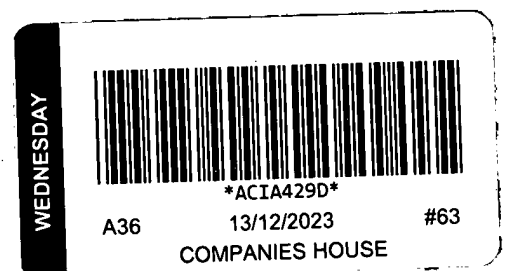


Company Registration Number: 10377760 (England & Wales)

LEARN@ MAT
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended 31 August 2023



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LEARN@ MAT
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	A Raikes, MBE DL High Sheriff of the County of City of Bristol 2022-23 M Tanner J Atherton (Resigned 6 February 2023) P Evans
Trustees	H Bond (Resigned 11 January 2023) E Flynn (Resigned 19 January 2023) G Grimshaw (Resigned 19 January 2023) T Kempster (Resigned 16 March 2023) R Moorcroft (Resigned 22 December 2022) A Loren (Appointed 12 December 2022, Resigned 31 August 2023) M Simmons-Bird (Appointed 19 January 2023, Resigned 31 August 2023) S Baldwin (Appointed 1 September 2023) J Blayney (Appointed 12 December 2022, Resigned 31 August 2023) F Williams (Appointed 12 December 2022, Resigned 31 August 2023)
Company registered number	10377760
Company name	Learn@ MAT
Principal and registered office	Knowle D G E Leaning Centre Leinster Avenue Bristol BS4 1NN
Company secretary	L Shepherd
Chief Executive Officer	C Cattanach
Leadership Team	C Cattanach, Interim Chief Executive Officer (Appointed 01 February 2023) S Bradshaw, Chief Executive Officer (Resigned 31 January 2023) R Watkin, Chief Finance and Operations Officer (Resigned 10 July 2023) P Evry, Interim Chief Finance Officer (Appointed 22 May 2023) R Gibb, Brook Academy (Resigned 30 April 2023) K Lee-Wells, Knowle DGE Academy P Todd, Lansdown Park Academy (Transferred to CLF 01 August 2023) M Reysenn, Notton House Academy C Abbs, Soundwell Academy A Morrison, St Matthias Academy B Jones, The Sky Academy (Transferred to CLF 01 August 2023)
Independent Auditors	Bishop Fleming LLP Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors 10 Temple Back Bristol BS1 6FL
Bankers	Lloyds Bank PLC 55 Corn Street Bristol BS1 1JQ

LEARN@ MAT
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Solicitors	Veale Wasbrough Vizards Narrow Quay Bristol BS1 4QA
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TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the Charitable Company for the year ended 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purpose of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

During the year the Trust operated 5 special academies and 2 alternative provisions in Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire; Knowle DGE Academy, Lansdown Park Academy, Notton House Academy, Soundwell Academy, St Matthias Academy, Brook Academy and The Sky Academy. Its academies had a combined pupil capacity of 668 and had a roll of 554 in the school census on 19 January 2023. The Trust opened Brook Academy on 1 September 2022 in partnership with Gloucestershire County Council.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Re-brokerage

On 1 September 2023 the Academy Trust re-brokered its academies, together with all assets and liabilities, to two multi academy trusts. From this date, the Trust will cease all activities. Accordingly, these accounts are prepared on a basis other than a going concern.

Constitution

The Trust was incorporated on 15 September 2016 and opened as a Trust on 1 September 2017. The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Trust.

The Trustees of Learn@ MAT are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company operates as Learn@ MAT.

Details of the Trustees who served throughout the year, except as noted, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on pages 1 to 2.

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 they ceased to be a member.

Trustees' indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £10 million on any one claim.

TRUSTEES

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The Trust shall have a minimum of 3 trustees, of which 8 are appointed by the Members as set out in its Articles of Association and funding agreement. The Trust's Articles of Association also allows for trustees to be co-opted. If the Trust disbanded its Academy Councils then there would also be a requirement to have a minimum of 2 parent trustees.

Providing that the Chief Executive Officer agrees to act, the Members may appoint the Chief Executive Officer as a Trustee. The total number of Trustees who are employees of the Trust shall not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees.

Trustees are appointed for a four-year period, except that this time limit does not apply to any post that is held ex officio. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be re-appointed or re-elected.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

When appointing new Trustees, the Board will consider the skills and experience mix of existing Trustees in order to ensure that the Board has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the Trust's development.

The Board updated their skills audit during the year and identified a number of specific skills and knowledge gaps: educational experience, HR, finance and estates. The Board appointed Nurole to work with Trust to recruit new Trustees to the Board towards the end of the year and the Trustees are currently reviewing applications, before proceeding with interviews.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend upon their existing experience but would always include a focus on safeguarding training using the Safeguarding Handbook, a tour of the Academies within the Trust and a chance to meet head teachers, staff, parents and pupils. All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, governance documents and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees. Key documentation such as the Trust Development Plan and annual targets are talked through in an induction meeting with the Executive Team. As there are normally only two or three new Trustees a year, induction tends to be done in part by the Executive Team and in part by an appointed buddy from the existing experienced Trustees and is tailored specifically to the individual. This does include partnering the new Trustee with an experienced Trustee for the first year to meet outside of the formal meetings and be available to answer questions and clarify our working practices to help the new Trustee be as up to date as possible with the Trust and its practices. Advantage is taken from specific courses offered by the National Governance Association, the Local Authority and other bodies.

All new Trustees are subject to a DBS check and where relevant other specific checks as part of the Trust's Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy and procedures. This Policy is a key aspect of their induction process along with the Code of Conduct, which must be read and understood before any visits to Academies. Trustees are expected to complete a Child Protection Course up to Level 2 and a Safer Recruitment Course.

Organisational Structure

The Board of Trustees normally meets six times a year. The Board establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Trust and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of Committees and other groups. It receives reports including policies from its Committees for ratification. It monitors the activities of the Committees through the minutes of their meetings. The Board may from time to time establish working groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

The Board operated three sub-committees during the year:

Audit, Finance and Resources Committee - this meets at least six times a year and is responsible for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing policy and performance in relation to financial management, premises management, staffing, compliance with reporting and regulatory requirements, receiving Internal Assurance reports and drafting the annual budget including setting staffing levels. It also incorporates the role of an audit committee.

Quality and Standards Committee – this committee meets at least six times a year and is responsible for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning, pupil progress, pupil outcomes and achievement, behaviour and attendance, the Academies' Development Plans and progress against targets set.

Strategy and Growth Committee – the Board of Trustees agreed at a meeting on 1 June 2022 to amalgamate this committee with the Board of Trustees. This committee was responsible for guiding and managing the Trust growth plan of both external and internal growth. This committee oversaw all due diligence on prospective expansions and partnership work.

The following decisions are reserved to the Board of Trustees:

- To change the name of the Academies
- To determine the educational character, mission or ethos of the Academies
- To adopt or alter the constitution and terms of reference of any committee of the Board of Trustees
- To amend the Scheme of Governance
- To terminate a supplemental funding agreement for an Academy
- To establish a trading company

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

- To sell, purchase, mortgage or charge any land in which the Trust has an interest
- To approve the annual estimates of income and expenditure (budgets) and major projects
- To appoint investment advisors
- To sign off the annual accounts
- To appoint or dismiss, the Director of Finance, the Chief Executive Officer, the Principals, the Company Secretary or the Clerk to the Trustees
- To settle the division of executive responsibilities between the Trustees on the one hand and Chief Executive Officer, the Principals and the Finance Director on the other hand.
- To do any other act which the Funding Agreement expressly reserves to the Board of Trustees or to another body (including for the avoidance of doubt, terminating the Funding Agreement or any part of it).
- To do any other act which the Articles expressly reserve to the Board of Trustees or to another body
- To do any other act which the Board of Trustees determine to be a Reserved Matter from time to time.

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

The Trustees and Board of Trustees have devolved responsibility for day to day management of the Trust to the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, HR Business Manager & Caseworker and the Headteachers. This Leadership Team implement the policies laid down by the Trustees and report back to them on performance.

The Trust comprises four special academies - Knowle DGE Academy, Notton House, Soundwell and The Sky Academy, and two alternative provisions – Lansdown Park Academy and St Matthias Academy. Each Academy has its own Academy Council responsible for day to day operations and management of the Academy's budget. Brook Academy opened on 1 September 2022.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is the Accounting Officer.

Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the Leadership Team to comprise the key management personnel of the Trust in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Trust on a day to day basis. All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year, with the exception of the Chief Executive Officer up until August 2023.

Details of Trustees' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

The posts of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Finance and Operations Officer (CFOO) are paid on a spot salary which will be reviewed annually. Factors that will be taken into consideration for setting and revising the CEO's and CFOO's salary are as follows: comparison with similar organisations, experience of the individuals in those posts and achievements and performance throughout the year. The HR Business Manager & Caseworker is remunerated in line with support staff pay scales and the role is remunerated at an appropriate grade.

The determination of Headteachers' pay is in line with the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document. The Headteachers' pay range at each Academy has seven incremental points and will not exceed the top of the range for the group size of the Academy as set out in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document except in exceptional circumstances. Headteachers' progression up the leadership pay scale is dependent on performance.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Trade union facility time

The Trust consults with recognised unions when reviewing policies.
The Trust has ongoing dialogue with recognised unions.
There were no relevant union officials for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Connected Organisations, including Related Party Relationships

There are no related parties which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of Learn@ MAT. There are three Trustees who have close family who are employees of the Trust; more details of these transactions are in note 28. There are no sponsors or formal Parent Teacher Associations associated with the Trust.

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The Trust engages with their employees through many means and methods, including:

- consulting with employees on key matters, such as growth and expansion, including engaging with the relevant union officials
- having two staff representatives on each Academy Council
- providing regular information to all employees on matters of concern to them through regular newsletters, e-mails and consultation meetings
- annual staff audit and questionnaire which covers work-life balance and the mental health and wellbeing of staff
- regular updates to all staff members, via termly updates and newsletters, including covering both financial and non-financial performance
- two annual conference days led by the Trust for all employees focussing on the main areas of development across the Trust
- appointing an HR Business Manager and Caseworker to oversee relationships with all employees, and support all employees in ensuring they receive their rights and entitlements in regard to their roles and responsibilities as set out in current legislation.

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

The Trust communicates with the parents/ carers of the pupils that attend its schools on a regular basis. Each pupil is allocated a key person in the Trust and that key person fosters a relationship with the family. On a wider scale each school issues frequent letters and newsletters to its parents/ carers to keep them up to date with current news at the school. The Trust uses Class DoJo for sharing achievements with parent/ carers and Teachers2Parents to communicate operational issues.

The Trust fosters positive relationships with all of its suppliers.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and Aims

The principal object of the Trust is to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing academies which are principally concerned with providing full time or part time education for children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless alternative provision is made for them ("the alternative provision Academies") or schools specially organised to make special educational provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs ("the Special Academies").

The Trust's aim is to create a learning environment which recognises that all young people are different but all deserve equal opportunities to achieve to their full potential. The Trust will deliver a highly effective, inclusive, personalised curriculum through a multi-disciplinary approach in order to equip the young people with the skills and experiences needed to embrace life-long learning.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The main objectives, and the strategies for achieving them, of the Trust during the year ended 31 August 2023 are summarised below:

- Reduce staff absenteeism.
- Improve student attendance at each academy aligned to national average or better for each specific type of academy.
- Develop school improvement strategy and secure minimum 'Good@ OFsted ratings for every academy.
- Provide a positive learning experience to students and enable them to overcome the barriers they face in life so that they contribute effectively to society.
- A rising number of young people in the Alternative Provisions return successfully (complete 12 week transition period) to appropriate schooling.
- All young people have clear improvements in attendance from their previous school or the previous school year on a person by person basis. The overall attendance target for each Academy to be 92%.
- All young people to achieve a positive post school transition, which includes careers planning, so that no students become Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs)
- To develop the role and positive involvement of Parent/Carers in the governance and directional steer of the Trust at Board and Academy Council levels.
- To develop the Academy sites to enable young people to achieve their full potential through a holistic learning approach using and offering a wide range of outdoor learning opportunities.
- To establish Soundwell Academy and Brook Academy, on their new sites.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

The Trust aims to advance for the public benefit, education in Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire Somerset and Wiltshire and the surrounding area. In particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the forgoing, by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools, offering a broad curriculum with a strong emphasis on, but in no way limited to the specialism of supporting young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs and Speech, Language and Communication needs.

The Trust provides facilities for recreational and other leisure time occupation for the community at large in the interests of social welfare and with the interest of improving the life of the said community.

The Trust has established food banks or a food parcel provision where the need is evident for the families of young people that attend its schools.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievements and Performance

The Trust is in its fifth year of operation. The total number of students on roll on the January 2023 census was 554.

Attendance

Attendance is one of our main key performance indicators. The average student attendance across the Trust was 62.56% and 58.26 of all young people made an improvement from their baseline. Multi agency support plans are in place for those very complex cases where young people and their families need higher levels of support and a more personalised learning programme. The trust uses all means available to it to promote and encourage good attendance with significant investment in home-school partnership working.

During the year 4 of the Trusts 7 open Academies were inspected; the judgements and dates are detailed below:

Lansdown Park Academy – Monitoring visit 13 December, Monitoring visit 26 April - Inadequate

The Sky Academy - Monitoring visit 28 March - Inadequate

Notton House Academy – February 2023 - Good Social Care framework

Soundwell Academy - June 2023 - Good

Safeguarding met Ofsted's requirements across all of the inspections.

Lansdown Park Academy – following the Ofsted grading a comprehensive improvement programme was put in place to address the issues identified. A new Headteacher was appointed and additional senior leaders were appointed. The school had two Ofsted monitoring visits and was deemed to be making progress but not yet out of special measures.

Knowle DGE Academy - Rated Requires improvement has a detailed improvement plan and is on track to achieve a good outcome in its next scheduled graded inspection.

St Matthias Academy - Has been expanded with a new site located in Bath. It remains a vulnerable school and is receiving intensive support from its new multi academy trust prior to transfer.

The Sky Academy – Has had a monitoring Ofsted visit and is making secure progress to coming out of special measures. It is being supported by its new trust, Cabot Learning Federation.

Notton House Academy – the Academy had a successful residential social care Ofsted; It was graded Good in all areas. The Academy is now working with a School Improvement Partner to identify improvements

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Parents/ Carers

During the year parents/ carers have been involved with the Trust at all levels of governance ensuring that the voice of parents/ carers is heard and to help guide the direction of the Trust. Parent voice is represented on all our Academy Councils and the Co-ordinator of Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forum is a Trustee.

Regular coffee mornings are held where there is a focus on topics and issues that parents/ carers identify.

Premises

The Trust has continued to invest in its premises portfolio to ensure robust health and safety compliance.

The trust was successful with a CIF bid to support repairs to internal structures and the roof at St Matthias academy

Staffing

J Stephen Bradshaw was Interim CEO from 13 May 2022 to 1st February 2023 and Colin Cattnach took over as Interim CEO until the Trust academies transferred to their new trusts on 1 August and 1 September 2023.

The Trust has appointed the following Headteachers during the year:

Michelle Reysenn - Executive Headteacher - Brook Academy and Notton House Academy

Growth and Development

The Trust decided that due to its poor academic performances and poor Ofsted judgements in 2022 across several schools to work with the DFE to dissolve the trust and re-broker its schools to well established academy trusts.

Key Performance Indicators

Learn@ MAT is funded based on places commissioned by Local Authorities. General Annual Grant funding is based on the number of commissioned places and High Needs Top Up funding is based on the pupils that are on roll. A key performance indicator is the occupancy percentage of the Academies. The occupancy percentage based on the January 2023 census for the Trust was 77%.

Another key financial performance indicator is staffing costs as a percentage of total revenue income (excluding amounts transferred to the restricted fixed asset fund and amounts transferred on conversion). For 2023 this was 84%.

Going Concern

As described in note 1.2 and note 28 to the financial statements on 1 September 2023 the Academy Trust transferred its academy, together with all assets and liabilities, to two Academy Trusts. From that date, the Trust ceased all activities. Accordingly, these accounts are prepared on a basis other than that of a going concern.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Review

The majority of the Trust's income is obtained from the Department for Education (DfE) via the Education and Skills Funding Agency and from Local Authorities in the form of grants linked to commissioned places and the pupils that are on roll. The use of these grants is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE and Local Authorities during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the DfE which are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the Fixed Asset Fund. The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the useful life of the assets concerned, as defined in the Trust's accounting policies.

During the year ended 31 August 2023 the Academy received a total income of £30,833,672 (2022: £43,723,836) and incurred total expenditure of £52,919,559 (2022: £21,203,751). The excess of expenditure over income was £22,085,887 (2022: excess of income over expenditure for the year was £22,520,085). Excluding adjustments in respect of LGPS pension and fixed assets the deficit for the year was £42,570 (2022: deficit £294,366).

At 31 August 2023 the net book value of fixed assets was £56,338,153 (2022: £78,881,323) and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 14 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the young people of the Trust.

Key financial policies adopted or reviewed during the year include the Finance Policy which lays out the framework for financial management, including financial responsibilities of the Board, CEO, CFOO, Headteachers, managers, budget holders and other staff, as well as delegated authority for spending.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Reserves Policy

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

The Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of free reserves should be:

Revenue reserve equal to one months' worth of expenditure £1,678,368

Reserve to match academic awarded funded CIF projects - £135,294

Total reserves of the Trust amount to £56,832,980, although £54,528,697 of this is invested in fixed assets or represents non-GAG restricted funds including the pension reserve. The remaining £2,304,283 (representing £1,479,327 unrestricted funds and £824,956 unspent GAG) is the balance that the Trustees monitor in accordance with the Board's reserves policy.

The defined benefit pension scheme reserve has a negative balance. The effect of the deficit position of the pension scheme is that the Trust is paying higher employers' pension contributions over a period of years. The higher employers' pension contributions will be met from the Trust's budgeted annual income. Whilst the deficit will not be immediately eliminated, there should be no actual cash flow deficit on the fund, nor any direct impact on the free reserves of the Trust.

Investment Policy

Due to the nature and timing of receipt of funding, the Trust may at times hold cash balances surplus to its short term requirements. The Trustees have authorised the opening of additional short term bank investment accounts to take advantage of higher interest rates. No other form of investment is authorised.

Principal Risks And Uncertainties

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks.

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

Re-brokerage - The successful completion of the transfer of all 7 academies.

Financial - the Trust has considerable reliance on the commissioning of places from Local Authorities. Places are commissioned on a year by year basis which results in uncertainties for future years. However, current demand for places is high in Bristol and the surrounding area. However, there are significant challenges around ensuring that the appropriate level of funding is obtained in order to meet the needs of each young person as set out in their EHPC particularly when taking into account that all Local Authorities that the Trust works with have high needs budgets in deficit. The Trust is also reliant on continued Government funding through the ESFA. In the last year in excess of 97% of the Trust's incoming resources were ultimately Government funded and whilst this level is expected to continue, there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms.

The Government has brought in support for increased energy costs until March 2023 however, the level of support does not cover the full increase in costs that the Trust is exposed to.

Core funding from the ESFA has remained at £10,000 per pupil since the introduction of EHCPs many years ago and for the whole period that Learn@ MAT has been established without any review by DFE or uplift based on inflation, increasing pay and pension contribution costs. This has been raised for successive years with the DFE and ESFA without any practical response. Trustees are aware of the pressure this puts the Trusts specialist provisions under to keep finding the means to meet each young person's needs.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Failures in governance and/or management - the risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the Trust's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns, etc. The Trustees continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks.

Reputational - the continuing success of the Trust is dependent on Local Authorities continuing to want to place young people in the Trust. To mitigate this risk Trustees, ensure that student progress and attendance are closely monitored and reviewed.

Safeguarding and child protection - the Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety and discipline. All of the Academies participate in an external audit of their Safeguarding procedures with Bristol City Council.

Staffing - the success of the Trust is reliant upon the quality of its staff and so the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning.

Fraud and mismanagement of funds - The Trust has appointed an external consultant to carry out checks on financial systems and records as required by the Academies Trust Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and develop their skills in this area.

Estate – The trustees have ensured they have met their responsibilities to ensure the trust's estate is safe, well maintained and complies with relevant regulations.

The Trust continued to strengthen its risk management process throughout the year by improving the process and ensuring staff awareness. A risk register is maintained, reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The Trust has agreed a Risk Management Policy and a Risk Register. These have been discussed by Trustees and include the financial risks to the Trust. The register and plan are regularly reviewed in light of any new information and formally reviewed annually.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those relating to its finances, teaching, facilities and other operational areas. The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess and minimise those risks, including internal controls described elsewhere. Where significant financial risk still remains, they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover.

Whilst the Trust is close to 100% occupancy rates, risks to revenue funding from a falling roll are small. However, funding arrangements for High Needs and increasing employment and premises costs mean that budgets will be increasingly tight in coming years.

The Trustees examine the financial health formally every term. They review performance against budgets and overall expenditure by means of regular update reports at all Board and Audit, Finance and Resources Committee meetings.

The Trustees also regularly review cash flow forecasts and ensure sufficient funds are held to cover all known and anticipated commitments.

At the year end, the Trust had no significant liabilities arising from trade creditors or debtors that would have a significant effect on liquidity.

The Trustees recognises that the defined benefit pension scheme deficit (Local Government Pension Scheme), which is set out in Note 25 to the financial statements, represents a significant potential liability. However, as the Trustees consider that the Academy is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, this risk from this liability is minimised.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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 2021 to 31 August 2022
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	2,301,804	2,556,408
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>		
Gas consumption	190	289
Owned transport – mini-buses	94	51
<u>Total scope 1</u>		
<u>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>		
Purchased electricity	175	141
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>		
Business travel in employee owned vehicles	10	8
<u>Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>	<u>469</u>	<u>489</u>
<u>Intensity ratio</u>	<u>0.85</u>	<u>1.02</u>
Tonnes CO ₂ e per pupil		

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 2022 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

Use of video conferencing technology has been increased for staff meetings, to reduce the need for travel between sites.

The Trust has one electric vehicle on an operating lease to be used from 1 September 2022.

Two of the schools have had new flat roofs installed which have much better insulation than what was previously in place which should result in a reduction in energy usage. In addition, a new boiler and heating system was installed on 2 of St Matthias Academy's sites which is more efficient than its predecessor and therefore should result in reduction of energy usage.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Following approval by the Regional Department for Education (DfE) Director, Brook Academy, Lansdown Park Academy and The Sky Academy were re-brokered to Cabot Learning Federation (CLF) on 1st August 2023.

The four remaining academies, Knowle DGE Academy, Notton House Academy, St Matthias Academy and Soundwell Academy transferred to Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership on 1st September 2023.

The Trust will work with both Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership and Cabot Learning Federation to ensure a smooth transition of all academies.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

AUDITORS

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

The auditors, Bishop Fleming LLP, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Members will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Members.

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 7 December 2023 and signed on its behalf, by:

Sarah Baldwin

S Baldwin
Trustee

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The Regions Group commissioned a Governance Review during the year; however this review was not concluded. The Board commissioned their own Governance Review in August 2022 which was concluded in October 2022.

This review was to undertake an executive search for a new Chair of Trustees and additional Trustees with specific skills and knowledge. This search resulted in a stable Board of Trustees who worked with the Regional Department for Education (DfE) Director, in order to facilitate the re-brokering of the Trust.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

As Trustees we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Learn@ MAT 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 Chief Executive Officer, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Learn@ MAT 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 10 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Name	Meetings Attended	Out of a Possible
Andrea Wills	3	3
Eileen Flynn	4	6
Gus Grimshaw	6	6
Toby Kempster	5	7
Helen Bond	1	5
Ray Moorcroft	3	5
Margaret Simmons-Bird	6	6
John Blayney	7	7
Amanda Loren	7	7
Fiona Williams	7	7
Colin Cattanach	6	6

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The Board's work has focussed on:

- Analysing the Ofsted outcomes during the year and self evaluating how the Board can have better oversight of the Academies particularly when it comes to the quality of education
- Process for recruiting and appointing an interim CEO
- Communication between Academy Councils and Board of Trustees
- Receiving appropriate data in order to hold Trust leaders to account
- A summarised report from the CFOO to identify the key items that need to be brought to the Board's attention
- Identification of 'red flags' by Headteachers and Academy Councils of key issues that need to be brought to the Board's attention.

The Audit, Finance and Resources Committee is a subcommittee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to monitor, evaluate and review policy and performance in relation to financial management, premises management, staffing, compliance with reporting and regulatory requirements, receiving Internal Assurance reports and drafting the annual budget including setting staffing levels. It also incorporates the role of an audit committee.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Ray Moorcroft	2	2
Helen Bond	0	2
Gus Grimshaw	2	2
Toby Kempster	0	1
Amanda Loren	3	3
John Blayney	3	3
Colin Cattanach	3	3

REVIEW OF VALUE FOR MONEY

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

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

- Robust financial governance and budget management, by implementing strict financial controls and a clear scheme of delegated approval limits.
- There has been an on-going review of financial controls during the year and incremental improvements made.

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 ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks of 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 Learn@ MAT for the period from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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 ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that have been in place for the period from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

THE RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK

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

- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees.
- Regular reviews by the Audit, Finance and Resources Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes.
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance.
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- Identification and management of risks.
- The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided: not to appoint an internal audit. However the Trustees have appointed One West to perform checks on internal controls. The external consultant'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:
 - Inventory
 - HR and Payroll
 - Anti-Fraud
 - Budgetary Control
 - Business Continuity and Risk Management

After each visit the external consultant reports to the Board of Trustees, through the Audit, Finance and Resources Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities.

On an annual basis the internal auditor prepare a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

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

- The work of the internal auditor
- The work of the external consultant.
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool
- The work of external auditors.
- The work of the executive managers within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- Correspondence from ESFA e.g. notice to improve (Ntl) and 'minded to' letters.

LEARN@ MAT
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Audit, Finance and Resources Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the Trustees of the Board of Trustees on 7 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



S Baldwin
Trustee

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of Learn@ MAT, 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 terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

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

Colin Cattanach

C Cattanach
Accounting Officer

7 Decmbe 2023

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



S Baldwin
Trustee

Date: Dec 07 2023

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF LEARN@ MAT

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of Learn@ MAT (the 'trust') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 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 Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

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

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

EMPHASIS OF MATTER

We draw attention to note 1.2 in the financial statements, which explains that the Academy Trust ceased to operate on 1 September 2023 and transferred all of its assets, liabilities and activities transferred to two Academy Trusts. Upon this transfer, Learn@ MAT ceased to operate. Accordingly, the accounts have been prepared on a basis other than a going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF LEARN@ MAT (CONTINUED)

OTHER INFORMATION

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

OPINION ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

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

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

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

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

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

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

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the 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 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 Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF LEARN@ MAT (CONTINUED)

AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

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

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the Academy sector, control environment and the Trust's performance;
- results of our enquiries of management and the Trustee board, including the committees charged with governance over the Trust's finance and control, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Trust's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to: identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance; detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or noncompliance with laws and regulations; and assessment of the impact of schools joining the Trust in relation to these areas;
- how the Trust ensured it met its obligations arising from it being financed by the ESFA and other funders, and as such material compliance with these obligations is required to ensure the Trust will continue to receive its public funding and be authorised to operate, including around ensuring there is no material unauthorised use of funds and expenditure;
- how the Trust ensured it met its obligations to its principal regulator, the Secretary of State for Education; and
- these matters were discussed among the audit engagement team who also considered any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud, which included incorrect recognition of revenue, management override of controls using manual journal entries, procurement and payroll. We identified the greatest potential for fraud as incorrect recognition of revenue and management override using manual journal entries.

In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Trust operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Academies Accounts Direction, Academies Trust Handbook 2022, UK Companies Act, Charity Law, Charity SORP and tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the Trust's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included safeguarding regulations, data protection regulations, occupational health and safety regulations, education and inspections legislation, building legislation and employment legislation.

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF LEARN@ MAT (CONTINUED)

with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess the recognition of revenue;
- enquiring of Trustees and management and those charged with governance concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing procedures to confirm material compliance with the requirements of its regulators;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing internal control reports; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; and assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias.

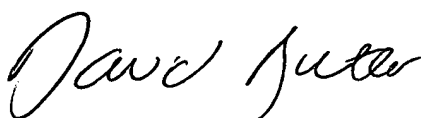
We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from an error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it.

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 Auditors' Report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

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



David Butler FCA DChA (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of
Bishop Fleming LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
10 Temple Back
Bristol
BS1 6FL

Date: 13 December 2023

LEARN@ MAT
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO LEARN@ MAT AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 23 October 2020 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 Learn@ MAT during the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEARN@ MAT'S ACCOUNTING OFFICER AND THE REPORTING ACCOUNTANT

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Learn@ MAT's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 24 August 2017 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

APPROACH

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

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

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

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

Our work on regularity included a review of the internal controls policies and procedures that have been implemented and an assessment of their design and effectiveness to understand how the academy complied with the framework of authorities. We also reviewed the reports commissioned by the trustees to assess the internal controls throughout the year.

We performed detailed testing based on our assessment of the risk of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance. This work was integrated with our audit on the financial statements where appropriate and included analytical review and detailed substantive testing of transactions.

In line with the Framework and guide for external auditors and reporting accountants of academy trusts issued April 2023, we have not performed any additional procedures regarding the Trust's compliance with safeguarding, health and safety and estates management.

LEARN@ MAT
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO LEARN@
MAT AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)**

CONCLUSION

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

Bishop Fleming LLP

Reporting Accountant
Bishop Fleming LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
10 Temple Back
Bristol
BS1 6FL

Date: *13 Decmber 2023*

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	1,566	-	9,462,434	9,464,000	24,970,384
Other trading activities	5	96,163	-	-	96,163	56,332
Investments	6	10,738	-	-	10,738	349
Charitable activities		382,797	20,879,974	-	21,262,771	18,696,771
Total income		491,264	20,879,974	9,462,434	30,833,672	43,723,836
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities		188,384	21,457,424	2,297,483	23,943,291	21,203,751
Transfer out of academies	30	-	(1,327,000)	30,303,268	28,976,268	-
Total expenditure		188,384	20,130,424	32,600,751	52,919,559	21,203,751
Net income/(expenditure)		302,880	749,550	(23,138,317)	(22,085,887)	22,520,085
Transfers between funds	17	-	(115,866)	115,866	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		302,880	633,684	(23,022,451)	(22,085,887)	22,520,085
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	24	-	1,907,000	-	1,907,000	9,871,000
Net movement in funds		302,880	2,540,684	(23,022,451)	(20,178,887)	32,391,085
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		1,176,447	(3,082,167)	78,917,587	77,011,867	44,620,782
Net movement in funds		302,880	2,540,684	(23,022,451)	(20,178,887)	32,391,085
Total funds carried forward		1,479,327	(541,483)	55,895,136	56,832,980	77,011,867

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 30 to 60 form part of these financial statements.

LEARN@ MAT
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
Registered number:10377760

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 August 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	56,338,153	78,881,323
		<u>56,338,153</u>	<u>78,881,323</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	15	2,599,633	2,216,059
Cash at bank and in hand		1,967,888	3,518,876
		<u>4,567,521</u>	<u>5,734,935</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(2,681,694)	(3,211,391)
Net current assets		<u>1,885,827</u>	<u>2,523,544</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>58,223,980</u>	<u>81,404,867</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	24	(1,391,000)	(4,393,000)
Total net assets		<u><u>56,832,980</u></u>	<u><u>77,011,867</u></u>
Funds of the Trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	17	55,895,136	78,917,587
Restricted income funds	17	849,517	1,310,833
		<u>56,744,653</u>	<u>80,228,420</u>
Restricted funds excluding pension reserve	17	56,744,653	80,228,420
Pension reserve	17	(1,391,000)	(4,393,000)
Total restricted funds	17	<u>55,353,653</u>	<u>75,835,420</u>
Unrestricted income funds	17	<u>1,479,327</u>	<u>1,176,447</u>
Total funds		<u><u>56,832,980</u></u>	<u><u>77,011,867</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 27 to 60 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:

Sarah Baldwin

S Baldwin
Trustee
Date: Dec 07 2023

Colin Cattarach

C Cattarach
Chief Executive Officer

The notes on pages 30 to 60 form part of these financial statements.

LEARN@ MAT
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	19	(1,012,672)	2,078,962
Cash flows from investing activities	20	(538,316)	(1,025,514)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(1,550,988)	1,053,448
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		3,518,876	2,465,428
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	21, 22	<u>1,967,888</u>	<u>3,518,876</u>

The notes on pages 30 to 60 form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

1.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

1.2 GOING CONCERN

As described in note 28, on 1 September 2023, all of the assets, liabilities and activities of the Trust transferred to Two Multi-Academy Trusts. Upon transfer, the Trust ceased all activities.

Accordingly, these accounts are prepared on a basis other than as a going concern. However, given that the Trust's academies will be carried on by the two Multi-Academy Trusts, no adjustments to, or reclassifications of, the amounts included in these accounts prior to transfer have been required.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.3 INCOME

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

- **Grants**

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

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

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

- **Donations**

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

- **Other income**

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

- **Transfer on conversion**

Where assets and liabilities are received by the Trust on conversion to an academy, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the Balance Sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the Trust. An equal amount of income is recognised as a transfer on conversion within 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' to the net assets received.

1.4 EXPENDITURE

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

- **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.5 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

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

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of these assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Leasehold property	- 10 - 50 years or over the life of the lease
Furniture and equipment	- 10% straight line
Computer equipment	- 33% straight line
Motor vehicles	- 20% straight line

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

1.6 OPERATING LEASES

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

1.7 DEBTORS

Trade and other debtors with no stated interest rate and due within one year are recorded at the amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be received. Prepayments are valued at the amount paid.

1.8 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account and cash on deposit that has a notice period of less than 30 days.

1.9 LIABILITIES

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.10 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 16. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.11 TAXATION

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

1.12 PENSIONS

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

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

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.13 AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

The Trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from the ESFA. Payments received from the ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the Statement of Financial Activities as the Academy Trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The Academy 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, paid and any balances held at period end are disclosed in note 29.

1.14 FUND ACCOUNTING

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

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

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

Transfers are made between restricted funds and restricted fixed asset funds where restricted funds are used to purchase fixed assets.

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 24, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement:

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Transfer on conversion	1,566	9,183,299	9,184,865	24,137,993
Capital Grants	-	279,135	279,135	832,391
TOTAL 2023	1,566	9,462,434	9,464,000	24,970,384
TOTAL 2022	702	24,969,682	24,970,384	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

4. FUNDING FOR THE TRUST'S CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
EDUCATION				
DFE/ESFA GRANTS				
General Annual Grant	-	6,520,832	6,520,832	5,720,000
OTHER DFE/ESFA GRANTS				
Pupil Premium	-	267,110	267,110	267,007
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	6,660	6,660	-
PE and Sport Premium	-	41,520	41,520	40,280
Rates reimbursement	-	-	-	6,645
Project Development grant	-	-	-	44,705
Teachers' Pay and Pension grant	-	436,659	436,659	402,047
Other DfE grants	-	170,655	170,655	31,597
	-	7,443,436	7,443,436	6,512,281
OTHER GOVERNMENT GRANTS				
High Needs	-	12,875,090	12,875,090	10,740,380
LA Pupil Premium	-	23,766	23,766	50,535
Other Government Grants	-	224,652	224,652	566,305
	-	13,123,508	13,123,508	11,357,220
COVID-19 ADDITIONAL FUNDING (DFE/ESFA)				
COVID-19 Recovery Premium	-	199,185	199,185	75,718
School Led Tutoring	-	99,595	99,595	88,737
	-	298,780	298,780	164,455
OTHER FUNDING				
Other Income	382,797	14,250	397,047	662,815
	382,797	14,250	397,047	662,815
TOTAL 2023	382,797	20,879,974	21,262,771	18,696,771
TOTAL 2022	670,175	18,026,596	18,696,771	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

5. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Lettings	17,818	17,818	7,396
Catering	78,345	78,345	48,936
TOTAL 2023	<u>96,163</u>	<u>96,163</u>	<u>56,332</u>
TOTAL 2022	<u>56,332</u>	<u>56,332</u>	

6. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Bank interest	10,738	10,738	349
TOTAL 2022	<u>349</u>	<u>349</u>	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

7. EXPENDITURE

	Staff Costs 2023 £	Premises 2023 £	Other 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
EDUCATION:					
Direct costs	12,501,859	2,214,209	3,575,024	18,291,092	16,340,467
Allocated support costs	2,552,597	1,372,965	1,795,637	5,721,199	4,863,284
Transfer out of trust	-	-	28,976,268	28,976,268	-
	<u>15,054,456</u>	<u>3,587,174</u>	<u>34,346,929</u>	<u>52,988,559</u>	<u>21,203,751</u>
TOTAL 2022	<u>14,860,177</u>	<u>3,021,379</u>	<u>3,322,195</u>	<u>21,203,751</u>	

8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Education	<u>18,291,092</u>	<u>5,721,199</u>	<u>24,012,291</u>	<u>21,203,751</u>
TOTAL 2022	<u>16,340,467</u>	<u>4,863,284</u>	<u>21,203,751</u>	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Pension finance costs	192,000	189,600
Staff costs	12,506,859	12,033,556
Depreciation	2,214,209	1,642,519
Educational supplies	1,517,634	1,330,897
Examination fees	29,234	21,720
Staff development	170,243	146,483
Other costs	32,306	32,779
Supply staff costs	1,249,381	659,939
Educational consultancy	379,226	282,974
	18,291,092	16,340,467

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Pension finance costs	69,000	47,400
Staff costs	2,547,597	2,166,682
Supply costs	16,351	-
Recruitment and support	65,081	80,089
Maintenance of premises and equipment	651,090	699,288
Cleaning	69,443	136,247
Rent and rates	114,667	126,650
Energy costs	536,865	221,161
Insurance	268,354	217,676
Security and transport	203,108	195,514
Catering	334,934	282,693
Technology Costs	384,181	381,331
Office overheads	46,845	77,805
Legal and professional	389,420	223,087
Bank interest and charges	2,585	2,455
Governance costs	21,678	5,206
	<u>5,721,199</u>	<u>4,863,284</u>

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Operating lease rentals	103,465	75,015
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	2,242,350	1,642,519
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	21,400	19,140
- other services	3,800	3,675
	<u>2,370,615</u>	<u>1,739,349</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

10. STAFF

a. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	10,239,072	9,155,962
Social security costs	1,122,807	963,018
Pension costs	2,493,353	3,346,783
	<u>13,855,232</u>	<u>13,465,763</u>
Agency staff costs	1,153,277	659,939
Staff restructuring costs	45,947	74,536
	<u><u>15,054,456</u></u>	<u><u>14,200,238</u></u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	2023 £	2022 £
Redundancy payments	15,696	74,536
Severance payments	28,015	26,886
	<u><u>43,711</u></u>	<u><u>101,422</u></u>

b. STAFF NUMBERS

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Teachers	84	75
Educational Support	148	136
Care	29	33
Administration and support	77	71
Leadership	26	29
	<u><u>364</u></u>	<u><u>344</u></u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

10. STAFF (CONTINUED)

b. STAFF NUMBERS (CONTINUED)

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Teachers	76	72
Educational support	112	111
Care	25	30
Administration and support	54	52
Leadership	24	29
	291	294

c. HIGHER PAID STAFF

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

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	7	6
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	6	2
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	1	1
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	1
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	2	-

The above employees participated in the Teachers' Pension Scheme with the exception of one employee who participated in the Local Government Pension Scheme. Annual equivalent pension contributions during the period for these staff members amounted to £216,713 (2022: £161,992).

d. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The key management personnel of the Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Trust was £841,069 (2022: £850,090).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

11. CENTRAL SERVICES

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

- Educational Psychologist
- Speech and Language Therapy
- School Improvement Partners
- Finance
- Human Resources
- Legal
- Information Technology
- Training and CPD
- Health and Safety
- Payroll
- Mental Health Specialist
- Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance

The Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

7.5% (5% for new converter schools) of General Annual Grant and High Needs funding calculated on budgeted values. If an Academy requires a specific service then this is recharged to them and included in the central fund contribution.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Knowle DGE Academy	400,072	599,412
Lansdown Park Academy	160,403	225,825
Notton House Academy	261,176	510,599
St Matthias Academy	136,184	135,468
Soundwell Academy	270,102	331,025
The Sky Academy	184,588	110,160
Brook Academy	70,698	-
TOTAL	1,483,223	1,912,489

12. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

The previous Chief Executive Officer was the only staff Trustee of the Trust, and received remuneration in respect of services provided in undertaking the role of Chief Executive Officer, and not in respect of their services as a Trustee. The value of Trustees remuneration and expenses was as follows: Remuneration £40,000 - £80,000 (2022: £90,000 - £100,000), Employer's pension contributions £0 - 20,000 (2022: £20,000 - 25,000).

During the year ended 31 August 2023, expenses totalling £5,121 to 6 Trustees were reimbursed (2022 - £Nil to Trustee).

Other related party transactions involving the Trustees are set out in note 27.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

13. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

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

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Long-term leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION					
At 1 September 2022	82,681,881	511,615	889,791	75,309	84,158,596
Additions	343,104	322,177	153,868	-	819,149
Transfers out of academies - Disposal	(31,214,870)	(352,724)	(262,511)	(19,526)	(31,849,631)
Acquired on conversion	9,183,299	-	-	-	9,183,299
At 31 August 2023	60,993,414	481,068	781,148	55,783	62,311,413
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 September 2022	4,760,034	67,280	397,008	52,951	5,277,273
Charge for the year	1,838,858	93,469	303,732	6,291	2,242,350
Transfer out of academies - elimination on disposal	(1,354,135)	(54,660)	(128,451)	(9,116)	(1,546,362)
At 31 August 2023	5,244,757	106,089	572,289	50,126	5,973,261
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 August 2023	55,748,657	374,979	208,859	5,657	56,338,152
At 31 August 2022	77,921,847	444,335	492,783	22,358	78,881,323

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

15. DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	438,549	213,539
Other debtors	3,948	3,417
Prepayments and accrued income	2,063,191	1,533,966
Tax recoverable	93,945	465,137
	<u>2,599,633</u>	<u>2,216,059</u>

16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	1,434,051	1,273,867
Other taxation and social security	192,865	243,222
Other creditors	542,612	292,869
Accruals and deferred income	512,166	1,401,433
	<u>2,681,694</u>	<u>3,211,391</u>

	2023 £	2022 £
Opening deferred income balance at the start of the period	507,478	58,960
Resources deferred during the year	49,563	507,478
Amounts released from previous periods	(507,478)	(58,960)
	<u>49,563</u>	<u>507,478</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
General Funds - all funds	1,176,447	491,264	(188,384)	-	-	1,479,327
RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,253,342	6,520,833	(6,949,219)	-	-	824,956
Pupil Premium	-	267,110	(267,110)	-	-	-
PE and Sport Premium	-	41,520	(41,520)	-	-	-
High Needs	-	12,875,089	(12,875,089)	-	-	-
Other ESFA	-	64,814	(64,814)	-	-	-
UFSM	-	6,660	(6,660)	-	-	-
Other Local Authority grants	1,000	148,552	(33,686)	(115,866)	-	-
Transferred on conversion	1,913	-	(1,913)	-	-	-
Teachers' Pay and Pension Grants	-	436,660	(436,660)	-	-	-
COVID-19 Catch Up Premium	-	199,185	(199,185)	-	-	-
John James Foundation	43,151	45,000	(68,213)	-	-	19,938
Other restricted	11,427	176,157	(182,961)	-	-	4,623
School Led Tutoring	-	98,394	(98,394)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(4,393,000)	-	1,095,000	-	1,907,000	(1,391,000)
	<u>(3,082,167)</u>	<u>20,879,974</u>	<u>(20,130,424)</u>	<u>(115,866)</u>	<u>1,907,000</u>	<u>(541,483)</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS						
Fixed assets transferred on conversion	50,616,573	-	(944,281)	-	-	49,672,292
Fixed assets purchased from GAG and other restricted	28,301,014	9,462,434	(31,656,470)	115,866	-	6,222,844
	<u>78,917,587</u>	<u>9,462,434</u>	<u>(32,600,751)</u>	<u>115,866</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55,895,136</u>
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>75,835,420</u>	<u>30,342,408</u>	<u>(52,731,175)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,907,000</u>	<u>55,353,653</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>77,011,867</u>	<u>30,833,672</u>	<u>(52,919,559)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,907,000</u>	<u>56,832,980</u>

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

General Annual Grant (GAG) - income from the ESFA which is to be used for the normal running costs of the Trust, including education and support costs.

Pupil Premium - represents funding received from the ESFA for children that qualify for free school meals and who have ceased to be looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because of adoption, a special guardianship order, or child arrangements order to enable the Trust to address the current underlying inequalities.

PE and Sport Premium - funding received from the ESFA and must be used to fund improvements to the provision of PE and sport, for the benefit of primary-aged pupils, so that they develop healthy lifestyles.

Rates Relief - reimbursed rates incurred by the Trust.

Project Development Fund - funding received from the ESFA and Gloucestershire County Council for pre-opening costs of Soundwell Academy and Brook Academy which opened in September 2022.

High Needs - funding received from Local Authorities to fund further support for young people with additional needs.

Other ESFA - This represents other ESFA funding.

Other Local Authority grants - This represents funding from the Local Authority for Looked After Children, funding for a parent and family support worker and funding for an outreach programme.

Transferred on Conversion – unspent grants held by The Sky Academy at the point of conversion. Funds include Devolved Formula Capital, COVID-19 Mass Testing Funding and other restricted funds.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Teachers' Pay and Teachers' Pension Grant - Government funding received to help cover the increase in teachers' pay and pension costs.

COVID-19 Catch-up Premium – funding from the ESFA to support children and young people to catch up on missed learning caused by COVID-19.

COVID-19 Mass Testing Funding – funding from the ESFA for the additional costs incurred to facilitate the rapid COVID-19 testing of staff and pupils from January 2021.

John James Foundation - This represents funding received from the John James Foundation to create new Design and Technology classrooms, a new outdoor education area and for rewards for young people.

Knowle DGA Academy 6th Form - Funding from Bristol City Council for the purchase of ICT and FFE.

Other restricted - This represents other restricted funds.

Post-opening Grant (POG) – income from the ESFA which is to be used to fund the additional costs in establishing a new publicly-funded school which cannot be met through the GAG. The POG provides funding in two elements as the free school grows: non-staffing resources, paid on a per place basis, and a leadership grant. These titles reflect the basis on which the funding is calculated, but the grant can be spent on any legitimate purpose of the school.

Pension reserve - This represents the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit.

FIXED ASSET FUNDS

Fixed assets transferred on conversion - This represents the building and equipment donated to the Trust on conversion to academy status.

Fixed assets purchased from GAG and other restricted - This represents amounts spent on fixed assets from the GAG funding received from the ESFA and income from other sources specifically for the purchase of fixed assets, including fixed assets donated to the Trust.

OTHER INFORMATION

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
General Funds	950,010	727,558	(501,121)	-	-	1,176,447
RESTRICTED FUNDS						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,491,391	5,720,000	(5,534,795)	(423,254)	-	1,253,342
Pupil Premium	-	267,007	(265,732)	(1,275)	-	-
PE and Sport Premium	11,774	40,280	(52,054)	-	-	-
Rates Relief	-	6,645	(6,645)	-	-	-
Project Development Grant	55,151	44,705	(99,856)	-	-	-
High Needs	-	10,740,380	(10,740,380)	-	-	-
Other ESFA	-	110,302	(110,302)	-	-	-
Other Local Authority grants	8,333	84,060	(83,966)	(7,427)	-	1,000
Transferred on conversion	2,420	-	(507)	-	-	1,913
Teachers' Pay and Pension Grants	-	402,047	(402,047)	-	-	-
COVID-19 Catch Up Premium	-	75,718	(75,718)	-	-	-
COVID Mass Testing	-	27,431	(27,431)	-	-	-
John James Foundation	18,443	45,687	(2,553)	(18,426)	-	43,151

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Knowle DGE Academy 6th Form	-	100,000	(26,531)	(73,469)	-	-
Other restricted	7,124	79,415	(73,112)	(2,000)	-	11,427
Other ESFA	-	76,500	(76,500)	-	-	-
School Led Tutoring	-	206,419	(10,577)	(195,842)	-	-
Pension reserve	(12,793,000)	-	(1,471,000)	-	9,871,000	(4,393,000)
	<u>(11,198,364)</u>	<u>18,026,596</u>	<u>(19,059,706)</u>	<u>(721,693)</u>	<u>9,871,000</u>	<u>(3,082,167)</u>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS						
Fixed assets transferred on conversion	51,627,630	-	(1,011,057)	-	-	50,616,573
Fixed assets purchased from GAG and other restricted	3,241,506	24,969,682	(631,867)	721,693	-	28,301,014
	<u>54,869,136</u>	<u>24,969,682</u>	<u>(1,642,924)</u>	<u>721,693</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>78,917,587</u>
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>43,670,772</u>	<u>42,996,278</u>	<u>(20,702,630)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,871,000</u>	<u>75,835,420</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>44,620,782</u>	<u>43,723,836</u>	<u>(21,203,751)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,871,000</u>	<u>77,011,867</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Knowle DGE Academy	446,506	555,787
Lansdown Park Academy	-	254,708
Notton House Academy	508,404	503,535
St Matthias Academy	134,460	270,820
Soundwell Academy	468,793	329,275
The Sky Academy	-	220,410
Central Services	770,681	294,439
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	2,328,844	2,428,974
Restricted fixed asset fund	55,895,136	78,917,587
Pension reserve	(1,391,000)	(4,393,000)
TOTAL	56,832,980	76,953,561

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

TOTAL COST ANALYSIS BY ACADEMY

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Knowle DGE Academy	2,298,714	392,592	379,411	2,207,232	5,277,949	4,335,233
Lansdown Park Academy	1,290,094	155,352	224,005	728,927	2,398,378	2,072,106
Notton House Academy	1,768,927	326,040	211,267	1,665,101	3,971,335	3,186,449
St Matthias Academy	887,030	158,518	48,354	763,645	1,857,547	1,642,878
Soundwell Academy	1,720,901	163,132	282,112	1,747,792	3,913,937	2,328,167
The Sky Academy	1,146,781	225,080	181,239	1,024,736	2,577,836	2,489,357
Central Services	183,274	159,286	14,928	28,907,442	29,264,930	3,507,042
Brook Academy	473,218	89,357	161,955	718,908	1,443,438	-
TRUST	9,768,939	1,669,357	1,503,271	37,763,783	50,705,350	19,561,232

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	443,017	-	55,895,136	56,338,153
Current assets	1,036,310	3,531,211	-	4,567,521
Creditors due within one year	-	(2,681,694)	-	(2,681,694)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(1,391,000)	-	(1,391,000)
TOTAL	1,479,327	(541,483)	55,895,136	56,832,980

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS (CONTINUED)

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	78,881,323	78,881,323
Current assets	1,176,447	4,522,224	36,264	5,734,935
Creditors due within one year	-	(3,211,391)	-	(3,211,391)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(4,393,000)	-	(4,393,000)
TOTAL	1,176,447	(3,082,167)	78,917,587	77,011,867

19. RECONCILIATION OF NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £	2022 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(22,085,887)	22,520,085
ADJUSTMENTS FOR:		
Loss on disposal of fixed asset	-	406
Depreciation	2,242,350	1,642,519
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(270,095)	(832,391)
Interest receivable	(10,738)	(349)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	40,000	1,234,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	192,000	237,000
Donated Fixed Assets	(9,183,299)	(24,137,291)
Increase in debtors	(383,574)	(53,081)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(529,697)	1,468,064
Net assets on transfer of academies out of the trust	28,976,268	-
NET CASH (USED IN)/PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(1,012,672)	2,078,962

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

20. CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £	2022 £
Interest received	10,738	349
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(819,149)	(1,858,254)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	270,095	832,391
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(538,316)	(1,025,514)

21. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand and at bank	1,967,888	3,518,876
TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	1,967,888	3,518,876

22. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	3,518,876	(1,550,988)	1,967,888
	3,518,876	(1,550,988)	1,967,888

23. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	2023 £	2022 £
CONTRACTED FOR BUT NOT PROVIDED IN THESE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	-	196,288

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

24. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The 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 Learn@ MAT. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020 and of the LGPS 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £190,666 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022 - £228,995) and are included within creditors.

TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME

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

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

VALUATION OF THE TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 26 October 2023. The key elements of the previous valuation as at 31 March 2016 which was effective for the year ended 31 August 2023 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 2020 valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024 and effective until 31 March 2027. The employer contribution rate for this period will be 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy).

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £898,065 (2022 - £925,253).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2019/04/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx>) for 2016 and www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2023/10/valuation-result.aspx for 2020.

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

24. PENSION COMMITMENTS (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 £1,479,000 (2022 - £1,417,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £1,139,000 (2022 - £1,127,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 340,000 (2022 - £290,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 16.6 per cent for employers and 5.5 to 12.5 per cent for employees.

As described in note the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Trust at the balance sheet date.

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

Avon Pension Fund

	2023	2022
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	4.3	4.3
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.9	2.9
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.3	4.3
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.8	2.8

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

	2023	2022
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
Males	22	23.1
Females	24	25.3
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	23.2	24.6
Females	25.7	27.3

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

24. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

SHARE OF SCHEME ASSETS

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

	At 31 August 2023 £	At 31 August 2022 £
Equities	2,745,000	3,822,000
Gilts	1,699,000	916,000
Other bonds	728,000	676,000
Property	519,000	676,000
Cash and other liquid assets	84,000	28,000
Other	2,595,000	3,138,000
TOTAL MARKET VALUE OF ASSETS	8,370,000	9,256,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £(185,000) (2022 - £(166,000)).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Current service cost	(1,179,000)	(2,361,000)
Interest income	416,000	142,000
Interest cost	(573,000)	(350,000)
Benefit changes, gain/(loss) on curtailment and gain/(loss) on settlement	(3,399,000)	(48,000)
Administrative expenses	(35,000)	(29,000)
TOTAL AMOUNT RECOGNISED IN THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	(4,770,000)	(2,646,000)

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

	2023 £	2022 £
AT 1 SEPTEMBER	13,649,000	20,084,000
Transferred out on existing academies leaving the trust	(3,399,000)	-
Current service cost	1,179,000	2,361,000
Interest cost	573,000	350,000
Employee contributions	340,000	290,000
Actuarial losses/(gains)	(2,401,000)	(10,179,000)
Benefits paid	(180,000)	743,000
AT 31 AUGUST	9,761,000	13,649,000

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

24. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

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

	2023 £	2022 £
AT 1 SEPTEMBER	9,256,000	7,291,000
Transferred out on existing academies leaving the trust	(2,072,000)	-
Interest income	416,000	142,000
Actuarial gains	(494,000)	(308,000)
Employer contributions	1,139,000	1,127,000
Employee contributions	340,000	290,000
Benefits paid	(180,000)	743,000
Administration expenses	(35,000)	(29,000)
AT 31 AUGUST	8,370,000	9,256,000

25. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 August 2023 the Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
AMOUNTS PAYABLE:		
Within 1 year	71,475	88,147
Between 1 and 5 years	106,103	165,836
	177,578	253,983

26. 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

27. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Owing to the nature of the Trust's operations and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which a trustee has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

The only related party transactions which occurred during the year were the reimbursement of expenses incurred by the Trustees, as outlined in note 12.

There are 3 employees of the Trust who are close family members of Trustees. All 3 employees were recruited via an open process and their close family members were not involved in the recruitment process. All of the employees are remunerated in line with the Trust's pay policy and are on normal pay scale for their role. No employees receive special treatment as a result of their relationship with Trustees.

28. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

The trustees' have taken the decision to rebroker all schools within the Trust to other Academy Trusts. From the 1st September 2023, the remaining schools will transfer to another Trust, together with all assets and liabilities. The Trust will cease all activities.

29. AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

The Academy Trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the accounting period ended 31 August 2023 the Academy Trust received £40,989 (2022: £3,754) and disbursed £29,600 (2022: £961) from the fund. An amount of £11,387 (2022: £7,777) is included in other creditors related to undistributed funds that is repayable to the ESFA.

30. TRANSFER OUT ON ACADEMIES LEAVING THE TRUST

Brook Academy

	Transfer out on academy leaving the trust £
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	
Long-term leasehold property	9,018,546
Furniture and equipment	175,582
Computer equipment	91,710
PENSIONS	
Pensions - pension scheme assets	(63,000)
Pensions - pension scheme liabilities	59,000
NET ASSETS	9,281,838

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

30. TRANSFER OUT ON ACADEMIES LEAVING THE TRUST (CONTINUED)

The Sky Academy

	Transfer out on academy leaving the trust £
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	
Long-term leasehold property	15,706,172
Furniture and equipment	69,190
Computer equipment	31,322
Motor vehicles	10,410
PENSIONS	
Pensions - pension scheme assets	(2,258,000)
Pensions - pension scheme liabilities	1,212,000
NET ASSETS	<u>14,771,094</u>

Lansdown Park Academy

	Transfer out on academy leaving the trust £
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	
Long-term leasehold property	5,136,016
Furniture and equipment	53,292
Computer equipment	11,027
LIABILITIES	
PENSIONS	
Pensions - pension scheme assets	(1,078,000)
Pensions - pension scheme liabilities	801,000
NET ASSETS	<u>4,923,335</u>