Registration number: 08339302

Kingsway Community Trust

(A company limited by guarantee) Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

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Reference and administrative details

Members	A Yakas A Malik D Stansfield E Antrobus G Stockdale
Trustees (Directors)	D Clemmett T Elliott A Malik K Moran G Stockdale L Vyas A Yakas A Ahmed (appointed 4 October 2023) E Garner S Marshall A Musgrove L Vyas
Teacher	
Senior Management Team	L Vyas, Executive Head J Harriott, Head of school H Chase, Head of school I Caldwell, Head of School
Company Name	Kingsway Community Trust
Principal and Registered Office	Ladybarn Primary School Briarfield Road Withington Manchester M20 4SR
Company Registration Number	08339302
Auditors	Xeinadin Audit Limited Riverside House Kings Reach Business Park Yew Street Stockport Cheshire SK4 2HD 9 May 2023

Reference and administrative details (continued)

Bankers	Lloyds Bank 42-46 Market Street Manchester M1 1PW
Solicitors	Michelmores 48 Chancery Lane London WC2 1JF

Kingsway Community Trust Trustees Report

The Trustees present their annual report together with the accounts and independent auditor's reports of the charitable company for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Academy Trust operates 3 primary school academies in South Manchester. Its academies have a combined pupil capacity of 1,170 and had a roll of 1,131 in the schools' census in October 2023. The pupils are admitted on the basis of distance (closest) from each particular school. The schools feed a diverse area which includes extensive social housing and private owner occupier housing. A significant proportion of families are in the top 10 % most deprived nationally at both Green End and Ladybarn schools. It should be noted that the initial allocation of new pupils at the start of each academic year is administered by Manchester City Council

1. Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. Kingsway Community Trust (KCT), which is a Multi Academy Trust (MAT), was incorporated on 21 December 2012 and commenced its activities on transfer of Ladybarn Primary School and Green End Primary School from the Local Authority on 1 September 2013. Cringle Brook Primary School is a Free School, which subsequently joined KCT and opened in April 2014. The Trustees of KCT are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the Trustees who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative details on page 1.

Members' Liability

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

Trustees' Indemnities

The Trust has purchased indemnity insurance to protect the Trustees and Officers from claims arising in connection with the Academy's business. The insurance provides unlimited cover on any one claim.

Principal Activities

KCT is committed to ensuring that every child succeeds highly during their time at the schools and this commitment is at the heart of everything the Trust does. Through excellent leadership and strong governance, high academic achievement, strong social skills and a sense of place in the world for every child is developed.

The Trust has a team of highly skilled teachers who deliver motivating lessons that challenge all children to achieve the best possible outcomes. Everything the children experience at Ladybarn, Green End and Cringle Brook is developed with the children in mind.

High standards from all our staff are expected and, in turn, expected from all children, with high attendance and excellent punctuality.

All parents are expected to be fully involved in their child's education and there are plenty of opportunities for them to participate in school life.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The Members may agree, by majority vote, to appoint up to 2 additional trustees as they see fit and may unanimously, in writing, agree to remove any such additional members.

The KCT Trustees may appoint in accordance with the Articles of the Association, the following: 1. A minimum of two parent Trustees (Parent Trustees shall be elected or appointed by the Board) 2. Up to 10 Trustees, (the number of Trustees who are employees of the Trust cannot exceed one third of the total number of Trustees including the Executive Headteacher)

3. Appointment of Trustees needs to take into consideration the needs of the Trust and the contribution, skills and experience an individual can offer. This is done in conjunction with the skills audit (undertaken by the Trust board every two years) which identifies any skill gaps that may exist within the existing Trustees.

In the event of a vacancy, the Trust's Governance Compliance Manager will identify potential trustees, using existing contacts, social media or by other means necessary. Suitability for appointment will be discussed and decided by the Board using criteria 3 above.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees/Governors

All trustees and governors are expected to undergo induction training in accordance with the Trust's Induction policy. Mandatory training is provided for new Trustees/Governors and, where necessary, training is provided on charity, educational, legal and financial matters.

The Chair of the Trust Board, Executive Headteacher and the SLT undertake training and induction of any new Governors and Trustees. As part of the induction process, all new Governors and Trustees are given a briefing on the aims, values and drivers of the Trust. New trustees are given a tour of the facilities and an introduction to staff and students. All Governors and Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Governors and Trustees. All Governors and Trustees sign the Trust's Governance Code of Conduct, which includes adhering to the Nolan Principles of public life.

The Trust is a member of the National Governors Association (NGA) which provides access to training and support for Trustees/Governors. It also subscribes to the Confederation of Schools Trust where governors and trustees can access governor support and information. During the year under review, Trustees/Governors have completed the following training:

- Chairs briefing MCC
- Level 1 Safeguarding
- New Governor training
- CST Leading schools through Ofsted
- CST Finance
- One Education External Adviser Complaints management training
- SLT away day on ACES

Organisational Structure

The Trust is governed by its Trust Board who are Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and Trustees for the purposes of charity legislation. The organisational structure of the Trust consists of three levels –

- (i) the Trust Board
- (ii) the Executive Headteacher and
- (iii) the Senior Leadership team (SLT)

The Trust Board is responsible for setting policy, strategy & monitoring the Trust's performance and there is a detailed Scheme of Delegation, which stipulates what tasks & responsibilities have been delegated to each committee. Certain elements are delegated to the following committees:

- Finance, Risk and Audit Committee (FRAC)
- Cringle Brook Local Governing Committee
- Green End & Ladybarn Local Governing Committee
- Personnel and Performance Management Committee
- Critical Incident Committee this committee only comes into being if an emergency is declared such as a global pandemic.

The Executive Headteacher is also the Accounting Officer and has executive responsibility for implementing the strategy and policy agreed by the Trustees and reporting back to them. The Executive Headteacher is supported by the SLT.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Trust has a robust and evidence-based methodology for setting executive pay. The Executive Headteacher's pay award is based on a combination of factors such as benchmarking with other MATs, clearly defined objectives/targets and advice from external expert consultants. The Personnel & Performance Management Committee (PPMC) agrees to the award.

Other key management personnel pay awards are set using the National Teachers Pay and Conditions 2023 and individual salary ranges are agreed by the PPMC. Again, a methodology of clear objectives is set and only when these are achieved will increment awards be approved by the PPMC. The PPMC ensures that all the pay awards are transparent, proportionate and justifiable.

Trade Union facility time

Relevant Union officials	
Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	5
Full-time equivalent employee number	3.8

Percentage of time spent on facility time	Number of employees
0% - 1%	Nil
1% - 50%	5
51% - 99%	Nil
100%	Nil

Total cost of facility time	£168.42
Total pay bill	£6,058,375
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	0.002 %

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Included in the total facility time costs is a payment of £5,750 that represents a payment to Manchester City Council (MCC) to allow KCT staff access to and support from MCC union representatives

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage	Nil %	
as a percentage of total paid facility time hours		

Risk management

The Trust Board and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) are responsible for identifying the risks faced by the Trust, establishing procedures to mitigate these risks and ensuring that employees are aware of these procedures and the implications of failing to implement them. They are satisfied that these procedures are consistent with the guidelines issued by the Charity Commission.

The Trust Board have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those relating to the buildings and related facilities, teaching and learning and the operations of the Academy.

During the year the Risk Management Process has been enhanced and Trustees are presented with a monthly Risk Register that covers many areas of risk such as Finance, Premises, Pupils, Staff, Catering. All risks are scored, RAG-rated and prioritised accordingly. Trustees are then able to clearly monitor how these risks are being dealt with and see the risk level decreasing or the risk being removed once solved.

Risk management is embedded in the governance of the Trust. Finance, Risk and Audit Committee (FRAC) maintains oversight on the Trust's Risk Management plan. Key risks identified are reviewed by the various Trust committees (Local Governing Committees and the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee) and reported to the Trust Board.

Connected Organisations and Related Party Relationships

Although there are a number of professional links to other schools and third-party organisations, the Trust is an independent company with no affiliations to outside bodies. The Trust also works closely with a wide variety of other bodies in the education sector.

None of these organisations are considered to constitute formal related parties.

2. Objectives, Strategies and Activities Objects and Aims

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The Academy Trust's objective is to advance for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing the primary schools within the Trust, offering a broad and balanced curriculum. Our Trust

- Provides a nurturing and safe environment where excellence and diversity are valued and celebrated;
- Creates enthusiasm for learning that will shape young people's lives and future chances;
- Enables children to build friendships and relationships through respect, teamwork and valuing their community;
- Harnesses all children's potential so that there are no limits as to what they can achieve;
- Never forget that we are at the heart of the community we serve.

In addition to the above aims, the Trust produces an Annual Schools' Improvement Plan, which sets out the priorities for the forthcoming year as well as reviewing those of the past period. The plan covers the key improvement activities that take place through the school year. The Trust Board also produces an Annual Governance Development Plan.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

3. Achievements and Performance

Achievements in the Year

What have been the academic successes this year?

- Ofsted inspections of both Ladybarn and Cringle Brook have resulted in favourable outcomes
 and feedback
- Internal monitoring and external quality assurance visits validated that teaching and learning is of a high standard, pupil attitude and behaviour is outstanding and expectations high.
- Pupil Premium this was used to target children both individually and in groups to raise attainment, experiences and aspiration, develop a range of social skills and support children and their families.
- Sport and Primary PE grants these have been used effectively to promote physical activity and increase pupil fitness levels. The Trust's 'My Personal Best', a high intensity fitness

programme which motivated pupils and continues to successfully raise fitness levels from year 1 to 6.

How Do School Leaders and Trustees/Governors Promote School Improvement?

At KCT, all leaders have the children's safety, welfare and learning at the forefront of all decisionmaking. Each member of the Senior Leadership Team is a leader of at least one aspect of the school's life, working as a strong team to improve learning and to raise standards. Pupil voice, through surveys and events and parent consultation, through regular surveys, mean that the whole school community is part of the consultation and decision-making process. Trustees each have lead oversight in a key aspect of the Trust and meet with operational leads throughout the academic year. The Executive Headteacher works with all aspects of the Trust community to identify priorities, plan and action developments for these and to closely monitor outcomes.

How Much Progress Have Pupils Made?

When children start in the Early Years and Foundation Stage they join us with a range of abilities, with some at starting points well below those expected of their age group. Due to the focus we give to individual needs, high quality teaching and aspirational targets across the school for all children, by the end of year 6, the vast majority have made extremely good individual progress.

Key performance Indicators

How do school leaders and Trustees/Governors promote school improvement?

The Trust Board monitors school improvement priorities through regular meetings to discuss progress, through in-depth analysis of both internal and external evidence; including group analysis of the external performance data. Quality Assurance School Improvement Reports undertaken through the Local Authority are also circulated to trustees and governors. It also spends time on scrutiny of documentation and ensures that a rigorous appraisal procedure of the Executive Headteacher and staff is adhered to. All staff, trustees and governors strive to ensure that all the children in the Trust work hard and achieve their highest potential.

Assessment outcomes 2024

(i) KS1 results

<u>Phonics (%)</u>

	Cringle Brook	Green End	Ladybarn	National 24
Year 1	90	92	86	75

(i) Key Stage 2 results

Expected level

Year 6	Cringle Brook	Green End	Ladybarn	National 24
Reading	78	81	73	74
Writing	80	88	74	72
Maths	83	88	56	73
Combined	63	77	53	61

Greater depth

Year 6	Cringle Brook	Green End	Ladybarn	National 24
Reading	30	27	20	28
Writing	13	6	6	13
Mathematics	40	38	17	24
Combined	10	6	6	8

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Plans for the Future

The Trust will continue to

- Strive to ensure that all students are able to realise their potential in both academic and non-academic terms
- Be outward looking, encourage, and inspire everyone in our community to believe and achieve their best.
- Ensure that the curriculum is relevant and inspiring for our community and resources are stimulating and meet pupil needs
- Ensure appropriate access for all groups within the school

4. Financial Review

Revenue income received in the year relates predominantly to grants received from the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of the General Annual Grant and Pupil Premium grant which are shown as Restricted General Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

A number of other grants have been received (from both the ESFA and the Local Authority) with the most significant being as follows :

- (i) Universal Free School Meals this is a grant to provide all children from Reception to Year 2 with free school meals
- (ii) Covid Recovery there were two grants awarded in this academic year (a) Recovery Premium and (b) National Tutoring Programme. These are grants to assist schools in providing additional resources to assist child educational catch up due to disruption caused by the Covid pandemic.
- (iii) Early Years this partially funds the provision of places for the Nursery aged pupils
- (iv) Higher Needs this is specific funding for pupils who have an Education Health and Care Plan
- (v) Devolved Formula Capital an annual amount paid to schools each year to be used towards capital, premises and IT costs
- (vi) TPAG Teachers Pay Additional Grant
- (vii) MSAG Mainstream School Additional Grant
- (viii) TPECG- Teachers Pension Employer Contribution Grant

In the year the schools invested in several areas including: WIFI upgrades, further IT hardware, new catering equipment, drainage and other groundworks, financial software upgrade τ

Excluding both the restricted pension and fixed asset funds, the Trust has had a total income of £7,848,286, which was less than the total expenditure of £8,286,856.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The principal risks are reviewed by the Trustees and are summarised as follows:

• Teachers pay and pension rises only part funded

- Support staff unfunded pay rises dating back to April 2023 were paid out in full in December 2024 causing pressure on cash flow and reduction of reserves
- High levels of inflation, affecting all cost areas without adequate funding to cover this.
- Pressures on cash flow due to the above
- Building repairs and maintenance costs are difficult to plan and afford given high staffing and general costs, a lack of funding and the need to pay out retrospective pay rises all at once.
- SEN funding insufficient to meet demands on staff costs. The Trust has found that there is a pattern of increasing numbers of pupils across all three schools with additional educational requirements. Not all of these additional support needs are funded by Manchester City Council. Therefore, this means each of the schools have to invest in additional support for these children, which puts additional financial burden on the Trusts financial position.
- Reduced pool of high quality teaching assistant staff leads to increased agency costs
- 2 key system changes in the year (Arbor and Access)
- Due to budget pressures, we have had to fill vacancy teaching posts with ECT's which has
 resulted in high number in Green End and Ladybarn which increases responsibility for
 experienced staff

Financial Strategy

The purpose of this strategy is to outline the factors to be considered, and the drivers which should inform spending decisions within the Trust. All expenditure should be directed towards furtherance of the educational aims of the Trust. In order to support these aims, funds will be directed as appropriate toward the following areas:

- Maintenance of a high-quality educational provision for all pupils, encompassing both core and a wide range of enrichment activities within the curriculum
- Maintenance of adequate levels of cash and working capital in order to ensure financial security for the operations of the Trust
- The need to invest in capital projects as required to ensure that the estate and infrastructure remains fit for purpose and able to support the educational objectives of the Trust
- The need to invest in training and development of staff.

Where funds are limited, it will be necessary to prioritise expenditure. The following may be considered when prioritising expenditure:

- The educational needs of the pupils
- Maintenance of intergenerational equity, in order to ensure that all generations of pupils passing through the school receive the benefit of resources available
- The business case and expected benefits for new developments and capital projects
- The ability to defer capital projects or expenditure
- Achieving a mix of levels of experience in staff
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of ongoing initiatives
- Where possible, the Trust should seek to maximise financial resources available by such activities as:
- Introducing income generating activities where appropriate (e.g. from use of facilities)
- Ensuring that a value for money culture is embedded in the business and good procurement practices are in place, including obtaining appropriate quotes before committing to expenditure, making use of establish procurement frameworks and group purchasing opportunities
- Ensuring that cash reserves are invested in interest bearing accounts

• Ensuring that good financial processes and controls are embedded in the business to reduce the risk of financial losses and fraud.

Reserves Policy

The policy of the Trust is to carry forward a prudent level of resources designed to meet the long-term plan and any unforeseen contingencies subject to the levels permitted by the Department of Education. Currently there are no funds with a deficit. The Trustees updated its reserves policy and the key points are detailed below.

Reserves are held to ensure that the Trust has sufficient resources to continue to advance the education of pupils. There are a number of constraints placed upon academies in terms of financial management. One of these constraints is the inability to borrow funds. This constraint represents a key risk to KCT in relation to financial planning and monitoring. One of the ways in which KCT mitigates this risk is through the effective management of reserves, which provide alternative temporary funding streams should there be a delay in grant receipts or a sudden unforeseen increase in expenditure.

The total amount of funds at 31 August 2024 are £14,164,243. This restricted reserve deficit is because of the accounting for the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and does not mean that this liability is expected to crystallise immediately. Full reserve details and disclosures can be found in Note 19 of the financial statements.

Unrestricted general funds £441,534

Restricted general funds £314,721

Restricted pension funds £Nil

Restricted fixed asset funds £13,878,119

Full reserve details and disclosures can be found in Note 14 of the financial statements.

The main financial risk to the Trust is that of managing its short term cash flow. Our general reserves balance now stands at £756,255 as we have had to utilise funds in the year to meet pressures caused by unfunded pay rises and large scale back payment of pay rises, as well as increases to teachers' pension contributions.

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The following restrictions should be noted regarding the reserves. The EFSA are able to set limits on the sum of GAG that can be carried forward from one year to the next. There are currently no limits in place. Also, the DfE does expect academies to use their allocated funding for the full benefit of their current pupils.

Therefore, the Trust will not build up a substantial surplus without having in place a clear plan for how it will be used to benefit our pupils. Finally, the use of reserves is subject to approval by the Trust's Finance Risk & Audit Committee.

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring the funds are maintained and that reserves are used only as described in this policy. Access to reserves requires analysis of the reason for the request of reserves, the availability of any other sources of funds before using reserves and evaluation of the time period that the funds will be required. Authorisation to use the reserves should be obtained at the next

Finance Risk & Audit Committee meeting. Upon approval, the Trust will keep a record of the use of these funds.

The Trustees intend to review the reserve levels of the Trust annually. This review will consider the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. A cautious and low risk approach has been taken in forecasts of both income and expenditure.

The Trust receives donations given for certain purposes. Whilst every endeavour will be made to meet the donor's original wishes, the Trust reserves the right to allocate this income against the general expenditure of the Trust, which is aligned to the educational purposes of the Trust.

Investment Policy and Powers

The Trust has developed a finance and investment strategy that would allow any surplus funds to be deposited in an interest-bearing account. At present this would be dependent on cash flow.

Financial Oversight

As the Trust Board meets less than 6 times a year, the Trust has to ensure it has sufficient mechanisms in place to ensure robust governance and effective financial management is maintained. This is done by the management accounts being issued on a monthly basis to all members of the Trust Board. This ensures there is full transparency over the financial position of the Trust.

Fundraising

The Trustees are committed to ensuring that fundraising activities are carried out in an ethical manner. In doing so, the Trust will adhere to the following standards:

- The Trustees will have regard to the Charity commissions publication 'Charity Fundraising' (CC20)
- Fundraising activities carried out by the school will comply with all relevant laws.
- Any communications to the public made in the course of carrying out a fundraising activity shall be truthful and non-deceptive.
- All monies raised via fundraising activities will be for the stated purpose of the appeal and will comply with the school's stated mission and purpose.
- All personal information collected by the school is confidential and is not for sale or to be given away or disclosed to any third party without consent.
- Nobody directly or indirectly employed by or volunteering for the school shall accept commissions, bonuses or payments for fundraising activities on behalf of the organisation.
- No general solicitations shall be undertaken by telephone or door-to-door.
- Fundraising activities should not be undertaken if they may be detrimental to the good name or community standing of the school.
- Financial contributions will only be accepted from companies, organisations and individuals the Board considers ethical. All Trustees, temporary & permanent staff and volunteers are responsible for adhering to these procedures.
- Any fundraising activity will report regularly to the FRAC, including tabling of meeting minutes at full Trustees meetings.

- Fundraising activities should not be undertaken if they will expose the organisation to significant financial risk.
- Complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the Charity Commissions guide CC20

Disclosure of information to auditor

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustees have taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trust Board has a reasonable expectation that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the Board of Trustees continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the statement of accounting policies.

The Trustees' report was approved by order of the Trust Board, as the company directors, on 17th December and signed on its behalf by:

Sela. A Malik

Chair of the Board

Kingsway Community Trust Governance Statement

Scope of Responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Kingsway Community Trust (KCT) 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 Trust Board has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Executive Headteacher, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform to 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 KCT and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Trust Board 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 Trust Board Trustees has formally met 5 times during the year ended August 2024. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Trust Board was as follows:

<u>Trustee</u>	Meetings attended	<u>Out of a</u> possible
K Moran	5	5
A Malik (Chair)	4	5
L Vyas	5	5
A Yakas	3	5
D Clemmett	3	5
T Elliott	4	5
G Stockdale	5	5
Alice Musgrove	5	5
Sarah Marshall	3	5
Almeena Ahmed	3	5
Emma Garner	4	5

The Trust board has determined that it is able to convene four times a year and maintain effective oversight, particularly as the Chair of the Board meets regularly with the Executive Headteacher to

Kingsway Community Trust Governance Statement (continued)

monitor progress and is kept informed of any pertinent matters, which may arise from time to time. Trustees receive regular management accounts relating to the financial position and, from time to time, are provided with other relevant reports relating to matters at the School. Email communications have continued to prove to be an effective way in which to keep Trustees informed between meetings. . Trustees are also encouraged to visit any of the schools at any time to meet with the Executive Headteacher and other employees or simply to observe aspects of the school day.

The Finance Risk and Audit Committee (FRAC) is a sub-committee of the main Trust Board. Its purpose is to ensure that the schools operate within all appropriate Financial Regulations and to guide and assist the Executive Headteacher, the Heads of School and the Trust Board in all budget and financial matters. Its purpose is also to review the overall risk profile of the Multi Academy Trust (MAT) and to monitor the risk management techniques employed at all levels within the Trust. In addition, it reviews the effectiveness of financial controls and advises the governing body of all aspects of audit.

During the period the FRAC reviewed and approved a number of key policies. The committee reviewed revised and enhanced budget monitoring reports. All ESFA submissions are approved by the Accounting Officer and monitored by FRAC to ensure ESFA reporting deadlines are being met. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

<u>Trustee</u>	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
A Malik	4	4
L Vyas	4	4
T Elliott	4	4
G Stockdale (Chair)	4	4

Review of Value for Money

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

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

- Review of contracts in place to identify opportunities to negotiate better terms and/or reduce the utilisation of goods and services to ensure a better return from the money spent and services provided.
- Further rigour in assessing the financial position of the Trust over the longer term.
- Identification of improvements to financial controls/systems to reduce the risk of improper use of public money

Kingsway Community Trust Governance Statement (continued)

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in KCT for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Trust Board 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 Trust Board is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks, which has been in place for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Trust Board.

Key risks

The board of Trustees consider the key risks facing the trust and their mitigating factors to be the following:

- Teachers pay and pension rises only part funded
- Support staff unfunded pay rises dating back to April 2023 were paid out in full in December 2023 causing pressure on cash flow and reduction of reserves
- High levels of inflation, affecting all cost areas without adequate funding to cover this.
- Pressures on cash flow due to the above
- Building repairs and maintenance costs are difficult to plan and afford given high staffing and general costs, a lack of funding and the need to pay out retrospective payrises all at once.
- SEN funding insufficient to meet demands on staff costs. The Trust has found that there is a pattern of increasing numbers of pupils across all three schools with additional educational requirements. Not all of these additional support needs are funded by Manchester City Council. Therefore, this means each of the schools have to invest in additional support for these children, which puts additional financial burden on the Trusts financial position.
- Reduced pool of high quality teaching assistant staff leads to increased agency costs
- 2 key system changes in the year (Arbor and Access)
- Due to budget pressures, we have had to fill vacancy teaching posts with ECT's which has resulted in high number in Green End and Ladybarn which increases responsibility for experienced staff

Will continue to closely monitor all spending and ensure that we get best value for all transactions.

Kingsway Community Trust Governance Statement (continued)

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 Trust Board;
- regular reviews by the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines.
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

The FRAC considered the need for a specific internal audit function and decided to have-an internal scrutiny audit carried out by an outside internal audit firm during the financial year. This covered two areas listed below.

- 1. Review of risk control process
- 2. Review of premises management

In both cases, the audit reports showed we are in an excellent position and the standard of management in both areas resulted in low risk.

Review of Effectiveness

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

- the work of the external auditor;
- the work of the external audit company
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the FRAC and a plan to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Trust Board on 17th December 2024 and signed on their behalf, by:

A Malik Chair of the Board

L Vyas Accounting Officer

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Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance

As accounting officer of Kingsway Community Trust 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 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the academy trust board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2023.

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

L Vyas, Head Teacher Accounting officer

17 December 2024

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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 apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024;
- · make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 17 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

A Malik

Chair of the Board

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Kingsway Community Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Kingsway Community Trust (the 'Academy') for the year ended 31 August 2024, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Academy trust's affairs at 31 August 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information (covers the Reference and administrative details, the Trustees' report and the Governance statement)

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Kingsway Community Trust (continued)

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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 for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' report 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 company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

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

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities [set out on page 20], the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Kingsway Community Trust (continued)

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:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the trust through discussions with directors and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the academies sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the trust, including the Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation and data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental, and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the trust's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

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

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

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

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Kingsway Community Trust (continued)

· agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;

- · reading the minutes of meetings of those charges with governance
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC, and the trust's legal advisors

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

Use of our report

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

S Leith-Derlin.

Simon Leitch-Devlin (Senior Statutory Auditor) For and on behalf of Xeinadin Audit Limited, Statutory Auditor

Riverside House Kings Reach Business Park Yew Street Stockport Cheshire SK4 2HD

Date: 20/12/2024

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Kingsway Community Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 9 May 2023 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Kingsway Community Trust during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 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 Kingsway Community Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we may state to Kingsway Community Trust and the ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Kingsway Community Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the Kingsway Community Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Kingsway Community Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated and the Academy Trust Handbook extant from 1 September 2023, 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 2023 to 2024. 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 from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- We have confirmed that the activities conform to the trust's framework of authorities. As identified by review of minutes, management accounts, discussion with the accounting officer and other key management personnel.
- We have carried out an analytical review as part of the consideration of whether general activities of the trust are within the trust's framework of authorities.

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Kingsway Community Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (continued)

- We have considered the evidence supporting the accounting officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance and have evaluated the general control environment of the trust and extended the procedures required for financial statements to include regularity.
- We have assessed and tested a sample of the specific control activities over regularity of a
 particular activity. In performing sample testing of expenditure, we have considered whether the
 activity is permissible within the trust's framework of authorities. We confirm that each item tested
 has been appropriately authorised in accordance with the trust's delegated authorities and that the
 internal delegations have been approved by the Trust Board and conform to the limits set by the
 Department for Education.
- Formal representations have been obtained from the governing body and the accounting officer acknowledging their responsibilities including disclosing all non-compliance with laws and regulations specific to the authorising framework, access to accounting records, provision of information and explanations, and other matters where direct evidence is not available.
- In performing sample testing of expenditure, we have reviewed against specific terms of grant funding within the funding agreement. We have reviewed the list of suppliers and have considered whether supplies are from related parties and have reviewed minutes for evidence of declaration of interest, and whether or not there was involvement in the decision to order from this supplier.
- We have performed sample testing of other income and tested whether activities are permitted within the trust's charitable objects.

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

X eindir

Reporting Accountant

Xeinadin Audit Limited

Riverside House Kings Reach Business Park Yew Street Stockport Cheshire SK4 2HD

Date: 20/12/2024

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Pension Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2023/24 Total £
Income and endowme	nts from	1:				
Donations and capital						
grants	2	7,027	25,306	-	24,834	57,167
Other trading activities	4	145,868	-	-	-	145,868
Investments	5	14,618	-	-	-	14,618
Charitable activities: Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3		7,655,467			7,655,467
Total		167,513	7,680,773		24,834	7,873,120
Expenditure on:		107,010	1,000,110		21,001	.,010,120
Charitable activities: Academy trust						
educational operations	7		8,286,856	(72,000)		8,518,602
Net income/(expenditure)		167,513	(606,083)	72,000	(278,912)	(645,482)
Transfers between funds		(475,165)	482,377	-	(7,212)	-
Other recognised gains and losses Actuarial (losses) / gains on defined benefit pension schemes	23	-	_	(72,000)	-	(72,000)
Net movement in deficit		(207.050)	(400 700)		(200 424)	
		(307,652)	(123,706)	-	(286,124)	(717,482)
Reconciliation of fund	s					
Total funds brought forward at 1 September 2023		749,186	438,427		14,164,243	15,351,856
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2024		441,534	314,721		13,878,119	14,634,374

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Pension Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2022/23 Total £
Income and endowme	nts fron	1:				
Donations and capital						
grants Other tradium activities	2	-	-	-	77,649	77,649
Other trading activities Investments	4 5	221,265 4,820	-	-	-	221,265 4,820
<i>Charitable activities:</i> Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3		7,327,706			7,327,706
Total		226,085	7,327,706	-	77,649	7,631,440
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities: Academy trust educational operations	7	-	7,848,337	196,000	291,510	8,335,847
Net income/(expenditure)		226,085	(520,631)	(196,000)	(213,861)	(704,407)
Transfers between funds		(557,857)	550,904	_	6,953	-
Other recognised gains and losses Actuarial (losses) / gains on defined benefit pension schemes	23	<u> </u>	<u>-</u>	244,000	<u>-</u>	244,000
Net movement in (deficit)/funds		(331,772)	30,273	48,000	(206,908)	(460,407)
Reconciliation of fund	s					
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2022		1,080,958	408,154	(48,000)	14,371,151	15,812,263
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2023		749,186	438,427		14,164,243	15,351,856

(Registration number: 08339302) Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	13,853,795	14,118,700
Current assets			
Debtors	12	193,355	286,675
Cash at bank and in hand		905,504	1,290,995
		1,098,859	1,577,670
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		(318,280)	(344,514)
Net current assets		780,579	1,233,156
Total assets less current liabilities		14,634,374	15,351,856
Net assets excluding pension asset		14,634,374	15,351,856
Total net assets		14,634,374	15,351,856
Funds of the Academy:			
Restricted funds			
Restricted general fund	14	314,721	438,427
Restricted fixed asset fund	14	13,878,119	14,164,243
		14,192,840	14,602,670
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted general fund	14	441,534	749,186
Total funds		14,634,374	

The financial statements on pages 27 to 55 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 17 December 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

. A Malik

Chair of the Board

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities Net cash used in operating activities	17	(386,102)	(460,619)
Cash flows from investing activities	19	611	(12,926)
Cash flows from financing activities	18		(2,178)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(385,491)	(475,723)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		1,290,995	1,766,718
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	20	905,504	1,290,995

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

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.

Basis of preparation

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

Going concern

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

Income

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

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 period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Sponsorship income

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

Donations

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

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

Expenditure

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £5000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful lives, per the table below.

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Freehold and leasehold property	2% straight line
Leasehold land	0.8% straight line
Furniture and equipment	10% straight line
Computer equipment	20% straight line

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

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

Liabilities

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

Provisions

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

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Leased assets

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

Financial Instruments

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

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

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 13. Taxation and social security 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. Amounts due to charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

Taxation

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

Accordingly, the academy trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Part 11, Chapter 3 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Pension benefits

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

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

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

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

Fund accounting

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

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

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

Restricted pension funds comprise all income, costs and actuarial valuations associated with the Local Government pension scheme (LGPS).

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.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (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 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2024/23 Total £	2023/22 Total £
Educational trips and visits	-	25,306	-	25,306	-
Capital grants Other donations	- 7.027	-	24,834	24,834 7,027	77,649
	7,027	25,306	24,834	57,167	77,649

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

3 Funding for the academy trust's charitable activities

	Restricted General Funds £	2024/23 Total £	2023/22 Total £
Educational operations			
DfE/ESFA revenue grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	5,569,541	5,569,541	5,404,677
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	141,154	141,154	186,121
UIFSM	117,773	117,773	114,269
Pupil Premium	625,984	625,984	583,433
Supplementary Grant	-	-	151,343
Mainstream grant	182,306	182,306	75,960
Teachers pay and pension grant	140,878	140,878	20,510
	6,777,636	6,777,636	6,536,313
Other government grants			
Local Authority Grants	877,831	877,831	791,393
Total grants	7,655,467	7,655,467	7,327,706

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	2024/23 Total £	2023/22 Total £
Hire of facilities	14,940	14,940	8,148
Catering income	105,154	105,154	110,536
Other sales	25,774	25,774	102,581
	145,868	145,868	221,265

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds	2024/23 Total	2023/22 Total
	Ł	£	£
Short term deposits	14,618	14,618	4,820

6 Expenditure

	Non Pay Expenditure				
	Staff costs £	Premises £	Other costs £	2024/23 Total £	2023/22 Total £
Academy trust's educational operations					
Direct costs Allocated support	5,916,862	232,547	354,179	6,503,588	6,278,201
costs	1,026,815	629,434	358,765	2,015,014	2,057,646
	6,943,677	861,981	712,944	8,518,602	8,335,847

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

6 Expenditure (continued)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Operating lease rentals	12,400	2,649
Depreciation	303,746	291,510
Fees payable to auditor - audit	10,350	9,850
- other audit services	7,060	6,725

7 Charitable activities

Direct costs - educational operations Support costs - educational operations		Total 2024 £ 6,503,588 2,015,014	Total 2023 £ 6,278,201 2,057,646 8,335,847
	Educational operations £	8,518,602 2023/24 Total £	2022/23 Total £
Analysis of support costs			
Support staff costs	1,026,815	1,026,815	1,119,650
Depreciation	71,199	71,199	53,088
Technology costs	75,602	75,602	-
Premises costs	558,235	558,235	500,556
Other support costs	253,017	253,017	337,398
Governance costs	28,050	28,050	46,954
Legal costs	2,096	2,096	
Total support costs	2,015,014	2,015,014	2,057,646

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

8 Staff

	2024/23 £	2023/22 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	5,003,766	4,702,457
Social security costs	490,394	446,666
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	944,815	1,170,995
	6,438,975	6,320,118
Supply staff costs	504,702	433,266
Staff restructuring costs	-	6,852
	6,943,677	6,760,236
		2023/22 £
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Redundancy payments		6,852

Severance payments

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

	2024/23	2023/22
	£	£
0 - £25,000	-	1
,	4	

Staff numbers

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

	2023/24 No	2022/23 No
Teachers	55	55
Administration and support	155	154
Management	5	5
	215	214

Higher paid staff

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

8 Staff (continued)

	2024 No	2023 No
£60,001 - £70,000	3	1
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1
£80,001 - £90,000	2	2
£150,001 - £160,000	-	1
£160,001 - £170,000	1	

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £647,895 (2023: £588,625).

9 Related party transactions - trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from employment with the Academy Trust. The principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment.

The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

L Vyas (Executive Headteacher):

Remuneration: £160,000 - £165,000 (2023 - £150,000 - £155,000) Employer's pension contributions: £40,000 - £45,000 (2023 - £35,000 - £40,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2024, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £304 (2023 - £Nil) were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 trustees (2023 - 0).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 24.

10 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £1,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £26,412 (2023 - £24,738)

The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

11 Tangible fixed assets

Accrued grant and other income

	Freehold land and buildings £	Leasehold land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer hardware £	2024/23 Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2023 Additions	2,344,844	13,568,375	709,448 24,439	87,878 14,402	16,710,545 38,841
At 31 August 2024	2,344,844	13,568,375	733,887	102,280	16,749,386
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2023 Charge for the	302,564	1,765,656	489,240	34,385	2,591,845
year	37,897	186,168	67,314	12,367	303,746
At 31 August 2024	340,461	1,951,824	556,554	46,752	2,895,591
Net book value					
At 31 August 2024	2,004,383	11,616,551	177,333	55,528	13,853,795
At 31 August 2023	2,042,280	11,802,719	220,208	53,493	14,118,700
12 Debtors					
				2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors				7,085	2,880
VAT recoverable				282	14,636
Other debtors				667	1,170
Prepayments				49,251	76,108

136,070

193,355

191,881

286,675

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year 2024 2023 £ £ Trade creditors 128,699 153,956 Loans 2,178 Other creditors 19 16,259 Accruals 91,967 122,495 Deferred income 72,338 74,883 318,280 344,514 2024 2023 £ £ **Deferred income** Deferred income at 1 September 2023 69,228 74,883 Resources deferred in the period 74,883 72,338 Amounts released from previous periods (69,228) (74,883) 72,338 74,883 Deferred income at 31 August 2024

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance for UIFSM and donations relating to trips to take place in the 2024-2025 financial year.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

14 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, Iosses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Restricted funds					
<i>Restricted general funds</i> General Annual Grant (GAG) DfE/ESFA grants Pupil premium LEA grants Other	438,427 - - -	5,569,541 582,110 625,984 877,832 25,306	(6,175,624) (582,110) (625,984) (877,832) (25,306)	482,377 - - -	314,721 - - -
<i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i> Land and buildings	14,164,243	24,834	(303,746)	(7,212)	13,878,119
Pension reserve funds Pension reserve			72,000	(72,000)	
Total restricted funds	14,602,670	7,705,607	<u>(8,518,602)</u>	403,165	14,192,840
<i>Unrestricted general funds</i> Unrestricted general funds Total unrestricted funds	749,186	<u> 167,513</u> 167,513		<u>(475,165)</u> (475,165)	441,534
Total funds	15,351,856	7,873,120	<u>(8,518,602)</u>	(72,000)	14,634,374

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

14 Funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, Iosses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted funds					
<i>Restricted general funds</i> General Annual Grant (GAG) DfE/ESFA grants Pupil premium LEA grants	408,154 - -	5,404,677 548,203 583,433 791,393	(5,925,308) (548,203) (583,433) (791,393)	550,904 - - -	438,427 - - -
Restricted fixed asset funds Land and buildings	14,371,151	77,649	(291,510)	6,953	14,164,243
Pension reserve funds Pension reserve	(48,000)	<u></u>	(196,000)	244,000	<u></u>
Total restricted funds	14,731,305	7,405,355	<u>(8,335,847)</u>	801,857	14,602,670
Unrestricted general funds Unrestricted general funds Total unrestricted funds	1,080,958 1,080,958	226,085 226,085	<u>-</u>	(557,857) (557,857)	749,186 749,186
Total funds	15,812,263	7,631,440	(8,335,847)	244,000	15,351,856

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

14 Funds (continued)

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

Restricted general funds are used specifically to provide education resources for the pupils of the Trust.

General Annual Grant Funds

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Trust must use these funds for the normal running expenses of the school, and any amounts carried forward at the end of a financial period must be used in accordance with the terms of the Funding Agreement. those resources that have been designated restricted by the grant provider in meeting the objectives of the Academy.

Other DfE/ESFA Grants

These comprise additional funding received for furthance of education, which must be used in accordance with the specific terms of each grant.

Pension Reserve

This represents the recognition of the Trust's share of the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit.

Other funds within restricted general funds are restricted and spent in line with the criteria attached to them.

Restricted fixed assets funds provide for the installation, maintenance and repair of the fixed assets of the Trust.

Unrestricted funds are those other resources which may be used to further the objectives of the Trust.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2024.

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 were allocated as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Ladybarn	-	541,687
Green End	-	98,476
Cringle Brook	-	547,450
Central services	756,255	a
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	756,255	1,187,613
Restricted fixed asset fund	13,878,119	14,164,243
Total	14,634,374	15,351,856

The academy trust updated and approved their reserves policy in December 2023 to reflect that cumulative school reserves are to be pooled. Therefore, total unrestricted and restricted general funds for the Trust at the year ended 31st August 2024 have been recognised in central services.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

14 Funds (continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

		Total		2023	ц	3,110,509	3,278,559	1,459,269	7,848,337
			Total	2024	દ્મ	3,314,835	3,403,007	1,569,011	8,286,853
		Other Costs	(excluding	Depreciation)	દ્મ	224,228	516,830	274,873	1,015,931
			Educational	Supplies	сц	112,326	107,736	81,185	301,247
		Other	Support	Staff Costs	ŝ	754,647	731,472	284,177	1,770,296
as as follows:	Teaching	and Educational	Support	Staff Costs	ε	2,223,634	2,046,969	928,776	5,199,379
Expenditure incurred by each academy during the year was as follows:						_adybarn	Green End	Cringle Brook	Academy Trust
щ М						Lad	9 D	Crìn	Aca

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

Other costs	Educational (excluding Total supplies depreciation) 2023 £	201,675 3,110	497,009	251,714	330,702 950,398 7,848,337
Other	before	708,269	504,109	207,058	1,419,436
Teaching and educational	staff costs £	2,076,160	2,150,899	920,742	5,147,801 Page 47
		_adybarn	een End	Cringle Brook	Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	13,853,795	13,853,795
Current assets	441,534	633,001	24,324	1,098,859
Current liabilities	-	(318,280)	-	(318,280)
Total net assets	441,534	314,721	13,878,119	14,634,374

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

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	14,118,700	14,118,700
Current assets	749,186	782,941	45,543	1,577,670
Current liabilities		(344,514)		(344,514)
Total net assets	749,186	438,427	14,164,243	15,351,856

16 Long-term commitments, including operating leases

Operating leases

At 31 August 2024 the total of the academy trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts due within one year	10,462	8,233
Amounts due between one and five years	1,481	8,310
	11,943	16,543

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

17 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities				
	2023/24	2022/23		
	£	£		
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(645,482)	(704,407)		
Depreciation	303,746	291,510		
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(24,834)	(77,649)		
Interest receivable	(14,618)	(4,820)		
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(26,000)	193,000		
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	(46,000)	3,000		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	93,320	(133,651)		
Decrease in creditors	(26,234)	(27,602)		
Net cash used in Operating Activities	(386,102)	(460,619)		
18 Cash flows from financing activities				
	2024	2023		
Denovmente of horrowing	£	£		
Repayments of borrowing		(2,178)		
Net cash used in financing activities		(2,178)		
19 Cash flows from investing activities				
	2023/24	2022/23		
	£	£		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	14,618	4,820		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(38,841)	(95,395)		
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	24,834_	77,649		
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	611	(12,926)		
20 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents				
	2024	2023		
	£	£		
Cash in hand and at bank	905,504	1,290,995		
Total cash and cash equivalents	905,504	1,290,995		

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

21 Analysis of changes in net debt

At 31 August 2024 £	905,504	905,504
Cash flows A £	(385,491) 2,178	
At 1 September 2023 £	1,290,995 (2,178)	1,288,817
	Cash Loans falling due within one year	Total

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

22 Member liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while 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 £Nil for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

23 Pension and similar obligations

The academy trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by . 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 to the period ended 31 March 2022.

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for 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 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 ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies 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 27 October 2023, with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation outcome are:

- Employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy). This is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control result is such that no change in member benefits is needed.
- Total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

23 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

The result of this valuation will be implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2028.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £617,132 (2023: £578,421).

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

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The academy trust is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan. Accordingly, the academy trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The academy trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

Local government pension scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £508,000 (2023 - £493,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £383,000 (2023 - £375,000) and employees' contributions totalled £125,000 (2023 - £118,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.2-19 per cent for employers and 5.5-12.5 per cent for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of an academy trust closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013 and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on GOV.UK.

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2024	2023
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.45	3.75
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.65	2.95
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.00	5.20

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

	2024	2023
Retiring today		
Males retiring today	20.00	20.10
Females retiring today	23.10	23.30
Retiring in 20 years		
Males retiring in 20 years	20.80	19.20
Females retiring in 20 years	24.00	24.30

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

23 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

	2024 £	2023 £
Equities	5,105,000	4,463,000
Corporate bonds	1,110,000	892,000
Property	592,000	510,000
Other	592,000	510,000
Total market value of assets	7,399,000	6,375,000

The actual return on scheme assets was (£616,000) (2023 - £77,000).

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

23 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities		
	2024/23 £	2023/22 £
Current service cost	£. 26,000	د (193,000)
Interest income	341,000	253,000
Interest cost	(295,000)	(256,000)
	<u></u>	
Total amount recognized in the SOFA	72,000	(196,000)
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were a	s follows:	
	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
At start of period	5,486,000	5,712,000
Current service cost	357,000	510,000
Interest cost	295,000	256,000
Employee contributions	125,000	118,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	1,000	(1,088,000)
Benefits paid	(100,000)	(80,000)
Past service cost	-	58,000
FRS102 Accounting adjustment	1,235,000	889,000
At 31 August	7,399,000	6,375,000
Changes in the fair value of academy trust's share of scheme asse	ets:	
	2024/23	2023/22
	£	£
At start of period	6,375,000	5,772,000
Interest income	341,000	253,000
Actuarial gain/(loss)	275,000	(63,000)
Employer contributions	383,000	375,000
Employee contributions	125,000	118,000
Benefits paid	(100,000)	(80,000)
At 31 August	7,399,000	6,375,000

At 31st August 2024, the defined benefit pension scheme has an excess of assets over liabilities of £554,000 (Green End), £140,000 (Cringle Brook) and £541,000 (Ladybarn). The academy trust has not received any formal notification of recovery of surplus, either by reduced contributions or refunds. Therefore, this does not constitute an asset under FRS 102 and a nil balance is included for these schools in the balance sheet at 31st August 2024.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

24 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. The following related party transactions took place in the financial period.

Expenditure related party transactions

During the year the academy made the following related party transactions:

T Musgrove

T Musgrove, spouse of A Musgrove, a trustee, is employed by the academy trust as a teaching assistant. T Musgrove's appointment was made in open competition and A Musgrove was not involved in the decision-making process regarding appointment. T Musgrove is paid within the normal pay scale for his role and receives no special treatment as a result of his relationship to a trustee.

All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook, including notifying ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.