Registration number: 07610916

Moulsham Infant School

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2024





Edmund Carr LLP
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

Contents

Reference and administrative details	1 to 2
Trustees' Report	3 to 15
Governance statement	16 to 20
Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance	21
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	22
Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Moulsham Infant School	23 to 25
Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Moulsham Infant School and the Education and Skills Funding Agency	26 to 27
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2024 (including Income and Expenditure Account)	28 to 29
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024	30
Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2024	31
Notes to the Financial Statements	32 to 55

Reference and administrative details

Members J Jay

I Morris C Byford

Fitzpatrick C (appointed 22 March 2024)

Governors The following are Trustees and collectively form the Board of Trustees

P Cox, (Chair from 26/09/2024)

B Aspinall, (Chair to 25/09/2024) (resigned 25 September 2024)

J Landa-Arrese, (Headteacher of Academy School & Accounting Officer)
E Fagg, (Deputy Headteacher & Staff Trustee) (resigned 31 August 2024)
K Britten, (Responsible Officer to 31/10/2023) (resigned 3 November 2023)

G Butler (resigned 31 August 2024)

P Edwards

H Fletcher, (Responsible Officer from 01/11/2023)

D Horsman

K Jones (appointed 1 October 2024)

M McCarthy

A McDonagh, (Staff Trustee) (resigned 14 June 2024)

L McCullough

M Stapleton (appointed 1 October 2024)

Company Secretary Y Singh

Senior Management

Team

J Landa-Arrese, Headteacher

E Fagg, Deputy Headteacher (resigned 31/08/2024) S Hamnett, Company Secretary (resigned 31/08/2024)

Y Singh, Bursar and Company Secretary (appointed 01/09/2024)

T Keogh, Senior teacher L Patterson, SENCo

C Hanson, Senior teacher (resigned 14/12/2023)

Company Registration 07610916

Number

Head Teacher and Registered Office

J Landa-Arrese

Moulsham Infant School

Princes Road Chelmsford Essex CM2 9DG

Reference and administrative details (continued)

Auditors Edmund Carr LLP

Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor

146 New London Road

Chelmsford Essex CM2 0AW

Bankers Lloyds Bank PLC

88-89 High Street Chelmsford Essex

CM1 1DX

Solicitors Essex Legal Services

New Bridge House 60 - 68 New London Road

Chelmsford Essex CM2 0PD

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the Academy for the year ended 31 August 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

Principal Activities

Moulsham Infant School (hereafter the "Academy") is an academy trust and a charitable company. Its principal activity is to advance, for the public benefit, education in south Chelmsford, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing an academy offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

The Academy will be at the heart of its community, promoting community cohesion and sharing facilities with the wider community. There will be assessment of pupils' performance and there will be an emphasis on the needs of the individual pupil including those with special educational needs.

The Academy will ensure that the curriculum being provided is broad and balanced and includes English, mathematics and science. It will make provision for a daily act of collective worship and the teaching of religious education. It will comply with any guidance issued by the Secretary of State to ensure that pupils take part in assessments of their performance and will report on such assessments and provide such information as may be required as applied to maintained academies.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The Academy is a company limited by guarantee and is an exempt charity. The Academy's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy. The Trustees of the Academy are also the directors of the Academy for the purposes of company law. The Academy operates as Moulsham Infant School.

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

Members' liability

Each member of the Academy undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Academy 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 Academy through its Articles has indemnified its Trustees to the fullest extent permissible by law. During the year the Academy also purchased and maintained liability insurance for its Trustees.

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The Trustees have set up procedures that will enable regular reviews into the mix of skills that should be available to the Board of Trustees. New Trustees with these skills will then be sought, either as additional Trustees or replacements when existing Trustees stand down. It is anticipated that the great majority of new Trustees will be drawn from the local community being either parents or guardians of pupils at the Academy or others that have shown an interest in the future wellbeing of the Academy and its pupils. Recruitment is therefore likely to be through a combination of approaches to individuals with known skills and by wider communications to those within the Chelmsford area.

New Trustees will be appointed to the Board of Trustees by the existing Trustees for a period of 4 years. At the end of each 4 year term, retiring Trustees are eligible for re-election for a further term.

The Board of Trustees shall consist of: Up to 7 Community Trustees 2 Staff Trustees Up to 3 Parent Trustees The Headteacher (ex-officio) Up to 3 Co-opted Trustees

The Board of Trustees will make all necessary arrangements for, and determine all other matters relating to, an election of Parent Trustees, including any question of whether a person is a parent of a registered pupil at the Academy. Any election of Parent Trustees which is contested will be held by secret ballot.

The Staff Trustees will be elected by a secret ballot of all staff employed under a contract of employment or a contract for services or otherwise engaged to provide services to the Academy (excluding the Headteacher). All arrangements for the calling and the conduct of the election and resolution of questions as to whether any person is an eligible candidate will be determined by the Trustees. If a Staff Trustee ceases to work at the Academy then he/she will be deemed to have resigned and will cease to be a Trustee automatically on termination of his/her work at the Academy.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

New Trustees are invited to meet the Headteacher and Chairman of the Board of Trustees to receive a comprehensive induction package covering a broad range of issues and topics. New Trustees receive:

The DfE's "Guide to the Law for Governors"
The Academy Trust Handbook
The Academy prospectus
The Governors' Handbook
The Local Authority's governor training programme
Details of the Board of Trustees' committees and their terms of reference.
Dates of future meetings.

Individual governors attend training courses and conferences organised by appropriate bodies in order to ensure their knowledge and understanding is fully up to date. A series of training courses, based on areas of potential interest and/or concern, has been designed for the Board of Trustees and the Academy staff as a whole.

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

Organisational structure

The Trustees have responsibility for setting and monitoring the overall strategic direction of the Academy, approving decisions reserved to governors and appointing key members of staff.

The Board of Trustees meet four or five times each year. All decisions reserved are taken by the Board of Trustees as a whole. Board committees meet three or four times each year to consider detailed matters and recommend decisions to the full Board of Trustees.

There are 4 such committees:

- 1) Teaching, Learning & Pupil Related Matters
- 2) Admissions
- 3) Finance, Personnel, Premises, Audit & Risk
- 4) Pay Review

Additionally, ad hoc groups of Trustees are established to consider specific issues and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

Kate Britten is the Responsible Officer and as such has an oversight role in relation to the systems and processes of control and risk management that operate throughout the Academy.

The Headteacher is the Accounting Officer and works closely with both the other Trustees and the senior staff of the Academy.

The day-to-day management of the Academy rests with the Headteacher who has overall responsibility for the Academy. The Headteacher is responsible for establishing a Senior Leadership Team, including the Bursar and the Deputy Head.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Remuneration of key management personnel is limited to members of the Academy staff. Their pay is set in accordance with national pay scales, moderated by performance management. Trustees who are not members of the Academy's staff receive no remuneration.

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

Decision Making and Delegation

In order to ensure the most efficient conduct of business, the Trustees may delegate to any Trustees, committee, the Headteacher or any other holder of an executive office, such of their powers or functions as they consider desirable to be exercised by them. Any such delegation may be made subject to any conditions the Trustees may impose and may be revoked or altered.

Where any power or function of the Trustees is exercised by any committee, any Trustees, Headteacher or any other holder of an executive office, that person or committee shall report to the Board of Trustees in respect of any action taken or decision made with respect to the exercise of that power or function at the meeting of the Trustees immediately following the taking of the action or the making of the decision.

Decisions of the Board of Trustees are binding upon all its members. A resolution to rescind or vary a resolution carried at a previous meeting of the Board of Trustees shall not be proposed at a meeting of the Board of Trustees unless the consideration of the rescission or variation of the previous resolution is a specific item of business on the agenda for that meeting.

The arrangements for delegating functions are reviewed annually by the full Board of Trustees. In delegating functions to individuals, the Board of Trustees will have regard to the restrictions set out in Regulation 17 of the School Governance (Procedures) (England) Regulations 2003.

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

The Governing Body has established the following Committees: Finance, Personnel, Premises, Audit & Risk Teaching, Learning & Pupil Related Matters Pay Review Admissions

Members of these committees are as follows:

Finance, Personnel, Premises, Audit & Risk

Gareth Butler

Helen Fletcher

Jane Landa-Arrese Emma Fagg Darren Horsman Kate Britten (resigned 3.11.23) Beth Aspinall Martin McCarthy

Teaching, Learning and Pupil Related Matters

Pat Cox

Jane Landa-Arrese
Emma Fagg
Beth Aspinall
Amy McDonagh (nee Gorman) (resigned 14.6.24)
Philippa Edwards
Liz McCullough
Martin McCarthy

Pay Review

Kate Britten (wef 12.9.22)(resigned 3.11.23) Gareth Butler Beth Aspinall Pat Cox

Admissions

Headteacher

Any 2 Trustees from the Teaching, Learning and Pupil Related Matters committee

Chairs of committees in bold type.

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

Committees to which the Board of Trustees has delegated any of its functions will act strictly in accordance with the terms of delegation.

The Board of Trustees will establish committees as required for the following purposes:

Staff Discipline/Dismissal Salary Review Appeal Appraisal of the Headteacher Pupil Discipline Staff Dismissal Appeal Complaints

All committees with delegated powers keep formal minutes and copies are presented to the next meeting of the Board of Trustees for information. All meetings of committees will be clerked by a person who is not the Headteacher.

Connected organisations, including related party relationships

The Academy works in close partnership with Moulsham Junior School and Oaklands Infant School.

The Academy is also part of a local network of 28 schools called the CTSA. Collectively we buy in other services, such as Educational Psychologists.

The Academy works closely with the Local Authority, local pre-school groups and nurseries. For particular needs, the Academy also works with the Speech and Language service, EMTAS, Social Care, specialist teachers, school nurse, diabetic nurse and a local vicar.

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The charitable objectives for which the Academy was established, are set down in the governing document as follows:

To advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing an academy offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The principal activity of the Academy is currently to run an infant school for children located in Chelmsford, Essex.

In furtherance of the Object, the Academy may:

- •Raise funds and invite and receive contributions provided that in raising funds the Academy shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant statutory regulations;
- Acquire, alter, improve and (subject to such consents as may be required by law) to charge or otherwise dispose
 of property;
- •Employ such staff, as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the Object and to make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payments of pensions and superannuation to staff and their dependants;
- •Co-operate with other charities, other independent and maintained Academies, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the Object and to exchange information and advice with them;
- •Establish subsidiary companies to carry on any trade or business for the purpose of raising funds for the Academy;
- •Do all such other lawful things as are necessary for or are incidental to or conducive to the achievement of the Object.

Indicators, Milestones & Benchmarks

The Trustees use the following key measures to assess the success of the activities of the Academy:

- Statistical analysis of pupils' achievements including Target Tracker, Analyse School Performance (ASP) and SATs results
- Reports from the Headteacher and other members of staff.
- Reports on financial management of the Academy.
- Feedback from all stakeholders.
- · Visits by Governors to the Academy.

Public benefit

The Trustees have taken The Charity Commission's specific guidance on public benefit (contained within the guidance document "The Advancement of Education for the Public Benefit") into consideration in preparing their statements on public benefit contained within this governors' annual report.

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

Benefits & Beneficiaries

The charitable objectives for which the Academy was established ("the Objectives") is to advance the education of the pupils attending the Academy. The Academy's primary beneficiaries are therefore the pupils, and benefits to pupils are provided through continuing to maintain a high standard of education throughout the Academy.

Trustees' Assessment of Public Benefit

In order to determine whether or not the Academy has fulfilled its charitable objectives for public benefit, the Trustees gather evidence of the success of the Academy's activities by:

- Ensuring that all pupils receive a high quality education.
- Looking at external judgements e.g. OFSTED

Achievements, and Performance

Key Performance Indicators

Review of activities and events.

Our main targets during 2023-2024 were:

1. Quality of Education

Improve Quality of Education so that it is consistently Good by:

- · Raising the standards in writing.
- To close the gap for disadvantaged children..

2. Behaviour and Attitudes

Improve Pupils' Behaviour and Attitudes to be Outstanding by:

• To review behaviour policy/ levels and align it to TPP training.

3. Personal Development

Ensure pupils' Personal Development is consistently Good by:

- Strengthening SEMH provision to support learners with these needs. Particular focus Mental health of staff and pupils.
- Strengthen our adapted curriculum to include provision for particular needs.

4. Leadership and Management

Ensure the effectiveness of Leadership and Management is consistently Good by:

- Implementing and effective performance management programme.
- · Having a CPD programme that is strategic and linked to our priorities.
- Introduce and use new SONAR data tracking system to inform teachers/leaders of gaps and next steps.

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

5. EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage)

Ensure the Effectiveness of the EYFS Key Stage is consistently Good by:

- To review the practise in EYFS to ensure our desired approach is delivered consistently to achieve best outcomes for all children.
- To quickly identify the children from Baseline Assessments who have social and emotional development needs that can be supported to increase to increase the % achieving GLD.

6. Parental Engagement

Improve parental engagement so that it is consistently Good by:

- Improving attendance figures. In particular those chn that are persistently absent.
- To improve parental engagement in school events e.g. assemblies, parents evenings.

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

Ambitions for End of Year 2 2024

Working at the expected standard or above

		Baseline at start of Y1 @ARE or above	% at ARE or above Y2 Summer 2	Ambitions set Nov 2023
Reading	76.6%	61.1%	78.7%	85%
Writing	67.8%	56%	75.3%	80%
Maths	81.1%	45.5%.	73%	87%

Strategic Report

OFSTED inspection took place on 25th/26th April 2023. This confirmed that we continue to be a Good academy in all areas. The two areas for development were already part of our School Development Plan and being worked on already.

Going Concern

Needs of children starting school. High level of need of children in EYFS (as well as in other 2 year groups) is having a huge impact on the provision that we are giving to our children. A lot of children require support in the classroom as well as outside at lunchtime.

School size - the fluctuations to the pupil numbers in the school is having an impact on future plans. Not knowing if we will be asked to take bulge years makes staffing challenging. Also, the ability to fill all places in year groups has an effect on funding - if the year group has spaces on census day our funding is lower. This was particularly relevant in 2022-2023 when we took a fourth Year 2 class from September 2022 and it was not full until the summer term in 2023.

Formation of MAT- this will clearly mean changes if the MAT is formed from April 1st 2025. At present the finer details have not been finalised but there will be some impact on the budget as we will be paying a top slice to the MAT.

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

The formation of Hive family of schools was approved by the regional schools commissioner in April.

- We are now in the process of confirming this partnership.
- Before half term each of the schools had their consultation period which have now closed.
- TUPE meetings are arranged for November.
- The aim is for the formation of HVE to be from April 1st 2025.
- The other schools involved are Moulsham Junior School, Writtle Infant School, Writtle Junior School and Highwood Primary School.
- There are other local schools that are interested in joining in the next phase which will be in approximately 2 years.

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

Condition Improvement Fund Bid

The Academy did not submit a bid to the EFSA this academic year.

Financial Review

The Academy's accounting period was from the 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024. Most of the Academy's income comes directly from the EFSA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the EFSA during the period ending 31st August 2024 and associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the financial statements.

The Academy received a 2023-24 Formula Capital Grant of £7,566 from the DfE, which has been spent on upgrading the ICT suite. Pupil premium of £61,748 and sports grant of £18,080 were also received and spent in accordance with DfE guidelines. Details of these grants and associated expenditure are also shown as restricted funds in the financial statements.

The Academy receives unrestricted funds in the form of lettings, catering income, uniform sales and other donations.

The total deficit for the year, including revaluation of the defined benefit pension scheme, was £22,073 (2023: surplus of £116,558).

The financial statements show the movement on restricted and unrestricted funds. Of the Academy's total funds only £457,289 is freely available because the balance is invested in fixed assets or has a restriction for other purposes.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees' policy is to generate reserves to provide funds to continue to enhance the educational facilities and services of the Academy and to fund future projects. The Trustees intend to review the reserves policy annually to ensure that this aim can be achieved. The Trustees aim to hold reserves of at least £100,000 to meet the uncertainty of future income streams and the future development of the Academy.

At the balance sheet date, the Academy had free reserves of £457,289.

Investments Policy

The Trustees' investment powers are set down in the Academy's Memorandum and Articles of Association, which permit the investment of monies of the Academy that are not immediately required for its purposes in such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit subject to any restrictions which may from time to time be imposed or required by law.

The Academy's policy will be to invest surplus funds in short-term cash deposits.

For the period ended 31 August 2024, the Academy's cash balances generated an average income return of £8,510.

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Academy is exposed, particularly those related to the operation and finances of the Academy and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate any exposure to major risks. A formal review of the risk management process is undertaken on an annual basis.

The key controls used by the Academy include:
Formal agendas for all committee and Board of Trustees activity
Terms of reference for all committees
Comprehensive planning, budgeting and management reporting
Established organisation structure and clear lines for reporting
Formal written policies
Clear authorisation and approval levels
Vetting procedures as required by law
Monitoring of financial procedures by the Responsible Officer

The Trustees assess that the principal risks to the Academy are changes to the funding arrangements as a result of political decisions outside the control of Trustees or changes in legislation.

Fundraising practices that the Academy undertakes

The Academy has raised funds this year through uniform sales (£8,082), School photograph commission (£938) and donations (£505). We also raised monies for other charities, such as Children in Need (£240), Save the Children (£120), Farleigh Hospice (£282), Alzheimer's Society (£66), Poppy appeal (£115), Breast Cancer Awareness (£66), Christmas Jumper Day (£402) and Comic Relief (£232). We have an active Parent Teacher Association who organise their own events and donations.

Future Plans

Future plans are very much tied up with the formation of the MAT (Multi Academy Trust) and working closely with partner school. The following from last year are still a priority.

- Establish a sensory cabin that is accessible to all children.
- To develop the outside area around the sensory cabin.
- To build stronger working relationship with our parents and the local community.
- To investigate the viability of an enhanced provision for induction into Early years in primary school age children.

The formation of Hive family of schools was approved by the regional schools commissioner in April.

- We are now in the process of confirming this partnership.
- o Before half term each of the schools had their consultation period which have now closed.
- o TUPE meetings are arranged for November.
- The aim is for the formation of HIVE to be from April 1st 2025.
- The other schools involved are Moulsham Junior School, Writtle Infant School, Writtle Junior School and Highwood Primary School.
- There are other local schools that are interested in joining in the next phase which will be in approximately 2 years.

Future plans of the MAT

- To increase the cross school working that already is established but in a more formal capacity
- o Support for Headteachers, senior leaders, subject leaders
- Cross school pupil council
- o Cross school pupil projects competitions etc
- o Develop teams across the MAT -eg HR, school site teams, Health and Safety .

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

Funds held as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others

Although the Academy maintains restricted funds to deal with incoming resources that are earmarked for a particular purpose by donors, sponsors, and other funders, the Academy does not hold, and the Trustees do not anticipate that it will in the future hold, any funds as custodian for any third party.

Auditor

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

Reappointment of auditor

Under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006 Edmund Carr LLP will be deemed to have been reappointed as auditor 28 days after these financial statements are sent to Members or 28 days after the latest date prescribed for filing the accounts with the registrar, whichever is earlier.

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a Strategic Report, was approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 12 November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

P Cox

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Governance statement

Scope of responsibility

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

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

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

Governance

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

Trustee J Landa-Arrese	Meetings attended 4	Out of a possible 4
P Cox	4	4.
E Fagg	4	4
G Butler	3	4
D Horsman	3	4
B Aspinall	4	4
K Britten	1	1
L McCullough	2	4
A McDonagh (nee Gorman)	3	4
M McCarthy	3	4
P. Edwards	4	4
H. Fletcher	3	4

Governance statement (continued)

As can be seen from the Board of Trustees attendance analysis (above) there is a strong commitment from the Board of Trustees members to the governance of the Academy. The skills mix is strong with finance, personnel, legal and buildings industry represented added to nursery, early years and mainstream academy experience. These skills, commitment and experience provide for effective governance at the Academy.

The Board of Trustees receives regular reports on pupil progress, budget monitoring, financial management and safeguarding. Reports are developing as the needs of the Board of Trustees change as their experience of governance develops. Policies and Terms of Reference are reviewed annually and provide a strong framework for an effective Board of Trustees.

Conflicts of interest

The Academy manages conflicts of interest by all Trustees and members of staff with financial responsibility completing a business interest form each academic year. If there is an agenda item, where a conflict of interest may arise the Trustee or member of staff concerned is asked to leave the meeting while the item is discussed.

Meetings

The Academy has maintained effective oversight of funds by the Finance, Personnel, Premises, Audit & Risk Committee meeting three times a year in addition to the full Board of Trustee's four meetings a year. The Chair of the Finance, Personnel, Premises, Audit & Risk Committee also receives a monthly income and expenditure report to review.

Governance reviews

Following COVID Trustees are now able to meet in person again for the normal committee meetings and Full Governing Body meetings. Trustee monitoring visits began again during the year. Subject Leaders produced written reports for Trustees to keep them up to date with their subjects.

The Academy will carry out a review of governance annually.

The Finance, Personnel, Premises, Audit & Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to challenge all financial aspects of the Academy, approve expenditure as delegated through the Financial Regulations and ensure maintenance of the Estate and monitor compliance to all Health and Safety regulations. Attendance at meetings during the year was as follows:

Trustee J Landa-Arrese	Meetings attended 3	Out of a possible 3
D Horsman	3	3
E Fagg	3	3
G Butler	3	3
B Aspinall	3	3
K Britten	0	1
M. McCarthy	3	3
H. Fletcher	3	3

Governance statement (continued)

Review of value for money

As Accounting Officer the Headteacher has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy delivers good value for money 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's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data or by using a framework where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the Academy has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Reviewed letting charges with an increase of 10%
- Sourced an additional hirer to conduct external music lessons in the community room. The hirer has agreed to a reduced letting charges in return for offering our pupils weekly free music lessons.
- Admin for payment of school trips decreased by creating a new process for parents to make online payment that is faster to reconcile
- Tendering of all projects to ensure cost effectiveness for the following projects:
 - o ICT Suite upgrade
 - o New computers purchased for ICT suite
 - Sensory pod
 - o New Fencing for Forest School

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Academy's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in the Academy for the period 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 Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy's significant risks that has been in place for the year ending 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The risk and control framework

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

- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees
- Regular reviews by the Finance, Personnel, Premises, Audit and Risk Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- · Identification and management of risks

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the Trustees appointed Kate Britten, as Responsible Officer ('RO') (resigned 03/11/2023) and Helen Fletcher was appointed 01/11/2023.

The RO's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy's financial systems. On a termly basis, the RO reports to the Board of Trustees through the Finance, Personnel, Premises, Audit and Risk Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities.

Information on school buildings

We are committed to utilizing funding responsibly to ensure the school has a robust estate management plan which allows our Leadership team to be assured the estate is safe, well maintained and compliant with the relevant regulations. Listed below are two value for money examples where risks to the estate was identified and corrective action taken to be made compliant:

- Fire Risk Assessment
- Cybercrime Cover (RPA)

The estate is kept in a safe condition, by:

- clearly defining and designating responsibilities for health and safety issues
- identifying all property related health and safety issues
- taking appropriate actions to minimise any avoidable risks
- · monitoring risks and issues

Governance statement (continued)

Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, J Landa-Arrese 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 Responsible Officer;
- · the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self assessment process or the school resource management selfassessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy 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 Finance, Personnel, Premises Audit & Risk Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Based on the advice of the audit and risk committee and the Accounting Officer, the Board of Trustees is of the opinion that the academy trust has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 12 November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

P.Cox

Chair of the Board of Trustees

J Landa-Arrese Accounting Officer

Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance

As Accounting Officer of the Academy I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Board of Trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between the Academy and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

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

J Landa-Arrese, Head Teacher

Accounting Officer

Date: 12-11-24.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Academy 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 Academy 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 Academy will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Academy's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Academy 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 Academy 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 Academy 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 Academy's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

P Cox

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Moulsham Infant School

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Moulsham Infant School (the 'Academy') for the year ended 31 August 2024, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2024 (including Income and Expenditure Account), Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024, Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2024, 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', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Academy's affairs as at 31 August 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;
 and
- · 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 Moulsham Infant School (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 Academy 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 22], 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.

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

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Moulsham Infant School (continued)

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows;

- 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 Academy through discussions with management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the academies sector

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

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.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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 Trustees 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.

Stewart Martin (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Edmund Carr LLP, Statutory Auditor

146 New London Road

Chelmsford

Essex

CM2 0AW

Date: 12 11/2024

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Moulsham Infant School and the Education and Skills Funding Agency to Moulsham Infant School and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 9 November 2021 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 Moulsham Infant School 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 the Board of Trustees and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we may state to the Board of Trustees and the ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Board of Trustees and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the board of trustees' accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of the board of trustees' funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 July 2011 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's income and expenditure.

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- reviewing the minutes of the meetings of the Governing Body and other evidence made available to us, relevant to our consideration of regularity
- testing a sample of payments and receipts to documentation
- evaluating the internal control procedures and reporting lines, and testing as appropriate and making appropriate enquiries of the Accounting Officer

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Moulsham Infant School and the Education and Skills Funding Agency to Moulsham Infant School and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (continued)

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 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.

Stewart Martin

For and on behalf of Edmund Carr LLP, Chartered Accountants

146 New London Road Chelmsford Essex CM2 0AW

Date: 12 11 2004

Moulsham Infant School
Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

(including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2023/24 Total £
Income and endowments from	m:				
Donations and capital grants	2	1,515	-	16,579	18,094
Other trading activities	4	55,264	4,327	-	59,591
Investments	5	8,510	-	-	8,510
Charitable activities: Funding for the Academy's			1.010.410		1.010.410
educational operations	3		1,810,419	·	1,810,419
Total		65,289	1,814,746	16,579	1,896,614
Expenditure on: Raising funds	6	7,781	17,670	-	25,451
Charitable activities: Academy educational operations	7	_	1,741,313	160,923	1,902,236
Total		7,781	1,758,983	160,923	1,927,687
Net income/(expenditure)		57,508	55,763	(144,344)	(31,073)
Transfers between funds		-	(8,667)	8,667	-
Other recognised gains and losses					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	23		9,000		9,000
Net movement in funds/(deficit)		57,508	56,096	(135,677)	(22,073)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2023		399,781	(7,299)	1,909,533	2,302,015
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2024		457,289	48,797	1,773,856	2,279,942

Moulsham Infant School

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

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	2022/23 Total £
Income and endowments from	n:				
Donations and capital grants	2	2,758	-	22,454	25,212
Other trading activities	4	43,479	1,435	-	44,914
Investments	5	154	-	-	154
Charitable activities: Funding for the Academy's educational operations	3	-	1,610,591	-	1,610,591
Total		46,391	1,612,026	22,454	1,680,871
Expenditure on: Raising funds	6	4,536	8,210	-	12,746
Charitable activities: Academy educational operations	7		1,743,208	157,359	1,900,567
Total		4,536	1,751,418	157,359	1,913,313
Net income/(expenditure)		41,855	(139,392)	(134,905)	(232,442)
Transfers between funds		-	(14,070)	14,070	-
Other recognised gains and losses Actuarial gains on defined					
benefit pension schemes	23		349,000	·	349,000
Net movement in funds/(deficit)		41,855	195,538	(120,835)	116,558
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2022		357,926	(202,837)	2,030,368	2,185,457
Total funds/(deficit) carried forward at 31 August 2023		399,781	(7,299)	1,909,533	2,302,015

(Registration number: 07610916) Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	1,766,291	1,894,118
Current assets			
Stocks	12	4,791	6,357
Debtors	13	50,064	34,289
Cash at bank and in hand		620,385	543,959
		675,240	584,605
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		(161,589)	(138,708)
Net current assets		513,651	445,897
Total assets less current liabilities		2,279,942	2,340,015
Net assets excluding pension asset		2,279,942	2,340,015
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	23	<u> </u>	(38,000)
Total net assets		2,279,942	2,302,015
Funds of the Academy:			
Restricted funds			
Restricted general fund	15	48,797	30,701
Restricted fixed asset fund	15	1,773,856	1,909,533
Pension reserve	15		(38,000)
		1,822,653	1,902,234
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted general fund	15	457,289	399,781
Total funds		2,279,942	2,302,015

The financial statements on pages 28 to 55 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 1.2/111/2.4... and signed on their behalf by:

P Cox

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	18	69,017	(92,321)
Cash flows from investing activities	19	7,409	5,453
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		76,426	(86,868)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		543,959	630,827
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	20	620,385	543,959

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, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 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 has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Academy's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

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 has provided the goods or services.

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

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Interest Receivable

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

Donated 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'.

Donated fixed assets

Where the donated good is a fixed asset it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Academy's accounting policies.

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 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's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the Academy 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 £5,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. In addition, any bulk purchases of IT equipment costing £5,000 or more are capitalised as above.

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

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

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.

Asset class

Long leasehold land Long leasehold buildings Leasehold improvements Fixtures, fittings and equipment ICT equipment

Depreciation method and rate

Over the life of the lease 4% straight line 10% - 25% straight line 25% straight line 33% straight line

Liahilitie

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

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Academy 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.

Leased assets

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

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

1 Accounting policies (continued)

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 13. 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 14. 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.

Stock

Unsold uniforms and catering stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

Taxation

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

Accordingly, the Academy is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 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 are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes.

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

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Academy in separate Trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to 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 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 Department for Education Group.

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 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 23, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement

The LGPS valuation shows a pension asset as at 31 August 2024. FRS 102 section 28.22 states a plan surplus can be recognised only to the extent an entity is able to recover the surplus, either through reduced contributions in the future, or through refunds from the scheme. Based on the guidance, the pension asset has not been recognised and instead the actuarial gain has been restricted to recognise the liability as nil.

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2023/24 Total £	2022/23 Total £
Capital grants Other donations	1,515	7,566 9,013	7,566 10,528	22,454 2,758
	1,515	16,579	18,094	25,212

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

3 Funding for the Academy's educational operations

		Restricted General Funds £	2023/24 Total £	2022/23 Total
Educational operations				
DfE/ESFA revenue grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)		1,405,708	1,405,708	1,151,078
Other DfE grants		103,842	103,842	62,155
UIFSM		111,163	111,163	108,065
Pupil premium		69,983	69,983	49,632
Teachers pay grant		34,613	34,613	51,430
		1,725,309	1,725,309	1,422,360
Other government grants				
SEN Funding		47,828	47,828	22,630
Local authority grants		37,282	37,282	165,601
		85,110	85,110	188,231
Total grants		1,810,419	1,810,419	1,610,591
4 Other trading activities				
		Restricted		
	Unrestricted	General	2023/24	2022/23
	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
Hire of facilities	£	£	£	£
Catering income	24,888 495	841	24,888	16,093 3
Miscellaneous other income			1,336	-
Educational Visits	14,230	3,486	17,716	18,025
Class Sales	6,276 1,293	-	6,276 1,293	2,450
Uniform Sales	8,082		8,082	8,343
Omform Sales	55,264	4,327	59,591	44,914

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

5 Investment income	•				
			Unrestricted	2023/24	2022/23
			Funds	Total	Total
			£	£	£
Short term deposits			8,510	8,510	154
6 Expenditure					
		Non Pay Ex	penditure		
	Staff costs	Premises	O4h	2023/24 Total	2022/23 Total
	Stail costs	Premises £	Other costs	1 otai £	1 otai £
E-manditum an	~	-	_		-
Expenditure on raising funds					
Direct costs	_	_	25,451	25,451	12,746
A J 441-			20,101	20,101	1-,, 10
Academy trust's educational					
operations					
Direct costs	763,509	-	48,007	811,516	822,049
Allocated support					
costs	696,666	310,842	83,212	1,090,720	1,078,518
	1,460,175	310,842	156,670	1,927,687	1,913,313
		-			
Net income/(expenditu	ire) for the year in	cludes:			
				2023/24	2022/23
				£	£
Operating leases - plant	and machinery			2,146	2,146
Audit fees				8,085	7,700
Other services				735 136,494	700 132,688
Depreciation				130,494	132,000

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

7 Charitable activities

		2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Direct costs - educational operations		811,516	822,049
Support costs - educational operations		1,090,720	1,078,518
		1,902,236	1,900,567
	Educational operations	2023/24 Total £	2022/23 Total £
Analysis of support costs			
Support staff costs	696,666	696,666	659,367
Depreciation	136,494	136,494	132,688
Premises costs	174,348	174,348	200,731
Legal costs - other	29,809	29,809	30,693
Other support costs	44,493	44,493	46,649
Governance costs	8,910	8,910	8,390
Total support costs	1,090,720	1,090,720	1,078,518

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

8 Staff

Staff costs and employee benefits		
	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Staff costs during the year were:	<i>3</i>	~
Wages and salaries	1,100,251	1,049,868
Social security costs	93,429	83,820
Pension costs	249,942	284,487
	1,443,622	1,418,175
Supply teacher costs	2,775	-
Staff restructuring costs	13,778	
	1,460,175	1,418,175
		2023/24 £
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Other restructuring costs		13,778
Severance payments		
The academy trust paid 1 severance payments in the year disclosed in the following	wing bands:	2022/24
0 - £25,000		2023/24
Staff numbers		
The average number of persons employed by the Academy during the year wa	s as follows:	
	2023/24	2022/23
	No	No
Charitable Activities		
Teachers	13	13
Administration and support	38	38
Management	3	3

Higher paid staff

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

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

8 Staff (continued)

	2023/24	2022/23
	No	No
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1
£70,001 - £80,000	1	-

2022/24

2022/22

The key management personnel of the Academy comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy was £329,469 (2023: £299,972).

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. The Headteacher and other Staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Headteacher and staff members under their contracts of employment.

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

J Landa-Arrese (Headteacher and Trustee):

Remuneration: £75,000 - £80,000 (2023 - £65,000 - £70,000)

Employer's pension contributions: £15,000 - £20,000 (2023 - £15,000 - £20,000)

A McDonagh (Staff Trustee (resigned 14/06/2024)):

Remuneration: £25,000 - £30,000 (2023 - £30,000 - £35,000)

Employer's pension contributions: £5,000 - £10,000 (2023 - £5,000 - £10,000)

E Fagg (Deputy Headteacher and Trustee):

Remuneration: £60,000 - £65,000 (2023 - £55,000 - £60,000)

Employer's pension contributions: £15,000 - £20,000 (2023 - £10,000 - £15,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2024, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £4 (2023 - £134) were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 Trustees (2023 - 2).

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 £10,000,000 on any one claim. 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

11 Tangible fixed assets			
	Leasehold land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	2023/24 Total £
Cost			
At 1 September 2023	2,882,315	53,671	2,935,986
Additions	8,667	•	8,667
Disposals		(7,375)	(7,375)
At 31 August 2024	2,890,982	46,296	2,937,278
Depreciation			
At 1 September 2023	1,011,834	30,034	1,041,868
Charge for the year	126,182	10,312	136,494
Eliminated on disposals	-	(7,375)	(7,375)
At 31 August 2024	1,138,016	32,971	1,170,987
Net book value			
At 31 August 2024	1,752,966	13,325	1,766,291
At 31 August 2023	1,870,481	23,637	1,894,118
12 Stock			
		2024	2023
OL direction in the control of the c		£	£
Clothing and catering		4,791	6,357
13 Debtors			
		2024	2023
		£	£
Trade debtors		360	283
Prepayments and accrued income		49,214	30,687
VAT recoverable		490	3,319
		50,064	34,289

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

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	14,801	5,068
Other taxation and social security	19,303	11,619
Other creditors	.,,505	374
Pension scheme creditor	31,844	26,585
Accruals	25,496	28,885
Deferred income	70,145	66,177
	161,589	138,708
	101,389	130,700
	2024	2022
	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income	~	~~
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	66,177	62,349
Resources deferred in the period	70,145	66,177
Amounts released from previous periods	(66,177)	(62,349)
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	70,145	66,177

At the balance sheet date, the Academy was holding £65,336 (2023: £66,177) free school meal funding for the period beginning September 2024 and £4,809 (2023: £nil) rates relief.

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

15 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Incoming resources	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	30,701	1,405,708	(1,378,945)	(8,667)	48,797
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	138,455	(138,455)	-	-
SEN Funding	-	47,828	(47,828)	-	-
Other restricted income	-	4,327	(4,327)	-	-
Other Government grants	-	37,282	(37,282)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	69,983	(69,983)	-	-
UIFSM	-	111,163	(111,163)	-	-
Pension reserve	(38,000)	<u>-</u> -	29,000	9,000	
	(7,299)	1,814,746	(1,758,983)	333	48,797
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Capital expenditure from GAG	14,189	-	(7,179)	8,667	15,677
DfE/ESFA capital grants	70,303	-	(17,193)		53,110
Inherited fixed assets	1,798,282	-	(106,449)	-	1,691,833
LEA other income	11,343	-	(5,673)	-	5,670
DFC	-	7,566	-	-	7,566
Other DfE capital grants	15,416	-	(15,416)	-	-
Capital donations		9,013	(9,013)		
	1,909,533	16,579	(160,923)	8,667	1,773,856
Total restricted funds	1,902,234	1,831,325	(1,919,906)	9,000	1,822,653
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted general funds	399,781	65,289	(7,781)		457,289
Total funds	2,302,015	1,896,614	(1,927,687)	9,000	2,279,942

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

15 Funds (continued)

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

The SEN funding represents grants received from Essex County Council in order to provide additional teaching resources to children with special learning needs. The cost of these teaching resources has been set against the income.

The DfE/ESFA capital grant income is an annual devolved capital grant received to assist the Academy with funding capital projects.

The LEA other income included under restricted funds relates to funding received from Essex County Council for a growth fund.

The Academy is not subject to a limit on the amount of the General Annual Grant that can be carried forward.

The transfer between the restricted fund and restricted fixed asset fund relates to fixed assets purchased in the year.

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

15 Funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources	Resources Expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	152,163	1,151,078	(1,258,470)	(14,070)	30,701
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	103,100	(103,100)	-	_
SEN Funding	-	22,630	(22,630)	_	-
Other restricted income	-	1,436	(1,436)	-	-
Other Government grants	_	165,601	(165,601)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	49,632	(49,632)	_	-
UIFSM	-	118,549	(118,549)	-	-
Pension reserve	(355,000)		(32,000)	349,000	(38,000)
	(202,837)	1,612,026	(1,751,418)	334,930	(7,299)
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Capital expenditure from GAG	13,487	-81	(4,968)	5,670	14,189
DfE/ESFA capital grants	74,415	_	(33,231)	29,119	70,303
Inherited fixed assets	1,904,731	-	(106,449)	_	1,798,282
LEA other income	17,016	-	(5,673)	-	11,343
DFC	20,719	7,038	(7,038)	(20,719)	-
Other DfE capital grants		15,416			15,416
	2,030,368	22,454	(157,359)	14,070	1,909,533
Total restricted funds	1,827,531	1,634,480	(1,908,777)	349,000	1,902,234
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted general funds	357,926	46,391	(4,536)		399,781
Total funds	2,185,457	1,680,871	(1,913,313)	349,000	2,302,015

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

16 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	-	-	1,766,291	1,766,291
Current assets	457,289	210,386	7,565	675,240
Current liabilities	·	(161,589)		(161,589)
Total net assets	457,289	48,797	1,773,856	2,279,942

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	-	-	1,894,118	1,894,118
Current assets	399,781	169,409	15,415	584,605
Current liabilities	-	(138,708)	-	(138,708)
Pension scheme liability	·	(38,000)		(38,000)
Total net assets	399,781	(7,299)	1,909,533	2,302,015

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

17 Commitments under operating leases

Operating leases

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts due within one year	2,146	2,146
Amounts due between one and five years	179	2,325
	2,325	4,471
18 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash inflow/(outflow) for	rom operating activities	
	2024 £	2023 £

	2024 £	2023 £
Net expenditure	(31,073)	(232,442)
Depreciation	136,494	132,688
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(7,566)	(22,454)
Interest receivable	(8,510)	(154)
Defined benefit pension scheme obligation inherited	(29,000)	32,000
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	1,566	(2,384)
Increase in debtors	(15,775)	(6,570)
Increase in creditors	22,881	6,995
Net cash provided by/(used in) Operating Activities	69,017	(92,321)

19 Cash flows from investing activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	8,510	154
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(8,667)	(17,155)
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	7,566	22,454
Net cash provided by investing activities	7,409	5,453

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

20 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

		2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand and at bank		620,385	543,959
Total cash and cash equivalents		620,385	543,959
21 Analysis of changes in net debt			
	At 1 September 2023	Cash flows	At 31 August 2024
	£	£	£
Cash	543,959	76,426	620,385
Total	543,959	76,426	620,385

22 Member liability

Each member of the Academy undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Academy 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.

23 Pension and similar obligations

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020 and of the LGPS 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £31,844 (2023 - £26,585) were payable to the schemes at 31 August and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for 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.

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

23 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to 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

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 £147,436 (2022/23: £135,853).

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

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

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

23 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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 £162,000 (2023 - £144,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £132,000 (2023 - £117,000) and employees' contributions totalled £30,000 (2023 - £27,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 25% for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of an Academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013 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	3.90	3.90
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.90	2.90
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.10	5.30
Inflation assumptions (CPI)	2.90	2.90
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	50.00	50.00

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	20.70	20.70
Females retiring today	23.30	23.20
Retiring in 20 years		
Males retiring in 20 years	22.00	22.00
Females retiring in 20 years	24.70	24.60
Sensitivity analysis		
	2024 £000	2023 £000
Discount rate +0.1%	1,982	1,730
Discount rate -0.1%	2,051	1,789
Mortality assumption − 1 year increase	2,075	1,810
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	1,958	1,710
CPI rate +0.1%	2,051	1,789
CPI rate -0.1%	1,982	1,730

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

23 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

	2024	2023
	£	£
Equities	1,157,000	1,002,000
Gilts	36,000	22,000
Property	145,000	135,000
Cash and other liquid assets	35,000	50,000
Other	686,000	512,000
Total market value of assets	2,059,000	1,721,000

The actual return on scheme assets was (£17,000) (2023 - £68,000).

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		
•	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Current service cost	104,000	136,000
Interest cost	(2,000)	12,000
Admin expenses	1,000	1,000
Total amount recognized in the SOFA	103,000	149,000
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows	:	
	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
At start of period	1,759,000	1,744,000
Current service cost	104,000	136,000
Interest cost	93,000	74,000
Employee contributions	30,000	27,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	58,000	(196,000)
Benefits paid	(28,000)	(26,000)
At 31 August	2,016,000	1,759,000
Changes in the fair value of Academy's share of scheme assets:		
	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
At start of period	1,721,000	1,389,000
Interest income	95,000	62,000
Actuarial gain/(loss)	110,000	153,000
Employer contributions	132,000	117,000
Employee contributions	30,000	27,000
Benefits paid	(29,000)	(27,000)
At 31 August	2,059,000	1,721,000

The LGPS valuation shows a pension asset as at 31 August 2024. FRS 102 section 28.22 states a plan surplus can be recognised only to the extent an entity is able to recover the surplus, either through reduced contributions in the future, or through refunds from the scheme. Based on the guidance, the pension asset has not been recognised and instead the actuarial gain has been restricted to recognise the liability as nil.

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

24 Related party transactions

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

Expenditure Related Party Transactions

Sub Zero Limited - a company in which Mrs J Landa-Arrese (Head Teacher and a Trustee) is a director, along with her spouse.

- The Academy paid for various costs including electrical works and air conditioning services by Sub Zero Limited totalling £6,590 (2023: £5,700) during the period. There were no amounts outstanding at 31 August 2024 (2023: £nil).
- There were some instances during the year where the transactions were not subject to a competitive tendering process due to the urgent nature of the works.
- The Academy Trust Handbook states the ESFA should be notified of all related party transactions and their approval must be obtained, where required. During the year, there were instances where the transactions were not reported to the ESFA until the day the works started.
- The element above £2,500 was provided 'at no more than cost' and Sub Zero Limited has provided a statement of assurance confirming this.