that allows our children to live lives of choice and opportunity. These 3 anchors inform the detail of all our decision making, resource deployment, and staffing structure.

1. Building Strong Relationships:

We build positive relationships in and beyond orderly and calm schools, growing capacity and reducing stress for families so that all children feel safe, belong and can go on to live lives of choice and opportunity. We aim:

- To craft inclusive, orderly environments of love, structure and high expectations with clear behaviour systems that enable all to thrive and achieve
- To work closely with families and the community to identify and address gaps in services and to remove barriers to learning
- To foster leadership within our community using our schools to allow community members to take the lead to solve local issues
- Add capacity into the community ecosystem in the form of employers, universities, sports clubs, cultural organisations, reducing stress and widening horizons

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

2. Growing Our People

We put people first through high impact professional development, coaching and organisational culture that makes our trust a great place to work and learn. We aim:

- To establish ourselves as a centre for innovation in teacher training and staff development, providing relevant, researched informed training and instructional coaching for all staff
- To offer a highly attractive career development pipeline with opportunities for development at all levels
- To enable all our staff to connect with strong local, national and international networks to develop and nurture their talents
- To be a community asset and employer of choice, prioritising opportunities for the communities we serve

3. Delivering a Cradle to Career Curriculum:

We craft and implement a coherent curriculum that is knowledge-rich and builds cultural capital from nursery, through to A level. We aim:

- To deliver a intelligently sequenced and intentional curriculum to all students so they gain strong academic outcomes that lead to choices and opportunities
- To enact the curriculum through quality first teaching, adapted to student need and grounded in evidence of how pupils learn
- To provide equitable opportunities for all students to have valuable learning experiences outside of the classroom which build social and cultural capital.
- To be a system leader in supporting students with transition to any next phase of their education
- To maximise life choices for all through high quality careers guidance and active engagement with employers and universities.

The above must be underpinned by highly effective support systems:

We allow school leaders to focus on improving the quality of education in their schools. We aim:

- To facilitate an efficient and coherent estates and site strategy to improve working and learning conditions
- To develop coherent and simple finance, health and safety and compliance systems that provide value for money and give our schools what they need
- To develop a professional and supportive HR strategy with a commitment to staff wellbeing so that adults and children can flourish
- To ensure that our governance structure is effective in raising standards for all students across our communities
- To foster clarity about our mission, vision and core purpose through effective communication and marketing

Auditor

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees' report, incorporating the strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 27/12/2023 and signed on the board's behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

Emma Jackson

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Emma Jackson
Chair of Trustees

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the Funding Agreement between The Brigshaw Learning Partnership and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Rachael Bajulaiye	4	4
Neil Clephan	4	4
Emma Jackson	4	4
Nicholas Mitchell	1	3
Ken Morton	1	1
Anne-Marie Lewis	4	4
Robert Stott (Chair)	2	2
Stewart Ross	4	4
Stuart McDougall	4	4
David Noble	4	4

Governance review

During 2022/23 the trust commissioned a full external governance review in Spring 2023, alongside a skills audit of trustees and governors.

Effective oversight of funds is maintained due to the work and reports of the Finance and Resources Committee and Audit and Risk Committee. All Trustees have access to monthly management accounts and Trustees attend other meetings with the Senior Leadership Teams of the Trust and constituent academies.

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee is a sub-committee of The Brigshaw Learning Partnership Board. Its purpose is:

- to monitor and assess the internal controls of the Trust to ensure that The Brigshaw Learning Partnership as a whole is operating at appropriate levels of risk and in compliance with audit requirements;
- to take responsibility for external and internal audit matters, oversee the work programme and performance quality of the internal and external audit services;
- to support the board in ensuring that a framework is established and maintained for the identification and management of risk;
- to support the board in providing an added level of scrutiny in the monitoring of internal and external audit matters, risk management, fraud prevention and detection, and internal controls and health and safety; and
- to keep the board regularly informed of the committee's activities and key decisions. The committee also has responsibility for reviewing reports from the external auditors.

Trustees work in conjunction with the CEO, COO and Finance Director.

Attendance by Trustees at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Rachael Bajulaiye	2	3
Emma Jackson	3	3
Stewart Ross (Chair)	1	3

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Finance and Resources Committee

The Finance and Resources Committee is a sub-committee of The Brigshaw Learning Partnership Board. Its principal duties are to:

- develop a financial strategy for the Trust and consider policies, procedures or plans required to realise such strategy;
- to consider the Trust's indicative funding, once notified by the ESFA, and to assess its implications, in consultation with the CEO and the Finance Director, in advance of the financial year, drawing any matters of significance or concern to the attention of the Trust Board;
- to consider and recommend acceptance/non-acceptance of the Trust's budget to the Trust Board; to monitor any variances from the budget and ensure the ESFA is notified as required;
- to receive and make recommendations on the broad budget headings and areas of expenditure to be adopted each year, including the level and use of any contingency fund or balances, ensuring the compatibility of all such proposals with the development priorities set out in the Trust development plan;
- to monitor and review income and expenditure on a regular basis and ensure compliance with the overall financial plan for the Trust, drawing any matters of concern to the attention of The Brigshaw Learning Partnership Board; and
- to monitor and review procedures for ensuring the effective implementation and operation of financial procedures, on a regular basis, including the implementation of bank account arrangements and, where appropriate to make recommendations for improvement.

Trustees work in conjunction with the CEO, COO and Finance Director.

Attendance by Trustees at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Ken Morton (Chair up to 2 March 2023)	1	1
Neil Clephan	2	3
Stuart McDougall (Chair from 19 April 2023)	3	3
David Noble	3	3

Standards and Curriculum Committee

The Standards and Curriculum Committee is a sub-committee of The Brigshaw Learning Partnership Board. Its principal duties are:

- to ensure that the highest possible standards are set and maintained across the Trust;
- to receive a termly report from the CEO regarding standards and performance of the Trust against key performance indicators;
- to identify any areas of concern in respect of standards, performance and external scrutiny and to implement an action plan with the CEO;
- to ensure that the Trust's curriculum is balanced and meets the needs of all children and young people;
- to scrutinise and review relevant Trust policies for recommendation to the Trust Board;
- to ensure that effective processes are in place for the quality assurance of teaching and learning, the curriculum, inclusion and the sharing of good practice across the Trust;
- to support the CEO in the creation, implementation and monitoring of the Trust's development plan and any post-Ofsted action plan;
- to advise the Trust Board with respect to targets for pupil/student achievement across the Trust; and
- to ensure that effective arrangements are in place across the Trust for pupil/student support and representation, for monitoring attendance and for behaviour management.

Trustees work in conjunction with the CEO and Director of Primaries.

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Attendance by Trustees at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Emma Jackson	3	3
Nick Mitchell	0	1
Anne-Marie Lewis	3	3
Neil Clephan (Chair)	3	3

The CEO has attended all Trust Board and Committee meetings.

Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer, the CEO has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Accounting Officer considers how the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for The Brigshaw Learning Partnership has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- arranging for the regular review of contracts and service level agreements to improve efficiency and value for money; and
- continuing to review staffing needs and identify areas where staffing costs can be reduced whilst avoiding a negative impact on educational provision.

The purpose of the system of internal control

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

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by The Brigshaw Learning Partnership Board.

The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees;
- regular reviews by Head Teachers, the executive team and Trust Board 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; and
- identification and management of risks.

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has appointed PLR Advisory to provide an internal audit function to carry out a programme of internal checks, evaluating the suitability of and level of compliance with financial and other controls, with the aim of providing independent assurance to the board that its financial and other controls, and risk management procedures, are operating effectively.

The Trust identifies on a risk-basis (with reference to the BLP risk register) the areas it will review each year, modifying the checks accordingly. PLR Advisory's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

- register of business and pecuniary interests;
- scheme of delegation and submission of annual budget;
- financial reporting;
- monthly payroll reports and payroll arrangements;
- purchasing systems and procurement;
- bank reconciliations; and
- cash collection.

In addition, focused audits were undertaken. The audits covered website compliance (PLR Advisory), Safeguarding (undertaken by Leeds City Council), Health and Safety (Handsam) and an external governance review.

On a termly basis, the reviewer reports to the Board of Trustees, through the Audit and Risk Committee, on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities. The outcomes and recommendations in the Internal Auditor's reports were presented to the Academy Trust Board, through the Audit and Risk Committee, on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of Trustees' financial responsibilities. The review will be carried out in future years on an annual basis.


Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the CEO has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the Academy has been informed by:

- the work of PLR Advisory audit team to provide an Internal Audit/Responsible Officer function;
- the work of the external auditor, TC Group; and
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by 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 24/12/2023 and signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

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Emma Jackson
Chair of Trustees

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Aidan Sadgrove
Accounting Officer

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As Accounting Officer of The Brigshaw Learning Partnership I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with the ESFA terms and conditions of funding, including for estates safety and management, received by the Academy Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration, I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and I are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Academy Trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2022.

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

DocuSigned by:

Aidan Sadgrove

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Aidan Sadgrove
Accounting Officer

Date: 24/12/2023

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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


- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.
- 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 27/12/2023 and signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

9990EAF05838440...
Emma Jackson
Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRIGSHAW LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Brigshaw Learning Partnership (the 'Academy Trust') for the year ended 31 August 2023, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the Statement of Accounting Policies and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRIGSHAW LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report (incorporating the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 20, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the Academy Trust 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 Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Academy Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRIGSHAW LEARNING PARTNERSHIP (continued)

Extent to which the audit was capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit, in respect of fraud, are: to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses; and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the entity and its management.

Our procedures included the following:

- We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general sector experience, and through discussion with the management (as required by auditing standards), and discussed with management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;
- We considered the legal and regulatory frameworks directly applicable to the financial statements reporting framework (FRS 102, Charities SORP 2019, Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006) and the relevant tax compliance regulations in the UK;
- We considered the nature of the sector, the control environment and operational performance;
- We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit;
- We considered the procedures and controls that the company has established to address risks identified, or that otherwise prevent, deter and detect fraud; and how senior management monitors those programmes.

Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Where the risk was considered to be higher, we performed audit procedures to address each identified risk. These procedures included: testing manual journals; reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation; performing analytical procedures; and enquiring of management, and were designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free from material fraud or error.

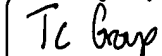
Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed noncompliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect all non-compliance with laws and regulations.

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. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

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

DocuSigned by:



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Steven Williams FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of TC Group, Statutory Auditor

6 Queen Street
Leeds
LS1 2TW

Date: 28/12/2023

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE BRIGSHAW LEARNING PARTNERSHIP AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 28 September 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Brigshaw Learning Partnership during the period from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of The Brigshaw Learning Partnership's Accounting Officer and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Brigshaw Learning Partnership's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education 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 2022 to 2023. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed, and income received during the period from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

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

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

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

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

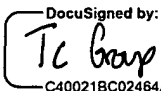
The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Documenting the framework of authorities which govern the activities of the Academy Trust;
- Reviewing the evidence supporting the representations included in the Accounting Officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance with the framework of authorities;
- Undertaking a risk assessment based on our understanding of the general control environment and any weaknesses in internal control identified by our audit of the financial statements;
- Testing compliance with delegated authorities for a sample of material transactions;
- Testing transactions with connected parties to determine whether the Academy Trust has complied with the 'at cost' requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2021;
- Confirming through enquiry and sample testing that the Academy Trust has complied with its procurement policies and that these policies comply with the delegated authorities; and
- Reviewing any evidence of impropriety resulting from our work and determining whether it was significant enough to be referred to in our regularity report.

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON
REGULARITY TO THE BRIGSHAW LEARNING PARTNERSHIP AND THE EDUCATION
AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (continued)**

Conclusion

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

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Reporting Accountant

TC Group 28/12/2023

Date:

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:						
Donations and capital grants	1	-	-	819	819	1,006
Incoming resources from charitable activities:						
Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations	2	570	19,986	-	20,556	18,865
Other trading activities	3	245	-	-	245	186
Investment income	4	8	-	-	8	1
Total		823	19,986	819	21,628	20,058
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Charitable activities:						
Academy Trust's educational operations	6	781	19,753	1,451	21,985	21,213
Total	5	781	19,753	1,451	21,985	21,213
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		42	233	(632)	(357)	(1,155)
TRANSFERS						
Gross transfers between funds	14	-	(134)	134	-	-
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS						
Actuarial gain/ (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	25	-	1,824	-	1,824	11,786
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		42	1,923	(498)	1,467	10,631
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		1,344	265	50,911	52,520	41,889
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	14	1,386	2,188	50,413	53,987	52,520


All of the Academy Trust's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership
BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 August 2023

Registration number: 10301662

	Notes	2023 £'000	2023 £'000	2022 £'000	2022 £'000
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	11		49,870		50,248
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	1,431		1,146	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>4,969</u>		<u>4,193</u>	
		6,400		5,339	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(2,908)</u>		<u>(2,165)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			3,492		3,174
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>53,362</u>		<u>53,422</u>
NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION LIABILITY			<u>53,362</u>		<u>53,422</u>
Pension scheme liability	25		<u>625</u>		<u>(902)</u>
NET ASSETS INCLUDING PENSION LIABILITY			<u>53,987</u>		<u>52,520</u>
FUNDS OF THE ACADEMY TRUST:					
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Fixed asset fund	14		50,413		50,911
General funds	14		1,563		1,167
Pension reserve	14		<u>625</u>		<u>(902)</u>
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS			<u>52,601</u>		<u>51,176</u>
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
General funds	14		<u>1,386</u>		<u>1,344</u>
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS			<u>1,386</u>		<u>1,344</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>53,987</u>		<u>52,520</u>

The financial statements on pages 24 to 45 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 27/12/2023, and are signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

 9990EAF05838440...

Emma Jackson
 Chair of Trustees

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net cash used in operating activities	18	1,022	1,283
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	19	8	1
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	20	(254)	(212)
INCREASE IN CASH IN THE YEAR		776	1,072
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 1 SEPTEMBER 2022	21	4,193	3,121
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 AUGUST 2023	21	4,969	4,193

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES for the year ended 31 August 2023

Statement of accounting policies

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

Basis of Preparation

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

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going Concern

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

Income

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

Grant receivable

Grant income is 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 period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

Other grants from government agencies and other bodies are recognised in the period in which they are receivable to the extent the conditions of funding have been met. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received the income is accrued.

Sponsorship Income

Sponsorship income provided to the academy trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions), where the receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

Donations

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

Other income

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

The Brighshaw Learning Partnership STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued) for the year ended 31 August 2023

Interest receivable

Interest receivable is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis, and is stated inclusive of related tax credits.

Donated services and gifts in kind

The value of donated services and gifts in kind provided to the Academy Trust are recognised at their open market value in the period in which they are receivable as incoming resources, where the benefit to the Academy Trust can be reliably measured. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure under the relevant heading in the Statement of Financial Activities, except where the gift in kind was a fixed asset in which case the amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Academy Trust's policies.

Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in stock and 'Income from other trading activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from other trading activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from other trading activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'.

Expenditure

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

Expenditure on raising funds

This includes all expenditure incurred by the Academy Trust to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Charitable activities

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Fund accounting

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

Restricted General funds are resources subject to specific restrictions imposed by funders or donors, and include grants from the ESFA and DfE.

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by ESFA, DfE and other funders, where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing £2,000 or more are capitalised at cost 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 lives. 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 to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the Academy Trust's depreciation policy. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

The Brighshaw Learning Partnership
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

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

Freehold buildings	Over the remaining useful life 25-50 years
Leasehold buildings	Over the remaining useful life 25-50 years
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	10% per annum
Computer equipment	33% per annum

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

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.

Buildings in respect of two of the schools operated by the Academy Trust were originally procured by the Local Authority through the Private Finance Initiative ("PFI"). Freehold title to one building was transferred to the Academy Trust at the time that the Academy Trust took over operating one of the schools. The other school building is leasehold. The Academy Trust is required to make revenue contributions towards the Local Authority's unitary charge payment to the PFI contractor. The Governors consider that the property passes the control tests of FRS 102 in transferring substantially all the risks and rewards to the Academy Trust and accordingly the property has been capitalised as a tangible fixed asset at the date of transfer with a corresponding entry to income, using an estimate of fair value at the transfer date. The level of future contributions to the Local Authority's unitary charge both (a) inherently reflects some element of revenue expenditure in relation to facilities management and (b) is not known with certainty and accordingly no liability has been recorded for future payment contributions. Accordingly, the payments are expensed as incurred.

Taxation

The Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by 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.

Debtors

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

Liabilities

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

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Academy Trust has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event which it is probable will result in the transfer of economic benefits and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

Financial instruments

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

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 12. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2023

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 13. Taxation and social security creditors are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

Leased assets

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

Pensions benefits

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Academy Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in note 25, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore 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 scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Academy Trust in separate Trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to 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.

Agency arrangements

The Academy Trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from the ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the Statement of Financial Activities as the Trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The Trust can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. The funds received and paid, and any balances held are disclosed in note 27.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

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.

Local Government Pension Scheme liability

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 different assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 25, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 August 2023

1 DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2023 Total £'000	2022 Total £'000
Capital grants	-	819	819	934
Capital donations	-	-	-	72
	-	819	819	1,006

2 FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY TRUST'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2023 Total £'000	2022 Total £'000
DfE/ESFA GRANTS				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	15,682	15,682	14,951
Other DfE/ ESFA Grants				
Pupil premium	-	745	745	696
Universal infant free school meals	-	141	141	139
ESFA Covid-19 funding	-	114	114	107
Other	-	971	971	515
	-	17,653	17,653	16,408

OTHER GOVERNMENT GRANTS

SEN from Local Authority	-	984	984	611
Other Local Authority grants	-	1,106	1,106	1,086
Additional Covid-19 grants	-	-	-	-
Other grants	-	97	97	78
	-	2,187	2,187	1,775

OTHER INCOME

Catering income	407	-	407	398
Academy trips	56	146	206	135
Music tuition	6	-	6	6
Supply and training	32	-	32	28
Other income	69	-	69	115
	570	146	716	682

Total	570	19,986	20,556	18,865
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The academy received £Nil (2022: £Nil) of funding for catch-up premium and costs incurred in respect of this funding totalled £11,000 (2022: £72,000), with the remaining £48,000 to be spent in 2022/23.

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

3 OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2023 Total £'000	2022 Total £'000
Extended school	151	-	151	112
Income from lettings	82	-	82	66
Other income	12	-	12	8
	245	-	245	186

4 INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2023 Total £'000	2022 Total £'000
Short term deposits	8	-	8	1
	8	-	8	1

5 EXPENDITURE

	Staff costs £'000	Non Pay Expenditure		2023 Total £'000	2022 Total £'000
		Premises £'000	Other costs £'000		
Academy's educational operations:					
Direct costs	13,144	72	1,324	14,540	13,239
Allocated support costs	2,563	3,556	1,326	7,445	7,974
	15,707	3,628	2,650	21,985	21,213

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes:		
Operating leases	32	32
Depreciation	1,451	1,434
Fees payable to auditor for:		
Audit	17	16
Other services	6	6

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

6 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Direct costs – educational operations	14,540	13,239
Support costs – educational operations	7,445	7,974
	21,985	21,213

Analysis of support costs

	Educational operation £'000	2023 Total £'000	2022 Total £'000
Staff costs	2,563	2,563	3,401
Depreciation	1,379	1,379	1,363
Premises costs	2,177	2,177	1,721
Governance costs	48	48	35
Other support costs	1,278	1,278	1,454
Total support costs	7,445	7,445	7,974

Expenditure on the Academy Trust's educational operations amounted to £20,161,000 (2022: 21,213,000) of which £781,000 (2022: £726,000) was attributable to unrestricted and £19,380,000 (2022: £20,487,000) was attributable to restricted funds.

7 STAFF COSTS

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
a. Staff costs		
Staff costs during the period were:		
Wages and salaries	11,461	10,352
Social security costs	1,070	965
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	4,909	3,464
Apprenticeship levy	43	37
	17,483	14,818
Supply staff costs	408	448
Staff restructuring costs	40	9
	17,931	15,275
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Severance payments	39	9
	39	9

b. Non-statutory/non-contractual staff severance payments

The Trust paid 3 severance payments in the year. There were no individual amounts in excess of £25,000.

c. Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £32,900 (2022: £8,700) in relation to three (2022: 3) employees. The individual payments were £12,900, £20,000 and £3,700.

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

7 STAFF COSTS (continued)

d. Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the Academy Trust during the period expressed as full-time equivalents was as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Charitable activities		
Teachers	163	163
Administration and support	244	241
Management	12	11
	419	415

e. Higher paid staff

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	11	-
£70,001 - £80,000	3	2
£80,001 - £90,000	-	-
£90,001 - £100,000	-	-
£100,001 - £110,000	-	1
£110,001 - £120,000	1	1
£120,001 - £130,000	-	-

f. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees, the CEO, COO, Director of Primaries, Finance Director 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 Trust was £1,037,904 (2022: £908,788).

8 CENTRAL SERVICES

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

- School Improvement Support;
- BLP Salaries including: CEO, Financial Director, COO, Director of Primaries and Finance Officer;
- Financial services (Audit and accountancy);
- Human Resources and Payroll services;
- Estate Management and Development strategic support;
- Legal services and Compliance; and
- Insurance.

The charge for this service in the year was £747,197 (2022: £693,456). The basis for recharging costs is on a 4.5% (2022: 4.5%) top slice on the General Annual Grant (GAG).

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

8 CENTRAL SERVICES (continued)

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Brigshaw High School	373	344
Allerton Bywater Primary School	87	83
Kippax Ash Tree Primary School	76	66
Kippax Greenfield Primary School	32	32
Kippax North Primary School	49	47
Swillington Primary School	43	39
Methley Primary School	87	83
	747	694

9 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS – Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No Trustees have been remunerated or have received other benefits from employment with the Academy Trust (2022: £nil).

During the year ended 31 August 2023, travel and subsistence expenses amounting to £nil (2022: £nil) was reimbursed or paid directly to a Member.

10 TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

The Academy Trust has opted into the Department for Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust 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.

11 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land and buildings £'000	Fixtures and equipment £'000	Computer equipment £'000	Assets under construction £'000	2023 Total £'000
Cost					
At 1 September 2022	55,475	984	648	672	57,779
Additions	446	87	101	439	1,073
Transfers	654	-	-	(654)	-
At 31 August 2023	56,575	1,071	749	457	58,852
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	6,896	174	461	-	7,531
Charged in year	1,248	87	116	-	1,451
At 31 August 2023	8,144	261	577	-	8,982
Net book values					
At 31 August 2023	48,431	810	172	457	49,870
At 31 August 2022	48,579	810	187	672	50,248

Included within freehold land and buildings is land with a carrying value of £1,023,000 which is not depreciated.

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

12 DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Trade debtors	401	28
Other debtors	6	3
VAT recoverable	271	272
Prepayments and accrued income	753	843
	1,431	1,146

13 CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Trade creditors	1,187	288
Other creditors	738	535
Accruals and deferred income	983	1,342
	2,908	2,165

Deferred income

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Resources deferred in the year:		
- UIFSM income	97	134
- School fund	-	11
- Rates	55	47
- Other	79	74
Deferred income at 31 August	231	266

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

14 FUNDS

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £'000	Incoming resources £'000	Resources expended £'000	Gains, losses & transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,001	15,682	(15,267)	(134)	1,282
Pupil premium	-	745	(745)	-	-
UIFSM	-	141	(141)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	971	(806)	-	165
Catch-up premium	59	-	(11)	-	48
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19	107	114	(153)	-	68
LEA and other grants	-	2,187	(2,187)	-	-
Other LEA Covid-19 Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Other restricted	-	146	(146)	-	-
	1,167	19,986	(19,456)	(134)	1,563
Pension reserve	(902)	-	(297)	1,824	625
	265	19,986	(19,753)	1,690	2,188
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE/ESFA capital grants	2,826	819	(123)	115	3,637
Donations	101	-	(26)	-	75
Capital expenditure from other funds	852	-	(117)	19	754
Transferred on conversion	47,132	-	(1,185)	-	45,947
	50,911	819	(1,451)	134	50,413
Total restricted funds	51,176	20,805	(21,204)	1,824	52,601
Total unrestricted funds	1,344	823	(781)	-	1,386
Total funds	52,520	21,628	(21,985)	1,824	53,987

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

- (i) Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023.
- (ii) Local Authority funding was received in the current year. This is restricted for provision of SEN and early years.
- (iii) The pension reserve relates to the pension deficit for the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

14 FUNDS (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £'000	Incoming resources £'000	Resources expended £'000	Gains, losses & transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	556	14,951	(14,130)	(269)	1,108
Pupil premium	-	696	(696)	-	-
UIFSM	-	139	(139)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	622	(622)	-	-
Catch-up premium	131	-	(72)	-	59
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19	19	-	(19)	-	-
LEA and other grants	-	1,775	(1,775)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19	-	-	-	-	-
Other restricted	-	153	(153)	-	-
	706	18,336	(17,606)	(269)	1,167
Pension reserve	(11,241)	-	(1,447)	11,786	(902)
	(10,535)	18,336	(19,053)	11,517	265
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE/ESFA capital grants	2,161	934	(109)	(160)	2,826
Donations	77	72	(48)	-	101
Capital expenditure from other funds	515	-	(92)	429	852
Transferred on conversion	48,317	-	(1,185)	-	47,132
	51,070	1,006	(1,434)	269	50,911
Total restricted funds	40,535	19,342	(20,487)	11,786	51,176
Total unrestricted funds	1,354	716	(726)	-	1,344
Total funds	41,889	20,058	(21,213)	11,786	52,520

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances for each academy are pooled, hence a breakdown by academy is not included in these accounts.

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

14 FUNDS (continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

Expenditure incurred by each academy during the year (or part thereof) was as follows:

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £'000	Other Support Staff Costs £'000	Educational Supplies £'000	Other Costs (excluding Dep'n) £'000	2023 Total £'000	2022 Total £'000
Brigshaw High School	6,099	1,737	237	1,047	9,120	8,562
Allerton Bywater Primary School	1,595	307	111	213	2,226	2,239
Kippax Ash Tree Primary School	1,416	691	76	129	2,312	2,226
Kippax Greenfield Primary School	567	148	43	100	858	893
Kippax North Primary School	918	234	69	197	1,418	1,328
Swillington Primary School	760	229	67	119	1,175	1,060
Methley Primary School	1,497	674	74	112	2,357	2,444
Central services	292	367	38	371	1,068	1,027
Academy Trust	13,144	4,387	715	2,288	20,534	19,779

15 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset funds £'000	Total funds 2023 £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	49,870	49,870
Current assets	1,443	4,048	909	6,400
Current liabilities	(57)	(2,485)	(366)	(2,908)
Pension scheme liability	-	625	-	625
Total net assets	1,386	2,188	50,413	53,987

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

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset funds £'000	Total funds 2022 £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	50,248	50,248
Current assets	39,537	(35,521)	1,323	5,339
Current liabilities	(38,193)	36,688	(660)	(2,165)
Pension scheme liability	-	(902)	-	(902)
Total net assets	1,344	265	50,911	52,520

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

16	CAPITAL COMMITMENTS	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
	Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	<u>80</u>	<u>534</u>
17	COMMITMENTS UNDER OPERATING LEASES		
	OPERATING LEASES		
	At 31 August 2023 the total of the Academy Trusts' future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was as follows:		
		2023 £'000	2022 £'000
	Other		
	Expiring within one year	14	20
	Expiring within two and five years inclusive	<u>1</u>	<u>15</u>
		<u>15</u>	<u>35</u>
	In respect of two of the Academy Trust's school buildings, which were originally funded through the Private Finance Initiative ("PFI") prior to conversion, the Academy Trust is required to make revenue contributions towards the Local Authority's unitary charge payment to the PFI contractor. In the period to 31 August 2023, the Academy paid £455,321 (2022: £398,934) in respect of this arrangement (net of affordability gap contributions received). Further annual payments will be required over the period of the PFI arrangement which ends in July 2031.		
18	RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
	Net expenditure for the reporting period	(357)	(1,155)
	Depreciation (note 11)	1,451	1,434
	Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(819)	(934)
	Interest receivable (note 4)	(8)	(1)
	Pension cost less contributions payable (note 25)	276	1,261
	Pension finance income (note 25)	21	186
	Increase in debtors	(285)	(405)
	Increase in creditors	<u>743</u>	<u>897</u>
	Net cash provided by Operating Activities	<u>1,022</u>	<u>1,283</u>
19	CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
	Interest received	8	1
	Net cash inflow from returns on investment and servicing of finance	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>
20	CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
	Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,073)	(1,146)
	Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	<u>819</u>	<u>934</u>
	Net cash outflow from capital expenditure and financial investment	<u>(254)</u>	<u>(212)</u>

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

21	ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2023	2022
		£'000	£'000
	Cash in hand and at bank	4,969	4,193
		4,969	4,193

22 **ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS**

	At 1	Cash	At 31
	September	flows	August
	2022	£'000	2023
	£'000		£'000
Cash at bank and in hand	4,193	776	4,969
Net funds	4,193	776	4,969

23 **CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

During the period of the Funding Agreement, in the event of the sale or disposal by other means of any asset for which a Government capital grant was received, the Trust is required to re-invest the proceeds or repay the ESFA the same proportion of the proceeds of the sale or the disposal as equates with the proportion of the original cost met by the Secretary of State.

Upon termination of the Funding Agreement, whether as a result of the Secretary of State or the Trust serving notice, the Trust shall repay to the Secretary of State sums determined by reference to:

- the value at that time of the Trust's assets held for the purpose of the Trust; and
- the extent to which expenditure incurred in providing those assets was met by payments by the Secretary of State under the Funding Agreement.

24 **MEMBERS' LIABILITY**

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

25 **PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS**

The Academy Trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by West Yorkshire Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the year ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2019.

There were no contributions outstanding payable to either scheme as at 31 August 2023.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

**The Brigshaw Learning Partnership
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023**

25 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pensions Scheme

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £1,626,000 (2022: £1,501,000).

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

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

The Brighshaw Learning Partnership
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

25 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £1034,000 (2022: £901,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £787,000 (2022: £687,000) and employees' contributions totalled £247,000 (2022: £214,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 18.8% for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% 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.

Principal actuarial assumptions

	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2022
Rate of increase in salaries	3.85%	3.95%
Rate of increase for pensions	2.60%	2.70%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.10%	4.10%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.60%	2.70%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	75.00%	75.00%

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

	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2022
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	22.2	22.5
Females	25.1	25.7
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	21.0	21.8
Females	24.1	24.6

Sensitivity analysis

The approximate impact of changing key assumptions on the present value of the funded defined benefit pension obligation is detailed below. In each case, only the assumption listed is altered; all other assumptions remain unchanged. A positive value represents an increase in the defined benefit pension obligation:

	At 31 August 2023 £'000	At 31 August 2022 £'000
Discount rate +0.1%	(298)	(412)
Discount rate -0.1%	312	412
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	(372)	(461)
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	372	461
CPI rate +0.1%	268	330
CPI rate -0.1%	(253)	(330)

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

25 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)

The Academy Trust's share of the assets and liabilities in the scheme were:

	Fair value at 31 August 2023 £'000	Fair value at 31 August 2022 £'000
Equities	12,419	12,445
Government bonds	1,147	997
Other bonds	512	670
Property	698	608
Cash/liquidity	605	623
Other	124	234
Total market value of assets	15,505	15,577
Present value of scheme liabilities		
- Funded	(14,880)	(16,479)
Deficit in the scheme	625	(902)

The actual loss on scheme assets was £784,000 (2022: gain of £193,000).

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Current service cost	1,063	1,948
Pension finance cost	21	186
Total operating charge	1,084	2,134

Amounts recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Asset (losses) / gains arising in the period	(1,437)	(63)
Liability gains / (losses) arising in the period	3,261	11,849
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	1,824	11,786

The Brigshaw Learning Partnership
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

25 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Opening defined benefit obligation	16,479	25,990
Current service cost	1,063	1,948
Interest cost	674	442
Employee contributions	247	214
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(3,261)	(11,849)
Benefits paid	(322)	(266)
Past service cost	-	-
At 31 August 2023	14,880	16,479
Changes in the fair value of Academy Trust's share of scheme assets:		
Brought forward	15,577	14,749
Interest income	653	256
Remeasurement gains/(losses) on assets	(1,437)	(63)
Employer contributions	787	687
Employee contributions	247	214
Benefits paid	(322)	(266)
At 31 August 2023	15,505	15,577

The estimated value of employer contributions for the year ended 31 August 2023 is £682,000.

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.

26 RELATED PARTIES

Owing to the nature of the Academy Trust's operations 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 a Trustee has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the AFH, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

27 AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

The Academy Trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting year ended 31 August 2022 the Trust received £16,611, along with a £3,600 vulnerable bursary, and disbursed £11,572 from the fund. Repayments to ESFA for 2021/22 bursary funding amounted to £3,380. An amount of £16,611 is included in accruals and deferred income relating to undistributed funds that is repayable to ESFA.