Registration number: 08178033

Ghyllside School

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Stables Thompson & Briscoe
Lowther House
Lowther Street
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4DX

Ghyllside School

Contents

Ghyllside School

Reference and administrative details

Members	P J O'Reilly R Talbot L C Bound (resigned 31 August 2023) D W Horner P A Hicks
Trustees (Directors)	D W Horner, Chair R Talbot (resigned 18 November 2022) M Jones D A Bell L C Graham E R Winter J R Pack (resigned 10 July 2023) H B Davies, Headteacher & Accounting Officer A J Tancrel A K Biden J A Taylor D Shaw M A Williamson E C Garbutt P Bainbridge (appointed 27 February 2023)
Company Secretary	N Audin
Head Teacher	H B Davies
Senior Management Team	H B Davies, Headteacher M A Williamson, Deputy Headteacher E Garbutt, Deputy Headteacher L Meyfroidt, Assistant Head
Principal and Registered Office	Ghyllside School Gillinggate Kendal Cumbria LA9 4JB
Company Registration Number	08178033

Reference and administrative details (continued)

Auditors	Stables Thompson & Briscoe Lowther House Lowther Street Kendal Cumbria LA9 4DX 28 March 2023
Bankers	Lloyds Bank 9 Finkle Street Kendal Cumbria LA9 4AG

Ghyllside School

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

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

The Trust operates an Academy for pupils of mixed abilities aged 3 to 11 serving a catchment area in Kendal. It has a pupil capacity of 436 in main school with an additional 78 15hr nursery places. The full time equivalent school roll was 456 in the school census on 01 October 2022.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The Trustees of Ghyllside School are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Ghyllside School.

Details of the trustees who served throughout the year, except as noted, are included in the Reference and Administrative details.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

The academy trust through its Articles has indemnified its Trustees to the fullest extent permissible by law. During the period the Academy also purchased and maintained liability insurance for its Trustees.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The Trustees are Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 1985 and Trustees for the purposes of charity legislation.

Arrangements to appoint new Trustees are detailed in the Articles of Association which were amended on 28/03/2022 to separate Members and Trustees. The term Trustees replaces the term Governors and the Board is the Trustee Board, not the Governing Body.

- 5 Members
- 10 Trustees appointed by Members. The Headteacher has been appointed as one of these 10
- 3 Co-opted Trustees - appointed 3 staff representatives as Co-opted Trustees
- A minimum of 2 Parent Trustees elected by parents of registered pupils at the Academy. A Parent Trustee must be a parent of a pupil at the Academy at the time when s/he is elected. Any election of Parent Trustees that is contested shall be held by secret ballot. The Trustee Board shall take all steps as are reasonably practical to ensure that all parents of a registered pupil at the Academy are informed of the vacancy, informed they are entitled to stand as a candidate and vote at the election and given the opportunity to do so.
- There is no longer an LA Trustee

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

All new Trustees joining the Academy Trust complete an induction programme, including receipt of company documentation and a meeting with the Chair of Trustees and Headteacher.

Organisational structure

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the Academy by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the Academy, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The Senior Leadership are the Head, 2 Deputy Heads and the Assistant Head. These managers control the Academy at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the Trustees and reporting back to them. As a group the Senior Managers are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Senior Leadership team have annual appraisal reviews with mid-year updates. The Headteacher's appraisal is held with a sub group of the Trustees, the rest of the SLT have their appraisal with the Headteacher. Pay is performance related and subject to targets being met. The Headteacher's pay and appraisal review is undertaken by a Trustees sub group in conjunction with an externally appointed qualified advisor.

Trade union facility time

The Academy has no relevant union officials.

Connected organisations, including related party relationships

Ghyllside Out of School Club

Ghyllside Out of School Club provides wrap-around care for pupils of Ghyllside School from 8am to 6pm, before and after school and during school holidays. Supervised by the Deputy Head Lower School (DHLS), the OOSC is a separate Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to that of Ghyllside School and as such produces its own Audited Annual Accounts and Financial Statements and has a separate body of Trustees to that of Ghyllside School. The OOSC pays Ghyllside School a rental fee for the use of the School's buildings and facilities and also a management fee in respect of the DHLS's time. One member of the Trustee Board of Ghyllside School also serves as a Trustee of the OOSC, along with the Headteacher.

The Kendal Collaborative Partnership

The Kendal Collaborative Partnership consists of 14 primary schools, 2 secondary schools and 1 special needs school across the South Lakes area. The partnership exists to work collaboratively to the benefit of all those within its member organisations, to meet this end in a sustainable way and to deliver those objects in a positive and proactive way, taking affirmative actions.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

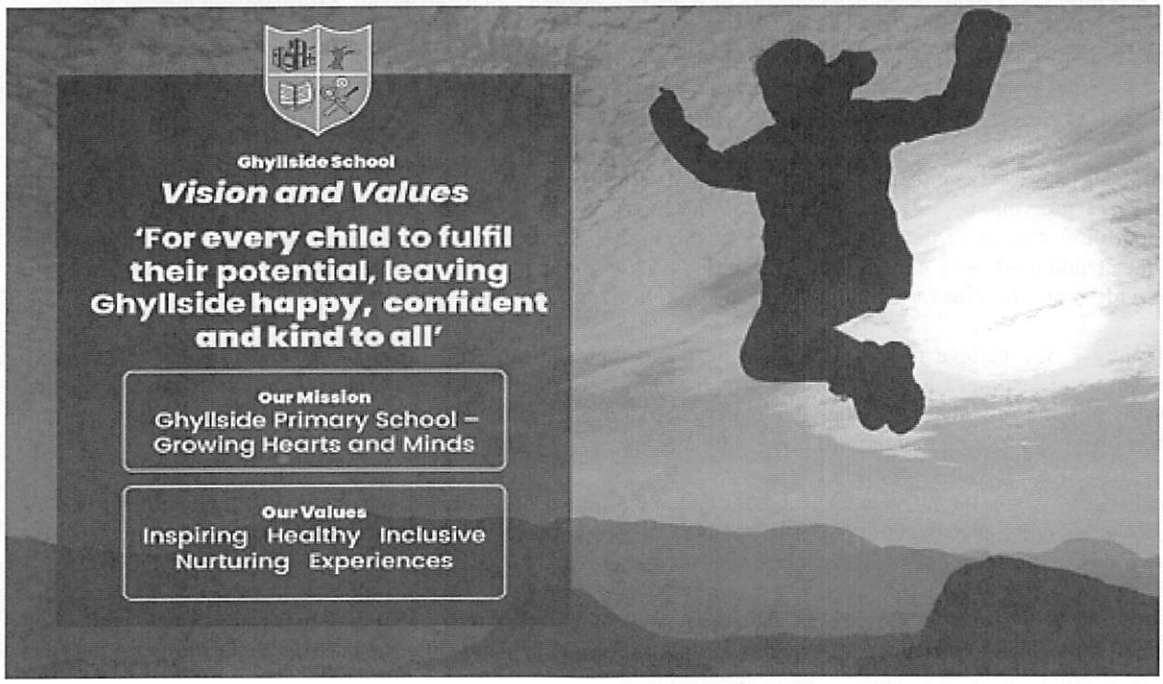
The principal object and activity of the charitable company is the operation of Ghyllside School to provide education for pupils of mixed abilities between the ages of 3 to 11. In doing so it meets the requirements of the Funding Agreement signed by the Secretary of State for Education.

The main objectives of the Academy during the period ended 31st August 2023 are summarised below.

- To ensure equality of opportunity for all children
- To raise the standard of educational achievement for all pupils
- To provide value for money
- To comply with all statutory requirements
- To conduct the Academy's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness
- To improve the effectiveness of the Academy by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under constant review

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

We do this through the implementation of our school vision:



Objectives, strategies and activities

Implementing our Vision through our Curriculum
Our Aspiration: For every child to fulfil their potential, leaving Ghyllside happy, confident and kind to all
Our Mission: Growing Hearts and Minds
Our Values: Inspiring Healthy Inclusive Nurturing Experiences

We aim to ensure our curriculum lines up with our vision through -

Inspiring – We believe that it is our role to enable children to value the uniqueness of the physical environment they are growing up in - on the edge of the most popular National Park in Britain – as well as see the opportunities open to them more widely in the future. To do this we provide a curriculum that is based on understanding of, and experiences in, our local environment and the Lake District National Park, but also provides opportunities for children to expand their horizons and thinking.

Healthy – We believe that excellent physical and mental health are fundamental prerequisites to academic success and leading a happy, fulfilling life. Therefore, we aim to provide a curriculum and environment that instils in our pupils the knowledge and experience to make healthy choices and lead healthy lives in relation to their own physical and mental health, and relationships.

Inclusive – We aim to provide a curriculum and environment that is inclusive and accessible to all regardless of prior attainment, socio economic background, differing needs, race and orientation. This curriculum and environment nurtures openness and celebrates diversity.

Nurturing – We aim to provide a curriculum and environment that sees children as individuals, providing opportunities and experiences for them to be able to follow their own interests, setting them firmly on the road to developing into well rounded individual young adults.

Experiences – We believe that meaningful, well planned experiential learning has a profound beneficial effect on children's learning. Therefore, we aim to provide a curriculum that is based in experiential learning that all pupils access fully regardless of their individual starting points, backgrounds and prior experiences.

We aim to fulfil these goals in an environment that is:
• Safe
• Led and supported by a committed and experienced board(s) of Trustees and Members
• Staffed by an experienced, highly skilled staff group
• Welcoming to all
• Well resourced in terms of buildings, infrastructure and consumables
• Outward looking and supportive of other schools
• Economically viable
• Held in high regard in our local community

Public benefit

In setting objectives and planning activities the Trustees have given consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The public benefit is providing education in accordance with the Principal Activities detailed above, and additionally in providing access to school facilities to local community groups and adult education.

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance

Ofsted judgement

On 16 October 2018 the school had a short section 8 Ofsted inspection, the first since April 2014. It was reported that the school continues to be 'good'. The good judgement was maintained due to the work staff have put into moving the school forward in the intervening four and a half years. Analysis of the rate at which Ofsted are 'catching up' with inspections post Covid-19, and Ofsted's own publication 'When will my school be inspected', would indicate that we are scheduled to be inspected towards the end of the academic year, or early in the next, (with the large caveat that we can be inspected at any time.)

Other areas of achievement since our last inspection are:

• Ofsted Area for Improvement 1 - Further embed the changes made to increase the proportion of disadvantaged pupils making good progress in mathematics by the end of key stage 2. - Evidence: All internal assessment and reporting for our Y6 cohort shows smaller PP gap than that present in Summer 2018.

• Ofsted Area for Improvement 2 - Further develop their (Trustees and leaders) skills to measure the impact of additional funding to support the progress of disadvantaged pupils - Evidence: See PP Group tracking and actions in relation to catch up work, SDP, Governor monitoring, Progress & Attainment Committee minutes, PP Review on website.

• Maintain KS2 Reading, Writing and Maths expected level results broadly in line with, or better than, national averages. Evidence: Reading - All KS 2 percentages for the school (including reading) were at or above national averages in Summer 2022 and Summer 2023.

• Continue to increase the equity of take up of curricular extras and extra-curricular activities between advantaged and disadvantaged pupils. Evidence: See PP uptake analysis and various action plans and reports in relation to the support given to disadvantaged children and their families throughout the Covid-19 crisis, resulting lockdowns and isolation periods.

We expect that continued school development would obtain a 'Good' judgement or better in the next Ofsted inspection.

Pupil attendance

Year	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Attendance	96.9%	93.8%	94.8%

Measures implemented to reverse our previous slight, pre Covid, attendance downward trend have previously been successful and remain in place. We have also added to these strategies for 23/24 to continue the upward trajectory of our attendance over the last two years. This includes increased reporting of attendance to parents, further holding parents to account for absences including 1:1 consultation with the Headteacher if necessary and closer monitoring of absence figures. We have started the 23/24 academic year with letters specifically for all the parents of children who were persistent absentees in 22/23 to encourage good attendance this year.

Pupil recruitment

We had 60 new starters in our reception class in September 2023. This continues our post Covid-19 rise back to our 'normal' intake from pre Covid and continues to be when compared against other Kendal schools as these are low birth rate years across Kendal. Alongside this we continue to 'pick up' children from the local area throughout our school years and rarely lose any children to neighbouring schools - children only leave us if they are moving away or moving on to secondary school. At the time of writing we have the highest NOR in the last 6 years.

We have maintained this through putting a lot of time into advertising reception places, making senior staff available to show parents around school and answer questions and maintaining our positive image in the local community.

Our parental questionnaire returns show that our parent group are highly complementary about the school and continue to recommend us to friends and family.

Budget control

We continue to monitor our budget expenditure closely and on a monthly basis. This is done by the School Business Manager and Headteacher and then reported and questioned at the Trustees' Resources committee meetings monthly.

The Trustee Resources Committee monitors financial performance throughout the year in several ways, including reviewing and discussing any variances between actuals and budget in the income and expenditure lines detailed within the monthly management accounts presented to all of its 9 meetings per year. Subsequently, revisions to the budget are made in instances where such variances cannot be addressed in the financial year. The Resources Committee also undertakes both Financial Insights and Financial Efficiency Reviews, together with a Financial Self-Assessment, throughout the year in order to review its financial performance by using benchmarked data through comparing Ghyllside School with other similar schools. The results of these reviews identify any areas where improvements could be made, including any budget lines over or under spending by comparison and an action plan is subsequently agreed in order to address any relevant areas.

Going concern

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

Financial review

The Academy Trust's accounting period is 01 September 2022 to 31 August 2023.

During the period under review, the majority of the Academy Trust's income was obtained from the DfE in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which was restricted to the Academy's educational activities. The grants received during the accounting period and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

During the year, the school received total revenue funding for Charitable activities of £2,555,283, of which £1,731,590 was from the DfE in the form of GAG funding (68%).

Revenue expenditure was £2,531,036, of which staffing is the main area of cost at £2,177,919 (86%).

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Academy is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the Academy, and its finances. The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the school faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors, supervision of school grounds) and internal financial controls (see below) in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains, they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The Academy has an effective system of internal financial control and this is explained in more detail in the following statement.

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The Trustees are responsible for the management of the risks the Academy is exposed to, and have undertaken a review of risks associated with its activities. The major risks that have been identified are recorded on the Academy's Risk Register, and procedures are being developed to manage the risk.

The principal sources of funding and how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the academy trust

The majority of the Academy's income is obtained from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and the Local Authority in the form of grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes.

Fundraising

The Academy does not engage with professional fundraisers to undertake any fundraising activities on its behalf. The Academy from time to time does minor level fundraising activities to raise funds for the Academy whereby students seek voluntary donations from parents and the local community.

Plans for future periods

The Academy will continue to strive to provide an exemplary education and improve the levels of performance of its pupils at all levels. The Academy will continue to aim to attract high quality teachers and support staff in order to deliver its objectives.

Our budget forecast is predicting an increase in reserves over the next three years as a result of reductions in staffing and other savings.

Auditor

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company'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.

The trustees' report, incorporating a Strategic Report, was approved by order of the members of the Trustee Board on 20 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

D W Horner

D W Horner
Trustee

COVID - 19 impact

Covid-19 continues to impact the financial performance of the trust by limiting any reserves spend budgeted for the financial year. As we return to pre-pandemic ways of living, the Academy Trust continues to focus on helping pupils catch up on lost learning. The Academy Trust continued to receive DfE School Led Tutoring Grant for the 22/23 Academic Year. This enabled the Academy to set out plans and deliver tutoring to suit the needs of our pupils.

At present the financial implications of Covid-19 pandemic have reduced vastly however, we remain aware that there may be further outbreaks.

As forecasted we are now in a stronger financial position. We continue to monitor the budget closely as additional staffing and fuel costs alongside less predictability around income grants impact our budget.

Reserves policy

The Trustees, via the work of their Resources Committee, regularly monitor on-going and projected levels of reserve, ensuring these are adequate for the continued operation of the Academy. This monitoring process takes into account shifts in local and national funding policies and developments as well as material expenditure requirements.

Ghyllside School believes that the funding received in any one year should be used, in the main, to support the children on roll at the time unless there is a specific project that would require the accumulation of funding over more than one year.

However, so as to ensure the stability of the School's organisational operations - to protect it so that it has the ability to adjust quickly to financial circumstances, such as large unbudgeted expenditure, cyclical maintenance and working capital - Trustees consider an operational reserve of 3 - 5% in any one financial year to be prudent.

The level of reserve for each year of the School's 4-year financial forecast is determined by Trustees as part of the annual budget setting process, alongside the need to ensure that a balanced budget is agreed, when any unspent funds brought forward from previous years can be drawn on.

Funds in Deficit

The General annual grant fund was in deficit at the year-end which is mainly due to contributions towards capital projects in previous years. The Academy is looking to reduce this in the future through costs savings or possibly transferring a balance of unrestricted funds that is at the Academy's disposal.

The Academy holds a deficit on the local government pension scheme of £230,000. In the event of the closure of the Academy, this deficit would be met by the DfE.

The deficit position of the pension scheme will result in a cash flow effect for the Academy Trust in the form of an increase in employers' pension contributions over a period of years.

Investment policy

The available funds for the Academy Trust dictate the investment policy. Cash balances are held within a mainstream bank with a strong ethical and environmental profile.

Ghyllside School

Governance statement

Scope of responsibility

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

The Trustee Board has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to H B Davies, Head Teacher, 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 Ghyllside School and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Trustee Board any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Trustee Board has formally met 5 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Trustee Board was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
D A Bell	1	5
M Jones	1	5
E C Garbutt	3	5
D W Horner	5	5
R Talbot	1	1
M A Williamson	1	5
H B Davies, Headteacher & Accounting Officer	5	5
J R Pack (resigned 10 July 2023)	4	5
A J Tancrel	5	5
L C Graham	5	5
E R Winter	3	5
A K Biden	4	5
D Shaw	5	5
J A Taylor	2	5
P Bainbridge (appointed 27 February 2023)	1	2

Governance reviews

Following the separation of Members and Trustees effected the previous year, there were 5 Members, who were responsible for the appointment of the Trustees; and there were also 4 Trustees elected by Parents. The Trustees have also appointed the 2 Teaching and 1 Non-Teaching Staff Representatives as Co-opted Trustees.

A review of Ghyllside Governance was carried out in October 2022 by the Resources Committee in accord with the financial framework contained in the Academy Trust Handbook 2022 and so as to ensure compliance thereof. The next such review is scheduled for October 2023.

The Resources Committee also undertakes a Financial Management and Governance Self-Assessment; the Schools' Resource Management Self-Assessment; a Financial Efficiencies Review; and the FRC's Risk Management, Internal Control and Related Financial & Business Reporting review on an annual basis and reports its findings to the Trustee Board.

In addition to this, a full Skills Audit is undertaken annually in respect of all Trustees in order to inform a full review of governance and the effectiveness of the Board of Trustees, together with identifying potential areas for training.

Trustees review the Appraisal and Pay Policies annually. These are closely aligned to the local authority model policies endorsed by the Teachers' Associations. No Trustees receive remuneration.

The Risk Management Policy, Strategy and Register in respect of Strategic and Financial Risks are reviewed at each meeting of the Resources Committee and updated accordingly, along with any action plan arising therefrom. This forms part of the trust's internal control and corporate governance arrangements, along with ensuring best practice. Key risk indicators are identified on an on-going basis and closely monitored regularly at all levels. The Resources Committee, in turn, reports to the Trustee Board. The Strategic and Financial Risks Register, Strategy and Policy are also independently reviewed regularly.

The steps taken both previously and on an ongoing basis to match expenditure with the funding available proved to be sufficient; and the school has been able to continue to produce balanced budgets for present and future years by using its revenue reserves.

This situation was partly helped by Government grant funding, to both meet the additional costs resulting from the national teaching staff's pay award and increases to employers' pension and national insurance contributions, together with additional grants in respect of School Led Tutoring, the Recovery Premium Grant and the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant. The newly formed Westmorland & Furness Council also awarded grants in respect of Looked After Children and Homes For Ukraine.

However, Trustees recognize that the ensuing years will again be particularly challenging, not least due to the significant increases resulting from the cost of living crises and energy costs.

But Trustees remain committed to mitigating financial risks by planning an albeit reduced but nevertheless still prudent surplus/carry-over each year as part of the four-year budget plan, which is closely monitored at each meeting of the Resources Committee - a sub-committee of the main board of trustees - the remit of which includes all finance, audit, internal control and staffing matters, together with a direct strategy for capital investment in line with School's priorities as detailed within its on-going Development Plan.

The Resources Committee is a sub-committee of the main Trustee Board. Its purpose is to Attendance at meetings during the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
D W Horner	11	11
M A Williamson	11	11
R Talbot	2	2
M Jones	2	11
E R Winter	8	11
L C Graham	0	11
Ė C Garbutt	1	11
A K Biden	3	11
P Bainbridge (appointed 27 February 2023)	4	6
H B Davies, Headteacher & Accounting Officer	10	11

Statement on governance and internal control
All Trustees, the School Business Manager and Governance Professional (Clerk) complete the Related Parties/Register of Business & Pecuniary Interests Register by October of every year, with the information being published in the Governance Document of the school website; and a Declaration as to any changes is completed and signed at the start of every meeting during the year, with the main register subsequently being updated.

Should a Trustee have a personal interest in an agenda item to be discussed, they would declare that interest at the start of the meeting and not take part in any subsequent discussions on the matter.

Effective oversight of funds
The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 5 times during the year, which included the AGM and also held 3 Training & Development meetings.

Review of value for money
I accept that as Accounting Officer of Ghyllside School I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. I am aware of the guide to academy value for money statements published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and understand that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

I set out below how I have ensured that the Academy Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

The Academy Trust has invested on the maintenance of the Academy buildings in the academic year to ensure that the estate is safe, well-maintained and complies with relevant regulations. Roofing repairs were undertaken, flooring replaced and continued maintenance of work in relation to fire safety to ensure continued compliance with regulations.

Governance statement (continued)

The Trustees of Ghyllside School are committed to achieving Best Value in all decisions made. We use the principles of Best Value as they apply to securing continuous improvement in this school and will:
• regularly review the functions of the school, challenging how and why services are provided and setting targets and performance indicators for improvement. This is best seen through the writing and review of our School Development Plan;
• monitor outcomes and compare performance with similar schools and within the school (through membership and work with the Kendal Collaborative Partnership etc.);
• consult appropriate stakeholders before major decisions are made; and
• promote fair competition through quotations and tenders to ensure that goods and services are secured in the most economic, efficient and effective way.

We will strive to ensure that the school is using its resources effectively to meet the needs of pupils.

The progress of the annual budget plan and the Best Value statement will be monitored with the School Improvement Plan in order to determine the extent of continuous improvement.

The school has in place a strategy and a set of guidelines, updated annually, which will ensure that Best Value will be reviewed and demonstrated. A Purchasing Assessment visit carried out by the Strategic & Commercial Procurement Office in February 2009 stated that we do provide best value for resources, utilities and other school-based equipment. This year we are focussing on:

2023-24 priorities

• By Summer 2023 we will have a well established system for teaching and evidencing progress in Science, RE and foundation subjects embedded throughout school
• By Easter 2024 we will have a well established system for teaching and evidencing progress in Relationships and Sex Education embedded throughout school
• To continue to embed Gender Equality across school
• To increase student voice across school
• To ensure teachers' wellbeing is not adversely impacted by school workload or Covid-19 working practice changes
• To ensure all of our safeguarding practices and procedures are in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education
• To eliminate any differential between the academic achievement of pupil premium and non-pupil premium children by the time they leave Ghyllside School (three year plan)
• To secure 85% attainment in KS2 SATs for Maths, Reading, Writing and SPaG (SPaG - 2 year plan)

Staffing.....

Sufficient funding is allocated so that the school is able to continue to employ a minimum of 2 full time class teachers for each year group, meeting our stated aim to maintain two classes for each age group. This year we have split both year five and six cohorts into three groups for maths and literacy. Senior Teaching Assistants are deployed throughout school to ensure an appropriate level of support for all children, this includes a full time HLTA deployed in our nurture unit. We ensure teachers receive their PPA time through the employment of specialist Computing & Games teachers. Three staff are registered SLEs, (Specialist Leaders in Education) and one member of staff is an accredited Master Teacher of Computing. These staff work across and support other schools as part of the local Teaching School Alliance.

Ghyllside School

Governance statement (continued)

Resources .....

The school will continue to purchase high quality resources. The school has undertaken a purchasing assessment. Curriculum Co-ordinators and Phase Co-ordinators manage their specific budgets and augment resources through consultation with all staff. Each Phase Group team (4 in school) is provided with funds to meet the demand for consumable resources on an annual basis each May. Resources are audited before the new year's requirements are ordered to ensure efficiency. In addition, the school will maintain its focus on purchasing reading books (£5000) to support the teaching of reading throughout the school and provide a broad range of books with varied interest levels to ensure the inclusion of all readers. The library's fully integrated computerised system for recording withdrawals & returns is maintained. Resources will be purchased to help the school further develop its effective and manageable system of assessment and recording. Computing facilities and resource development will remain a high priority; we will endeavour to meet the challenges outlined in our current Improvement Plan.

The School Environment ....

A structured programme of grounds and buildings maintenance and development is operational in line with the Asset Management Plan and is worked through under the supervision of the Trustees' Premises, Health & Safety Committee. We continue to keep abreast of CIF bid developments and potential areas for school buildings improvements.

Partnerships....

We are an active member of the Kendal Collaborative Partnership, (KCP, a local consortium of twelve primary, one special and two secondary schools in and around Kendal) who work together to raise standards, provide high quality staff CPD and ensure best value by collaborating on procurement issues. We will partake in the Peer Review system devised through the LASL (Local Association of System Leaders) to further enhance School Improvement strategies.

Financial Management ....

The Statement of Internal Control is in place. The school Trustees' Resources Committee hold regular finance meetings (monthly) to monitor the budget and discuss problem areas and strategies on how to deal with any particular situation that may arise. The whole Trustee Board are kept informed through Resources Committee reports tabled at each Trustees' meeting. A budgetary balance will be maintained through careful financial management, anticipation of future trends and sensible, realistic expenditure. Pupil numbers remain stable and are at the highest in at least the last six years; at the time of writing (Sept 23) we have 418 on main school roll and a full nursery.

Signed:

Name: How Davies

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

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

Capacity to handle risk
The Trustee Board has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed, together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Trustee Board is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year ended 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Trustee Board.

Based on this review, a range of areas were identified for focus for the Programme of Internal Control and Scrutiny work for 2022-2023. These were:
• Emerging risk areas
• Cyber security
• Risk Register - review high impact areas
• Staffing
• Review actions and recommendations from Annual Audits
• Financial procedures manual
• Financial position - challenges, inflation, salaries, future outlook (including use of ICFP)
• Reporting - focus on KPI measures and usefulness of data
• SRMA

The audit approach used involved: testing of controls, reporting of findings, recommendations and action required.

Audit work and investigation was undertaken using a range of methods including questioning and interrogation, scrutiny and review of documents (including polices, manuals and procedures) in depth review and spot checks of financial records.

The recommendations have been actioned by the Trust and therefore controls and systems are in an even more robust position, appropriate for the size and complexity of the Trust.

There were no material control or other issues reported by the Responsible Officer to date.

Review of effectiveness
As accounting officer, the head teacher 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 ;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- the work of the external auditor;
- correspondence from ESFA: FNtI/NtI and 'minded to' letters.

Ghyllside School

Governance statement (continued)

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

Approved by order of the members of the Trustee Board on 20 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
D W Horner
Trustee

.....
H B Davies
Head Teacher

Ghyllside School

Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance

As accounting officer of Ghyllside School I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust Trustee Board and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

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

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

.....
H B Davies Head Teacher
Accounting Officer

20 November 2023

Ghyllside School

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board on 20 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
H B Davies
Head Teacher

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

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ghyllside School (the 'Academy') for the year ended 31 August 2023, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Academy trust's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- 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 2022 to 2023.

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 Strategic 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.

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.

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic Report and 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 19], 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.

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 Ghyllside School (continued)

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our experience and from discussions with management. We reviewed any related correspondence and records of meetings to assess compliance with laws and regulations and discussed the current position with management.

We ensured the audit team were alert for any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit work.

We reviewed material journals processed in the academy's accounting software.

We assessed the academy's policies and procedures on fraud risks. No instances of actual, suspected or alleged fraud were identified by us or the academy in the year.

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.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Academy's Trustees, 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 Trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

.....

Helen Holmes BSc FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Stables Thompson & Briscoe, Statutory Auditor

Lowther House
Lowther Street
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4DX

Date: 14 December 2023

Ghyllside School

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

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

This report is made solely to Ghyllside School and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we may state to Ghyllside School 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 Ghyllside School and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustee Board's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

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

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- We obtained information on the Academy's control environment and activities and considered whether these have been compiled with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 and whether the activities confirmed to the Academy Trusts' framework of authorities.
- When testing expenditure the authorisation was checked and the nature of the activity was confirmed as permissible within the Academy Trusts' framework of authorities. A review was made of related parties and the register of business interests. This was used to identify any related party transactions.
- Formal representations were obtained from the governing body and the accounting officer acknowledging their responsibilities including disclosing all non-compliance with laws and regulations specific to the authorising framework, access to accounting records, provision of information and explanations, and other matters where direct evidence was not available.

Ghyllside School

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Ghyllside 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 2022 to 31 August 2023 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

.....

Helen Holmes BSc FCA
For and on behalf of Stables Thompson & Briscoe, Chartered Accountants

Lowther House
Lowther Street
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4DX

Date: 14 December 2023

Ghyllside 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 £	2023 Total £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	2	4,922	-	27,819	32,741
Other trading activities	4	52,755	-	-	52,755
Investments	5	33	-	-	33
Charitable activities:					
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	43,865	2,453,708	-	2,497,573
Total		101,575	2,453,708	27,819	2,583,102
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	1,697	-	-	1,697
Charitable activities:					
Academy trust educational operations	7	71,643	2,457,696	122,468	2,651,807
Total		73,340	2,457,696	122,468	2,653,504
Net income/(expenditure)		28,235	(3,988)	(94,649)	(70,402)
Transfers between funds		(23,313)	23,313	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	225,000	-	225,000
Net movement in funds/(deficit)		4,922	244,325	(94,649)	154,598
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2022		174,189	(322,225)	2,920,191	2,772,155
Total funds/(deficit) carried forward at 31 August 2023		179,111	(77,900)	2,825,542	2,926,753

Ghyllside School

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2022 Total £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	2	1,647	-	8,959	10,606
Other trading activities	4	38,592	-	-	38,592
Investments	5	24	-	-	24
Charitable activities:					
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	37,808	2,231,312	-	2,269,120
Total		78,071	2,231,312	8,959	2,318,342
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	9,499	-	-	9,499
Charitable activities:					
Academy trust educational operations	7	43,546	2,326,403	123,144	2,493,093
Total		53,045	2,326,403	123,144	2,502,592
Net income/(expenditure)		25,026	(95,091)	(114,185)	(184,250)
Transfers between funds		(25,001)	25,001	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	1,379,000	-	1,379,000
Net movement in funds/(deficit)		25	1,308,910	(114,185)	1,194,750
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2021		174,164	(1,631,135)	3,034,376	1,577,405
Total funds/(deficit) carried forward at 31 August 2022		174,189	(322,225)	2,920,191	2,772,155

Ghyllside School

(Registration number: 08178033)
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	2,814,483	2,911,677
Current assets			
Stocks	12	13,495	8,500
Debtors	13	78,922	62,308
Cash at bank and in hand		269,803	224,141
		362,220	294,949
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		(247,234)	(199,038)
Net current assets		114,986	95,911
Total assets less current liabilities		2,929,469	3,007,588
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	15	(2,716)	(5,433)
Net assets excluding pension asset		2,926,753	3,002,155
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	25	-	(230,000)
Total net assets		**2,926,753**	**2,772,155**
Funds of the Academy:			
Restricted funds			
Restricted general fund	16	(77,900)	(92,225)
Restricted fixed asset fund	16	2,825,542	2,920,191
Pension reserve	16	-	(230,000)
		2,747,642	2,597,966
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted general fund	16	179,111	174,189
Total funds		**2,926,753**	**2,772,155**

The financial statements on pages 25 to 51 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 20 November 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
D W Horner
Trustee

.....
H B Davies
Head Teacher

Ghyllside School

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	19	40,192	93,047
Cash flows from investing activities	21	8,252	(474)
Cash flows from financing activities	20	(2,782)	(2,782)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		45,662	89,791
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		224,141	134,350
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	22	269,803	224,141

1 Accounting policies

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

Basis of preparation

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

The impact from the Covid-19 pandemic can be found in detail within the Strategic Report.

Going concern

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

Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

Sponsorship income

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

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Donations

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

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

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 trust's accounting policies.

Transfer on conversion

Where assets and liabilities are received by the academy trust on conversion to an academy, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the academy trust. An equal amount of income is recognised as transfer on conversion within donations and capital grant income to the net assets received.

Transfer of existing academies into the trust

Where assets and liabilities are received on the transfer of an existing academy into the academy trust, the transferred net assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the academy trust. An equal amount of income is recognised for the transfer of an existing academy into the academy trust within donations and capital grant income to the net assets acquired.

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 is 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 trust's accounting policies.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

Tangible fixed assets
Assets costing £1,000 or more (mulitple assets not included if individual assets are under £250) are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line/reducing balance basis over its expected useful life, per the table below. Where an asset comprises of two or more components which have substantially different useful lives, each component is depreciated separately over its useful economic life.

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	Depreciation method and rate
Leasehold buildings	straight line over economic life (ranging from 29 to 58 years)
Leasehold land	straight line over the 125 year lease term

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Plant and machinery	straight line over economic life (ranging from 10 to 30 years)
ICT equipment	25% straight line
Furniture, fittings & equipment	10% straight line

Liabilities

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

Provisions

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

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

Leased assets

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

Stock

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

Taxation

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

Accordingly, the academy trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by 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.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Local Government Pension Scheme deficit is recognised against restricted general funds in order to match it against the GAG, in accordance with the Education and Skills Funding Agency guidance.

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.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 'Member Liability', will impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31/08/2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Capital grants	-	27,819	27,819	8,959
Other donations	4,922	-	4,922	1,647
	4,922	27,819	32,741	10,606

The income from donations and capital grants was £32,742 (2022: £10,606) which was allocated between the funds as follows; £4,922 unrestricted funds (2022: £1,647), £Nil restricted funds (2022: £Nil), £27,819 restricted fixed asset funds (2022: £8,959) and £Nil endowment funds (2022: £Nil).

3 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Educational operations				
DfE/ESFA revenue grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	1,731,590	1,731,590	1,688,723
ESFA Pupil Premium	-	117,134	117,134	106,281
UIFSM	-	70,059	70,059	63,020
Teachers Pay Grant	-	1,289	1,289	2,018
Teachers Pension Grant	-	3,643	3,643	5,702
Supplementary Grant	-	50,565	50,565	21,069
Sports Funding	-	19,510	19,510	19,510
Other ESFA Grants	-	5,613	5,613	7,074
Maintained Schools Additional Grant	-	25,725	25,725	-
ESFA Poverty Grant	-	8,259	8,259	-
	-	2,033,387	2,033,387	1,913,397
Other government grants				
LA Funded Statements	-	120,720	120,720	108,939
CCC Early Years Funding	-	194,839	194,839	144,730
LA Pupil Premium	-	9,595	9,595	-
	-	325,154	325,154	253,669
Non-government grants and other income				
Catering	36,691	-	36,691	24,911
School Trips	-	54,618	54,618	24,823
Other Educational Income	7,174	17,066	24,240	27,599
	43,865	71,684	115,549	77,333
Covid-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)				
National Tutoring Programme	-	12,064	12,064	10,732
Recovery Premium Grant	-	11,419	11,419	10,875
Workforce Fund	-	-	-	3,114
	-	23,483	23,483	24,721
Total grants	43,865	2,453,708	2,497,573	2,269,120

3 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations (continued)

The funding for educational operations was £2,497,573 (2022: £2,269,120) which was allocated between the funds as follows; £43,865 unrestricted funds (2022: £37,808), £2,453,708 restricted funds (2022: £2,231,312), £Nil restricted fixed asset funds (2022: £Nil) and £Nil endowment funds (2022: £Nil).

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Hire of facilities	9,246	9,246	9,434
Other sales	43,509	43,509	29,158
	52,755	52,755	38,592

The income from other trading activities was £52,755 (2022: £38,591) which was allocated between the funds as follows; £52,755 unrestricted funds (2022: £38,591), £Nil restricted funds (2022: £Nil), £Nil restricted fixed asset funds (2022: £Nil) and £Nil endowment funds (2022: £Nil).

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Short term deposits	33	33	24

The income from other trading activities was £33 (2022: £24) which was allocated between the funds as follows; £33 unrestricted funds (2022: £24), £Nil restricted funds (2022: £Nil), £Nil restricted fixed asset funds (2022: £Nil) and £Nil endowment funds (2022: £Nil).

6 Expenditure

		Non Pay Expenditure			
	Staff costs £	Premises £	Other costs £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Expenditure on raising funds					
Allocated support costs	-	-	-	1,697	9,499
Academy's educational operations					
Direct costs	1,930,314	100,219	84,572	2,115,105	1,930,320
Allocated support costs	247,605	135,868	153,229	536,702	562,773
	2,177,919	236,087	237,801	2,653,504	2,502,592

6 Expenditure (continued)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Operating lease rentals	2,762	2,762
Depreciation	116,534	123,144
Fees payable to auditor - audit	4,250	5,585
- other audit services	7,697	5,310

7 Charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Direct costs - educational operations	2,115,105	1,930,320
Support costs - educational operations	536,702	562,773
	2,651,807	2,493,093

	Educational operations £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Analysis of support costs			
Support staff costs	247,605	247,605	284,673
Depreciation	16,574	16,574	17,283
Technology costs	25,934	25,934	23,401
Premises costs	119,294	119,294	94,699
Other support costs	214,932	214,932	87,042
Governance costs	(87,637)	(87,637)	55,675
Total support costs	536,702	536,702	562,773

8 Staff

Staff costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	1,545,628	1,444,264
Social security costs	136,296	114,031
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	442,382	442,807
	2,124,306	2,001,102
Supply staff costs	53,613	27,217
	2,177,919	2,028,319

8 Staff (continued)

Staff numbers

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

	2023 No	2022 No
Management	4	4
Teachers	19	21
Catering	-	3
Administration and support	49	42
	72	70

Higher paid staff

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

	2023 No	2022 No
£60,001 - £70,000	1	-
£70,001 - £80,000	-	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £355,817 (2022: £339,228).

9 Related party transactions - trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from employment with the academy trust. The principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their role as trustees. The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

H B Davies (Principal and Trustee):

Remuneration: £80,000 - £85,000 (2022 - £75,000 - £80,000)
Employer's pension contributions: £15,000 - £20,000 (2022 - £15,000 - £20,000)

M A Williamson (Staff Trustee):

Remuneration: £60,000 - £65,000 (2022 - £55,000 - £60,000)
Employer's pension contributions: £10,000 - £15,000 (2022 - £10,000 - £15,000)

E C Garbutt (Staff Trustee):

Remuneration: £55,000 - £60,000 (2022 - £55,000 - £60,000)
Employer's pension contributions: £10,000 - £15,000 (2022 - £10,000 - £15,000)

9 Related party transactions - trustees' remuneration and expenses (continued)

R Simpson (Staff Trustee):

Remuneration: (2022 - £5,000 - £10,000)
Employer's pension contributions: (2022 - £0 - £5,000)

P Bainbridge (Staff Trustee from 27/02/2023):

Remuneration: £15,000 - £20,000 (2022 -)
Employer's pension contributions: £0 - £5,000 (2022 -)

During the year ended 31 August 2023, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £Nil (2022 - £Nil) were reimbursed or paid directly to 0 trustees (2022 - 0).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 26.

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 £5,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £101 (2022 - £117).

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

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Plant and Machinery £	Computer equipment £	2023 Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2022	3,245,169	37,144	696,718	119,367	4,098,398
Additions	2,166	5,768	2,434	9,232	19,600
At 31 August 2023	3,247,335	42,912	699,152	128,599	4,117,998
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	653,645	30,924	391,994	110,159	1,186,722
Charge for the year	70,424	1,613	37,968	6,788	116,793
At 31 August 2023	724,069	32,537	429,962	116,947	1,303,515
Net book value					
At 31 August 2023	2,523,266	10,375	269,190	11,652	2,814,483
At 31 August 2022	2,591,524	6,220	304,724	9,208	2,911,676

12 Stock

	2023	2022
	£	£
Stock of goods	13,495	8,500

13 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	6,390	1,682
VAT recoverable	8,609	6,964
Other debtors	15,417	5,077
Prepayments	22,562	24,708
Accrued grant and other income	25,944	23,877
	78,922	62,308

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	51,258	35,389
Other taxation and social security	30,381	31,120
Loans	2,782	2,622
Other creditors	2,022	601
Accruals	53,205	38,564
Deferred income	69,871	54,964
Pension scheme creditor	37,715	35,778
	247,234	199,038

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deferred income		
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	54,964	53,070
Resources deferred in the period	69,871	54,964
Amounts released from previous periods	(54,964)	(53,070)
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	69,871	54,964

Deferred income comprises funding for the next academic year

15 Creditors: amounts falling due in greater than one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Loans	2,716	5,433

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted funds					
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	(94,424)	1,731,590	(1,721,443)	5,101	(79,176)
ESFA Pupil Premium	-	117,134	(117,134)	-	-
Maintained Schools Additional Grant	-	25,725	(25,725)	-	-
UIFSM	-	70,059	(70,059)	-	-
Teachers Pay Grant	-	1,289	(1,289)	-	-
Teachers Pension Grant	-	3,643	(3,643)	-	-
Supplementary Grant	-	50,565	(50,565)	-	-
Recovery Premium Grant	-	11,419	(11,419)	-	-
Sports Funding	-	19,510	(19,510)	-	-
Other ESFA Grants	-	5,613	(5,613)	-	-
ESFA Poverty Grant	-	8,259	(8,259)	-	-
National Tutoring	-	12,064	(12,064)	-	-
LA Funded Statements	-	120,720	(120,720)	-	-
CCC Early Years	-	194,839	(194,839)	-	-
LA Pupil Premium	-	9,595	(9,595)	-	-
Restricted catering	-	-	(24,138)	24,138	-
School Trips	2,199	54,618	(54,572)	(2,152)	93
Other educational income	-	15,566	(15,566)	-	-
Expedition Club	-	1,500	(317)	-	1,183
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Fixed assets used for charitable purposes	2,911,675	-	(116,793)	19,601	2,814,483
ESFA formula capital	8,516	27,819	(5,675)	(19,601)	11,059
Pension reserve funds					
Pension reserve fund	(230,000)	-	5,000	225,000	-
Total restricted funds	2,597,966	2,481,527	(2,583,938)	252,087	2,747,642

16 Funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Unrestricted general funds					
Unrestricted general funds	174,189	55,638	-	(50,716)	179,111
Unrestricted designated funds					
Designated lettings fund	-	9,246	(1,697)	(7,549)	-
Designated catering fund	-	36,691	(67,869)	31,178	-
Total unrestricted funds	174,189	101,575	(69,566)	(27,087)	179,111
Total endowment funds	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds	2,772,155	2,583,102	(2,653,504)	225,000	2,926,753

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Restricted funds					
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	(171,808)	1,688,722	(1,614,260)	2,922	(94,424)
ESFA Pupil Premium	-	106,281	(103,874)	(2,407)	-
UIFSM	-	63,020	(51,589)	(11,431)	-
Teachers Pay Grant	-	2,018	(2,018)	-	-
Teachers Pension Grant	-	5,702	(5,702)	-	-
Supplementary Grant	-	21,069	(21,069)	-	-
Sports Funding	-	19,510	(19,087)	(423)	-
Other ESFA Grants	-	7,074	(7,074)	-	-
Catch-up Premium	14,232	-	(14,232)	-	-
Exceptional Government Funding	-	24,721	(24,721)	-	-
LA Funded Statements	-	108,939	(108,939)	-	-
CCC Early Years	-	144,731	(144,731)	-	-
Restricted catering	-	-	(33,510)	33,510	-
School Trips	(556)	24,823	(24,898)	2,830	2,199
Other educational income	-	14,702	(14,702)	-	-
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Fixed assets used for charitable purposes	3,025,362	-	(123,144)	9,457	2,911,675
ESFA formula capital	9,013	8,960	-	(9,457)	8,516

16 Funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Pension reserve funds					
Pension reserve fund	(1,473,000)	-	(136,000)	1,379,000	(230,000)
Total restricted funds	1,403,243	2,240,272	(2,449,550)	1,404,001	2,597,966
Unrestricted general funds					
Unrestricted general funds	174,166	43,725	-	(43,702)	174,189
Unrestricted designated funds					
Designated lettings fund	-	9,434	(9,500)	66	-
Designated catering fund	-	24,911	(43,546)	18,635	-
Total unrestricted funds	174,166	78,070	(53,046)	(25,001)	174,189
Total endowment funds	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds	1,577,409	2,318,342	(2,502,596)	1,379,000	2,772,155

The academy trust is not subject to GAG carried forward limits.

16 Funds (continued)

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

General Annual Grant (GAG) fund:
This represents the core funding for the educational activities of the school that has been provided to the Academy via the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

Pupil Premium fund:
This represents funding paid by the DfE to support disadvantaged students in their teaching and learning, with the aim of improving their attainment and closing the gap with more advantaged students.

Teachers pay and pension grants:
Teachers' pay grant is provided to support teacher pay awards. Teachers' pension grant is provided to support the increase in employer contributions to the Teachers' Pension Scheme from September 2019.

Catch-up premium:
This represents funding paid by the DfE to support pupils and disadvantaged young people to catch up on missed education because of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Defined benefit pension scheme fund:
This represents the deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) at the year end. For details of the deficit payment plan see the pensions note.

Local Authority funded statements:
This represents funding from the Local Authority to pay for free nursery education for preschool students.

UIFSM:
This represents funding from the DfE to fund school meals for all infant students.

ESFA condition improvement funds:
This represents monies from the ESFA in relation to capital projects.

Fixed assets used for charitable purposes:
This represents the value and movements on tangible fixed assets.

Fund balances for each academy at 31 August 2023 and 31 August 2022 were zero, hence a breakdown by academy is not included in these accounts.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	2,814,483	2,814,483
Current assets	179,111	172,050	11,059	362,220
Current liabilities	-	(247,234)	-	(247,234)
Creditors over 1 year	-	(2,716)	-	(2,716)
Total net assets	179,111	(77,900)	2,825,542	2,926,753

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	-	-	2,911,677	2,911,677
Current assets	174,189	112,246	8,514	294,949
Current liabilities	-	(199,038)	-	(199,038)
Creditors over 1 year	-	(5,433)	-	(5,433)
Pension scheme liability	-	(230,000)	-	(230,000)
Total net assets	174,189	(322,225)	2,920,191	2,772,155

18 Long-term commitments, including operating leases

Operating leases

At 31 August 2023 the total of the Academy trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts due within one year	1,087	2,762
Amounts due between one and five years	792	1,256
	1,879	4,018

The leasehold land and buildings are subject to a 125 year lease with Cumbria County Council. Although a peppercorn rent may be demanded, no such rent has been demanded to date.

19 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net expenditure	(70,402)	(184,250)
Depreciation	116,793	123,143
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(27,819)	(8,959)
Interest receivable	(33)	(24)
Interest payable	226	223
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	111,000	108,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	(116,000)	28,000
Increase in stocks	(4,995)	(5,800)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(16,614)	7,259
Increase in creditors	48,036	25,455
Net cash provided by Operating Activities	40,192	93,047

20 Cash flows from financing activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Repayments of borrowing	(2,782)	(2,782)
Net cash used in financing activities	(2,782)	(2,782)

21 Cash flows from investing activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	33	24
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(19,600)	(9,457)
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	27,819	8,959
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	8,252	(474)

22 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand and at bank	269,803	224,141
Total cash and cash equivalents	269,803	224,141

23 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	Other non-cash changes £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash	224,141	45,662	-	269,803
Loans falling due within one year	(2,622)	2,622	(2,782)	(2,782)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(5,433)	-	2,717	(2,716)
	(8,055)	2,622	(65)	(5,498)
Total	216,086	48,284	(65)	264,305

24 Member liability

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

25 Pension and similar obligations

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS to the period ended 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £(37,715) (2022 - £(35,778)) 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.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £213,476 (2022: £214,740).
A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website.

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

25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local government pension schemes
Your Pension Service (YPS) for Cumbria County Council

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 2023 was £152,494 (2022 - £148,563), of which employer's contributions totalled £121,493 (2022 - £120,067) and employees' contributions totalled £31,001 (2022 - £28,496). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 19.8% per cent for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% per cent for employees. The scheme is managed by Your Pension Service (YPS) for Cumbria County Council.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2023 %	2022 %
Rate of increase in salaries	4.30	4.30
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.90	2.90
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.40	4.30
Inflation assumptions (CPI)	2.80	2.80

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

	2023	2022
Retiring today		
Males retiring today	21.40	22.60
Females retiring today	23.80	25.30
Retiring in 20 years		
Males retiring in 20 years	22.70	24.10
Females retiring in 20 years	25.60	27.10

25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Sensitivity analysis

	2023	2022
	£	£
Discount rate + 0.1%	-	(49,000)
Discount rate - 0.1%	-	50,000
Mortality assumption 1 year increase	42,000	47,000
Mortality assumption 1 year decrease	-	(46,000)
CPI rate + 0.1%	-	50,000
CPI rate - 0.1%	-	(49,000)
Pay growth + 0.1%	-	7,000
Discount rate + 0.5%	(176,000)	-
CPI rate + 0.25%	95,000	-
Pay growth + 0.25%	(21,000)	-

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

	2023	2022
	£	£
Equities	702,000	910,000
Government bonds	297,000	304,000
Property	203,000	189,000
Cash and other liquid assets	65,000	53,000
Other	823,000	938,000
Total market value of assets	2,090,000	2,394,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £101,000 (2022 - (£150,000)).

25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Current service cost	(111,000)	(229,000)
Interest cost	(7,000)	(24,000)
Admin expenses	(4,000)	(4,000)
Total amount recognized in the SOFA	(122,000)	(257,000)

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

	2023	2022
	£	£
At start of period	2,320,000	3,595,000
Current service cost	111,000	229,000
Interest cost	100,000	61,000
Employee contributions	31,000	29,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(406,000)	(1,566,000)
Benefits paid	(15,000)	(28,000)
At 31 August	2,141,000	2,320,000

Changes in the fair value of academy's share of scheme assets:

	2023	2022
	£	£
At start of period	2,090,000	2,122,000
Interest income	93,000	37,000
Actuarial gain/(loss)	72,000	(187,000)
Employer contributions	127,000	121,000
Employee contributions	31,000	29,000
Benefits paid	(15,000)	(28,000)
Effect of non-routine settlements	(4,000)	(4,000)
At 31 August	2,394,000	2,090,000

26 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest.

There were no related party transactions in the year, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 9.