

St. Paul's Church of England Academy Trust

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 31 August 2024**

Company Registration Number
09102276 (England and Wales)

**Feltons
Chartered Accountants**

**Birmingham
B1 3JR**

St. Paul's Church of England Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 31 August 2024

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Reference and Administrative Details

Members	Appointed	End of Term of Office
Mr Craig Taylor Chair - Co-opted Governor	10/12/22	09/12/26
Mr Tom Richards Vice Chair - Co-opted Governor	08/07/23	07/07/27
Rev Larry Bain – Foundation Governor	17/01/22	Deceased
Mrs Jo Wood – Co-opted Governor	30/09/20	29/09/24

Trustees	Appointed	End of Term of Office
Mrs Anna McGuire – Principal		
Ms Laura Bridge – Staff Governor	01/12/20	30/11/24
Mrs Nicola Hartland – Staff Governor	28/03/23	27/03/27
Mrs Lynne Hickman – Foundation	23/09/20	29/09/24
Ms Sarah Bott – Chair of Governor	14/09/21	15/09/25
Vacancy – Foundation Governor		
Mrs Hayley Abbott – Parent Governor	06/12/21	05/12/25
Kerry Lakin – Parent Governor	28/03/23	27/03/27
Sukhi Basrai – Parent Governor	01/02/24	01/02/28
K. Thompson – Parent Governor	16/05/23	Disqualified
Rev Larry Bain – Foundation Governor	17/01/22	Deceased
Company Secretary	Mrs Anna McGuire	
Senior Leadership Team		
Principal	Mrs Anna McGuire	
Vice Principal	Mrs Kate Collinson	
Assistant Principal	Mrs Sally – Ann Collins	
Company Name	St Pauls Church of England Academy Trust	
Principal and registered office	St. Paul's Church of England Academy Trust Robert Road Tipton West Midlands DY4 9BH	
Company Registration Number	09102276	
Independent auditor	Feltons 8 Sovereign Court 8 Graham Street Birmingham B1 3JR	
Bankers	Lloyds Bank PLC 63 High Street Dudley DY1 8AA	
Solicitors	Irwin Mitchell Riverside East Sheffield S3 8DT	

**St. Paul's Church of England Academy Trust
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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2024

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and a directors' report and strategic report under company law.

The academy trust operates an academy for pupils age 4 to 11 serving a catchment area in Tipton It has a pupil capacity of 210 and had a roll of 204 in the school census in October 2023.

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 St Paul's C of E Academy are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as St Paul's C of E Academy Trust.

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

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy trust 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 million on any one claim.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

Parent trustees are elected by the parents of registered pupils at the academy. A parent trustee must be a parent of a pupil at the academy at the time when she/he is elected.

Community trustees may be appointed by the board of trustees provided that the person who is appointed as a community trustee is:

- a person who lives or works in the community served by the academy; or
- a person who, in the opinion of the board of trustees, is committed to the government and success of the academy.

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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

The board of trustees has a service level agreement with the trustee support department of SIP's Governor Services to provide training, advice and support to the board of trustees.

Newly elected trustees attend induction training for new trustees, and in addition select specific training provided by trustee support in accordance with their needs.

One of the trustees is appointed as link trustee, attends relevant training and provides information to trustees following such training.

The Principal is the leader for professional development in school, and she ensures that trustees are provided with opportunities to receive training in accordance with their role, and the school's training plan.

Organisational structure

The board of trustees has established committees and appoints trustees to serve on each of the committees annually. The committees for the period of the report were:

- Staffing and Finance
- Behaviour and Safety
- Standards and Achievement
- Pay Committee
- Principal Appraisal
- Appeals
- Staff and Pupil Discipline

The written terms of reference of the committees include the monitoring of the preparation and management of the academy's budget and implementation of the academy's financial management policies, including risk assessment.

The board of trustees also appoints a responsible officer and this role has been fully implemented in accordance with the academy trust's financial procedures.

Decisions reserved for the Board of Trustees are decisions relating to:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils and the performance management of staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and ensuring best value

Those responsibilities delegated to management include:

- The appropriate oversight of financial transactions by:
- Ensuring that the Academy trust's property and assets are under the control of the Trustees and measures exist to prevent losses or misuse
- Ensuring that bank accounts, financial systems and financial records are operated by more than one person
- Keeping full and accurate accounting records to support their annual accounts

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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Key Strategic decisions including those relating to the appointment of Principal's and Vice- Principals, Budget allocation and approval, financial policies and Risk Management are reserved for the Board of Trustees.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Mrs A McGuire, is related to one LSP employed by the Academy

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The strategic goal of St Paul's Church of England Academy is to provide a broad and balanced curriculum to all pupils in accordance with the funding agreement between the Academy Trust and the Department for Education.

As a Church School, the love of Jesus Christ is our foundation which we hope will be evident to all who pass through our doors. We hope that it will guide, not only the religious aspects of the curriculum day, but will also be a firm foundation for the whole life of the school. Christian values underpin all that we seek to undertake and achieve.

Our aim is to enable the pupils of St. Paul's to grow physically, mentally, socially and spiritually so gaining respect for themselves, each other and for the whole of God's world. It is important that each child is given the opportunity to develop his/her potential and we are continuously striving to raise achievement and to provide an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice.

At St. Paul's we aim to provide a rich and creative curriculum with the highest expectations for our children to attain high standards in all core skills and subject areas whilst developing their interests and abilities in the wider curriculum.

Our school aims to provide a safe, happy and caring environment where everyone is treated with respect. We aim to encourage good manners and responsibility, promoting a positive attitude to learning by recognising positive behaviour.

All that we do within St Paul's Church of England Academy is underpinned by our mission statement;

'We walk by faith and not by sight,' 2 Corinthians 5:7

Our Christian Values are:

- Love
- Hope
- Faith
- Forgiveness

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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

Objectives, strategies and activities

- To continue to maintain the Academy's current 'Good' Ofsted 2023 status through:
- Improving the quality of teaching so that all groups of pupils in particular disadvantaged pupils make good progress
- Developing leadership at all levels, including Governance and middle leadership
- Raising attainment and progress in Mathematics; with a focus on mathematical fluency
- Raising attainment and progress in English; with a continued particular focus on Writing and reading for pleasure
- Prioritising pupil and staff well-being
- To continue to be a good Church School (SIAMS 2024) and to fully embed our work on Spirituality and Agents of Change.

Public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

St Paul's C of E Academy is an equal opportunity employer, and strives to give full and fair consideration to all applicants for employment, training and promotions, irrespective of disability, gender, race, colour or sexual orientation.

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

The Academy was inspected by Ofsted in March 2023 and was judged to have maintained its Good Status.

Key inspection points were:

- Leaders are highly ambitious for all pupils to do as well as they can.
- Pupils live up to the school's values of 'love, hope, faith and forgiveness'. They get on well together.
- Pupils behave very well in lessons and around school.
- Leaders make sure that the curriculum is suitably ambitious and accessible for all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and pupils who speak English as an additional language.
- Leadership across subjects is developing well, with a mix of experienced and newer leaders
- Leaders promote fundamental British Values across all year groups alongside the school's values.
- Leaders place a strong emphasis on reducing staff workload.
- Pupils have many opportunities for trips and activities, which broadens their horizons.
- Leaders have established a strong culture of safeguarding.

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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

The statutory inspection of Church of England schools SIAM's inspection took place in March 2024

Key inspection points were:

- The lived and breathed Christian vision guides the school's actions and decision making at all levels. As a result, pupils and adults are empowered to reach their God given potential.
- Underpinned by the vision, pupils, including those with additional needs, embrace the many enrichment opportunities offered through the curriculum.
- Vibrant, inclusive and inspiring collective worship is a natural expression of the school's Christian vision.
- Strong relationships and loving pastoral care create a nurturing environment that enhances the wellbeing of pupils and adults.
- Shaped by the vision, the well-planned religious education (RE) curriculum successfully builds on prior learning. Consequently, pupils demonstrate a rich knowledge and understanding of world religions and worldviews.

Awards

- In 2024 the Academy achieved:
- The Music Mark
- The 360 Online Safety Mark
- The School Games Platinum Award
- The Eco Schools Green Flag
- Arts Mark – working towards
- In 2023 the Academy achieved:
- The Music Mark
- The School Games Platinum Award
- The Eco Schools Green Flag
- The Primary School Science Quality Mark
- In 2022 the Academy achieved:
- The Leading Parent Partnership Award
- The Music Mark
- The Sports Mark Gold Award for the fourth consecutive year
- The NCCE Computing Quality Mark

Faith

- Pupils put their faith into action through charitable outreach, demonstrating courageous advocacy and acting as Agents of Change; this can be evidenced via money raised for the Macmillan Charity, Children in Need and Save the Children Fund. Harvest collections were also made supporting the Well Foodbank in Tipton.
- The Worship Committee play a full and active role in the life of the school, supporting and planning Worship on a weekly basis with parents and members of the local community invited to attend.
- Parents and members of the local community are invited to attend key liturgical celebrations throughout the academic year, including Harvest, Remembrance, Christingle, the Nativity and Easter Celebrations.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

Curriculum Enrichment

- Curriculum enrichment opportunities are well developed for all pupils through residential trips to for example to Condover, educational visits to the Black Country Living Museum and the Think Tank as well as STEM workshops.
- Visiting artists and specialist teachers have enriched the Art and History curriculum through drama and poetry workshops.
- A wide range of After School Clubs are offered including dance, football, cooking, basketball, reading and choir.

Key performance indicators

The main Key Performance Indicators are:

Teaching and Learning:

- EYFS Good Level of Development to be equalling national at least.
- The Key Stage 1 Phonics screening check to be 79% or above equalling national at least.
- At least 56% of children to attain age related standards or above by the end of KS1 within Reading, Writing and Maths; equalling national.
- At least 59% of children to attain age related standards or above by the end of KS2 within Reading, Writing and Maths; equalling national.
- Teaching to be at least good or better with no inadequate teaching
- Develop a progression in pupil editing skills across the school creating a structured and systematic approach to the editing of writing.
- Continue to promote a consistent approach to Early Reading through the effective implementation of the Little Wandle Scheme.
- Continue to promote reading for pleasure through the high profile of both the St Paul's Reading Spine and Reading Ambassadors.
- To develop pupils understanding of mathematical vocabulary.
- Ensure attainment of Y4 times table facts is in line with national expectations for the MTC

Behaviour and Safeguarding:

- School Attendance to be at or above national average and all stakeholders to be aware of their responsibilities
- The Behaviour Policy is understood and used by all staff members consistently
- To ensure a safe, secure and stimulating environment for all, with pupil well-being a priority

Leadership and Management:

- Improve workload practices and develop a well-being charter to ensure a commitment to the continued well-being of staff
- Develop Curriculum Leadership ensuring that staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities

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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

Governance:

- Embed Governor Hub to enhance effective working.
- Further develop the link Governor programme
- Robust financial parameters maintained in school

Achievement and Performance:

EYFS Outcomes 2024		Pass Rate
Achieving good level of development		61%
KS1 Phonics Screening Checks 2024		Pass Rate
Year 1		90%
Year 2 (Re-sits)		43%
KS1 Results 2024	Expected Standard	Above Expected
Reading	71%	11%
Writing	71%	7%
Mathematics	71%	14%
RWM	68%	7%
KS2 Results 2024	Expected Standard	Above Expected
Reading	87%	29%
Writing	87%	10%
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling	87%	48%
Mathematics	90%	45%
RWM	81%	6%
Attendance 2023- 2024	School	P.A.
	94.38%	18.89

To ensure that standards are continually raised, the Academy:

- Implements a whole school approach to self-evaluation
 - Follows a rigorous monitoring and evaluation programme which ensures that all staff are accountable for the progress of all groups of pupils
 - Tracks the individual progress of all pupils including the identification of vulnerable groups including those receiving Pupil Premium
 - Evaluates trends in all cohorts, planning to meet their need, establish appropriate interventions and individual plans for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, children with specific needs and Gifted and Talented pupils, working with appropriate outside agencies.
 - Is committed to the Continued Professional Development of all staff; following a well-established and rigorous appraisal process
-
- Direct costs as a percentage of total costs were 68.2% (2023: 67.1%)
 - Support costs as a percentage of total costs were 31.8% (2023: 32.9%)
 - Total payroll costs as a percentage of recurring income were 69.7% (2023: 77.4%)

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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

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 financial results of St. Paul's C of E Academy Trust are detailed in the following pages. It is considered that the finances are sound and well established. The principal financial management policies adopted are laid down by the Academy Trust Handbook published by the ESFA and requirements as laid down by the Academy's Financial Handbook.

The principal funding source is grant income from the ESFA. All expenditure of this grant income is planned to fulfil the objectives and strategies of the academy trust.

During the year ended 31 August 2024 total resources expended were £1,455,340 and the surplus of income over expenditure was £37,852 stated after depreciation of £29,572.

Reserves policy

The trustees continually monitor the reserves of the charitable company. This process encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams and the need to match commitments with income and nature of reserves.

It is the board of trustees' general policy to continue to build reserves which can be used for future educational purposes.

The academy trust had total funds at 31 August 2024 of £352,624, which included £240,597 restricted funds not available for general purposes of the academy trust, £112,027 of free reserves defined as unrestricted funds available for general purposes and £223,857 which can only be realised by the disposal of tangible fixed assets.

The balance on restricted general funds (excluding pension reserve) plus the balance on unrestricted funds was a surplus of £190,767.

In addition, the deficit on the restricted pension fund of £62,000 arises from an actuarial deficit on the local government pension scheme which will be dealt with as advised by the actuary. This 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

There are no funds held on deposit.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The trustees have considered the major risks and uncertainties facing the charitable company which include changes in legislation and regulations and cash flow management and have put in place procedures to deal with these matters.

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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

The trustees are aware that there will be an impact upon the income streams from the Parent's Association as fundraising will be limited due to the cost-of-living crisis facing parents.

The trustees have considered the major risks and uncertainties facing the charitable company which include changes in legislation and regulations and cash flow management and have put in place procedures to deal with these matters.

Attention has also been focused on non-financial risks arising from fire, health and safety which includes consideration of those risks impacting on trustees' responsibilities to ensure the trust's estate is safe, well maintained and complies with relevant regulations. These risks are managed by ensuring accreditation is up to date, having robust policies in place, and regular awareness training for staff working in these operational areas.

Fundraising

The academy trust does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the period was monitored by the Trustees.

Plans for Future Periods

- Continue to improve standards, achievement, and the quality of teaching throughout the school.
- Continue to develop leadership at all levels, including Governance.
- Ensure that the Religious Education and the Christian distinctiveness of the Academy is a priority
- Continue to enhance the learning environment, improving the space for all groups of pupils both indoors and outdoors.

Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others

No funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

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 board of trustees, as the company directors, on 9 December and signed on the board's behalf by:

2024



..... Sarah Bott - Chair of Trustees

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Governance statement for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

Scope of Responsibility

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

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

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Principal, 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 St Paul's C of E Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

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

Members	Appointed	End of Office	Meetings Attended	Out of a possible	Role
Mr Craig Taylor Chair	09/12/22	09/12/26	9	9	C
Mr Tom Richards	07/07/23	07/07/27	12	14	C
Rev Larry Bain	17/01/22	Deceased	4	4	F
Mrs Jo Wood	30/09/20	29/09/24	12	15	C
Trustees					
Mrs Anna McGuire – Principal	<i>Ex officio</i>		21	21	
Ms Laura Bridge	01/12/20	30/11/24	6	7	S
Mrs Nicola Hartland	28/03/23	27/03/27	6	7	S
Mrs Lynne Hickman	23/09/20	29/09/24	7	7	F
Ms Sarah Bott Chair	14/09/21	15/09/25	8	9	F
Mrs Hayley Abbott	06/12/21	05/12/25	12	13	P
Ms Kerry Lakin	28/03/23	27/03/27	6	7	P
Mrs Sukhi Basrai	01/02/24	01/02/28	1	2	P
Kimberley Thompson	15/05/23	Disqualified	0	3	P

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Governance statement for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

The Trustees, provide support and challenge through full board and committee meetings. A review of the Governance Structure was undertaken in the academic year 2023 – 2024 which indicated that the Governance function is satisfactory and was given a green rating. There were no recommendations in this area.

In addition to this the Ofsted Inspection in June 2023 indicated that:

- Governors have a very accurate view of the school's strengths and what it needs to do to improve further.
- Governors are highly experienced and knowledgeable.
- Governors ensure that its statutory duties are met.

Governance Review

The Trust intends to conduct its next self-evaluation/external review during the academic year 2024 – 2025. Effective oversight of the board is maintained via a balance and diversity of knowledge, skills and experience. Chairs of the Committees provide feedback to the trustees at full board meetings.

The **Staffing and Finance Committee** and **Audit Committees** are sub-committees of the main Board of Trustees. Their purpose is to ensure that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources

Staffing & Finance Committee	Role	Meetings Attended	Out of a Possible	Appointment	End of term of office
Anna McGuire		6	6	Ex officio	
Mr Tom Richards	C	5	6	07/07/23	07/07/27
Mrs Jo Wood	C	5	6	30/09/20	29/09/24
Rev Larry Bain	F	2	2	17/01/22	Deceased
Mrs Hayley Abbott	P	5	6	06/12/21	08/12/25

Audit Committee	Role	Meetings Attended	Out of a Possible	Appointment	End of term of office
Anna McGuire		3	3	Ex officio	
Mr Tom Richards	C	2	3	07/07/23	07/07/27
Mrs Jo Wood	C	2	3	30/09/20	29/09/24
Rev Larry Bain	F	1	1	17/01/22	Deceased
Mrs Hayley Abbott	P	3	3	06/12/21	08/12/25

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Governance statement for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

Review of value for money

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

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

Targeted Improvement

Good use of school resources can be demonstrated by the fact that the school has a balanced three year Budget.

Each year the school determines areas that are targeted for improvement and these are given additional funding. This allows the school to effectively allocate resources in an effective manner, identifying areas for improvement while still obtaining value for money; these are

- Targeting improvements in line with School Improvement Plan priorities
- Ensuring professional development for staff at all stages of their careers
- Retaining good quality staff
- Ensuring effective staff performance via appraisal reviews
- Effective deployment of staff to raise the quality of provision across the school
- Effective spend of Pupil Premium and Sports Premium
- Ensuring that all pupils receive quality first teaching and support.
- Identifying Interventions to ensure that staff deliver quality intervention work to those children who require additional support with their learning and social and emotional development.
- There is also effective deployment of teaching staff to ensure that the more able pupils are supported to make progress, improving educational achievement and attainment.
- rigorous and robust monitoring systems in place; with a continual review and evaluation of performance systems and procedures
- Working closely with the other Academies in the local community to provide support for pupils, to provide CPD for staff to raise standards and to join together for best financial value also, whilst also providing leadership support within the local area.
- Regularly reviewing contracts and services, to ensure value for money.
- Reviewing the staffing structure on an annual basis to drive and support curriculum initiatives.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the academy trust's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in St. Paul's Church of England Academy for the period from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

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Governance statement for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

Capacity to handle risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

The Risk and Control Framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;
- regular reviews by the finance and general purposes committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- identification and management of risks.
- The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the trustees have decided to buy in an internal audit service.
- The role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. The checks carried out in the current period included:

- Purchases
- Income
- Opening balances
- Control accounts
- Aged debtors
- Aged creditors
- Bank reconciliations
- Management accounts
- Schedule of musts
- Payroll & personnel data

On a termly basis the internal scrutiniser reports to the Board of Trustees, through the Audit Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities. Preparing an annual summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

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Governance statement for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

Review of Effectiveness

As accounting officer, the Principal has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

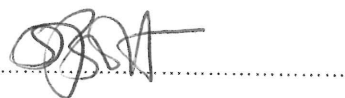
- the work of the internal reviewer
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process of the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Conclusion

Based on the advice of the audit and risk committee and the accounting officer, the board of trustees is of the opinion that the academy trust has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 9 December ²⁰²⁴ and signed on its behalf by:



Sarah Bott
Chair of Trustees



Anna McGuire
Accounting Officer

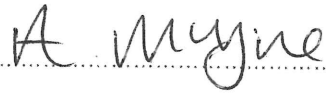
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Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance
for the period ended 31 August 2024

As accounting officer of St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

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

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



..... Anna McGuire – Accounting Officer

Date : 9 December 2024

St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities
for the period ended 31 August 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 9 December ²⁰²⁴ and signed on its behalf by:


..... Sarah Bott – Chair of Trustees

St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of
St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust (the 'academy trust') for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the 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 Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements :

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of St Paul's Church of
England Academy Trust
(continued)

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the academy and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or
- 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.

St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of St Paul's Church of
England Academy Trust
(continued)

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement [set out on page 17], the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

- We reviewed the academy's control and risk management procedures and planned our work based on our assessment of those controls and procedures;
- This review included an assessment of the risk of material misstatement due to errors, fraud and management override of controls for all material areas in the financial statements;
- We made enquiries of management and the academy's lawyers regarding any actual or potential litigation and/or claims;
- Financial statements disclosures were reviewed and checked for compliance with applicable laws;
- Detailed testing was conducted on balances and transactions including unusual items and those of individual significance to the financial statements;
- Data analytics were used in order to identify unusual or significant trends;
- Communications with management and those charged with governance regarding relevant matters was undertaken throughout the audit and on completion.

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.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust

(continued)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

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



David W Farnsworth FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Feltons, Statutory Auditor

8 Sovereign Court

8 Graham Street

Birmingham B1 3JR

19 December 2024

St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 22 March 2021 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 26 February 2015 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes :

- Consideration of the applicable legislation and the academy trust's funding agreement
- Review and evaluation of the academy trust's system of internal controls
- Examination and assessment of the Accounting Officer's statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance
- Examination, on a test basis, of third party evidence supporting income and expenditure
- Review of exceptional and unusual items

St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust 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 period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.



David W Farnsworth FCA (Reporting Accountant)

For and on behalf of Feltons, Statutory Auditor

8 Sovereign Court

8 Graham Street

Birmingham B1 3JR

19 December 2024

St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 August 2024
(including income and expenditure account)

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted pension fund £	Restricted general funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total 2023/24 £	Total 2022/23 £
Income from :							
Donations and capital grants	2	36,067	-	-	45,509	81,576	56,807
Charitable activities :	3						
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations		35,080	-	1,376,507	-	1,411,587	1,330,883
Investments	5	29	-	-	-	29	29
Total		71,176	-	1,376,507	45,509	1,493,192	1,387,719
Expenditure on :							
Charitable activities: Academy trust educational operations	6	45,079	(9,000)	1,389,690	29,571	1,455,340	1,399,390
Total		45,079	(9,000)	1,389,690	29,571	1,455,340	1,399,390
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		26,097	9,000	(13,183)	15,938	37,852	(11,671)
Transfers between funds	14	-	-	(25,860)	25,860	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) after transfers		26,097	9,000	(39,043)	41,798	37,852	(11,671)
Other recognised gains/(losses)							
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	14, 24	-	61,000	-	-	61,000	379,000
Net movement in funds		26,097	70,000	(39,043)	41,798	98,852	367,329
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward	14	85,930	(132,000)	117,783	182,059	253,772	(113,557)
Total funds carried forward		112,027	(62,000)	78,740	223,857	352,624	253,772

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All of the Academy's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Company number : 09102276

Balance sheet as at 31 August 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		223,857		170,606
Current assets					
Debtors	12	67,816		64,847	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>207,027</u>		<u>248,453</u>	
		274,843		313,300	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13(a)	<u>81,497</u>		<u>90,399</u>	
Net current assets			193,346		222,901
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>417,203</u>		<u>393,507</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	13(b)		(2,579)		(7,735)
Net assets excluding pension liability			<u>414,624</u>		<u>385,772</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	24		(62,000)		(132,000)
Total net assets			<u><u>352,624</u></u>		<u><u>253,772</u></u>
Funds of the academy trust :					
Restricted funds					
Fixed asset fund	14	223,857		182,059	
Restricted income fund	14	78,740		117,783	
Pension reserve	14	<u>(62,000)</u>		<u>(132,000)</u>	
Total restricted funds			240,597		167,842
Unrestricted income funds	14		112,027		85,930
Total funds			<u><u>352,624</u></u>		<u><u>253,772</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 24 to 46 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 9 December 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:



Sarah Bott - Chair of Trustees

St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	18	1,015	43,068
Cash flows from investing activities	19	(37,285)	6,435
Cash flows from financing activities	20	(5,156)	(11,008)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(41,426)	38,495
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2023		248,453	209,958
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2024	21	207,027	248,453

St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 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 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 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.

1.3 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 recognised when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended.

- **Donations**

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

St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income (continued)

- **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 'Stocks' and 'Income from Other Trading Activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from Other Trading Activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from Other Trading Activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from Other Trading Activities'.
- **Donated fixed assets**
Where the donated good is a fixed asset it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the academy trust's accounting policies.

1.4 Expenditure

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

- **Expenditure on raising funds**
This includes all expenditure incurred by the academy trust to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.
- **Charitable activities**
These are costs incurred on the academy trust's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the academy trust apportioned to charitable activities.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £500 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

Long leasehold buildings	- straight line over 50 years
Property improvements	- straight line over 25 years
Furniture and equipment	- 20% straight line
Computer hardware	- 33% straight line

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

The Academy Trust also occupies property held under church supplemental agreements which permit occupancy of the premises with a notice period of two years. The Academy Trust is not able to exercise control over this property and therefore no fixed asset has been recognised in the financial statements. All expenditure in respect of major refurbishment or improvements in respect of these is expensed directly through revenue and matched with the appropriate incoming resources.

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

1.6 Debtors

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

1.7 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.8 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.

1.9 Leased assets

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

1.10 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

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

1.11 Taxation

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

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

1.12 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 on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

St Paul's Church of England Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.12 Pension benefits (continued)

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.

1.13 Fund accounting

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

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

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

1.14 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.

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 24, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

2. Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted general fund £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	2023/24 Total £	2022/23 Total £
Capital grants	-	-	45,509	45,509	20,740
Other donations	36,067	-	-	36,067	36,067
	<u>36,067</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,509</u>	<u>81,576</u>	<u>56,807</u>
2023 total	<u>36,067</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,740</u>	<u>56,807</u>	

3. Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted general fund £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	2023/24 Total £	2022/23 Total £
DfE/ESFA grants					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	1,078,180	-	1,078,180	1,033,218
Other DfE/ESFA grants					
UFSM	-	22,353	-	22,353	26,330
Pupil premium	-	105,713	-	105,713	96,790
Mainstream schools grant	-	34,920	-	34,920	-
Supplementary grant	-	12,700	-	12,700	43,322
Others	-	68,941	-	68,941	38,807
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,322,807</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,322,807</u>	<u>1,238,467</u>
Other government grants					
Local authority grants	-	53,700	-	53,700	45,403
Other government funding	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>53,700</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>53,700</u>	<u>45,403</u>
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations					
	35,080	-	-	35,080	47,013
	<u>35,080</u>	<u>53,700</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>88,780</u>	<u>92,416</u>
	<u>35,080</u>	<u>1,376,507</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,411,587</u>	<u>1,330,883</u>
2023 total	<u>47,013</u>	<u>1,283,870</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,330,883</u>	

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023/24 Total £	2022/23 Total £
Short term deposits	29	-	29	29
2023 total	29	-	29	

5. Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non pay expenditure Premises £	Other £	2023/24 Total £	2022/23 Total £
Academy's educational operations					
Direct costs	872,184	27,459	92,707	992,350	939,040
Allocated support costs	168,302	95,519	199,169	462,990	460,350
	<u>1,040,486</u>	<u>122,978</u>	<u>291,876</u>	<u>1,455,340</u>	<u>1,399,390</u>
2023 total	<u>1,030,374</u>	<u>129,357</u>	<u>239,659</u>	<u>1,399,390</u>	

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes :

		2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Operating leases	- plant and machinery	2,854	2,476
Depreciation		29,572	28,131
Fees payable to auditor	- audit	7,140	8,000
	- other services	<u>1,260</u>	<u>450</u>

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted pension fund £	Other restricted funds £	2023/24 Total £	2022/23 Total £
Educational operations					
Direct costs					
Educational operations	4,296	-	988,054	992,350	939,040
Support costs					
Educational operations	40,783	(9,000)	431,207	462,990	460,350
	<u>45,079</u>	<u>(9,000)</u>	<u>1,419,261</u>	<u>1,455,340</u>	<u>1,399,390</u>
2023 total	<u>52,428</u>	<u>37,000</u>	<u>1,309,962</u>	<u>1,399,390</u>	

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

6. Charitable activities (continued)

	Educational operations £	2023/24 Total £	2022/23 Total £
Analysis of support costs			
Support staff costs	168,302	168,302	204,033
Depreciation	2,112	2,112	5,209
Technology costs	20,522	20,522	24,512
Premises costs	124,713	124,713	99,689
Other support costs	135,217	135,217	114,481
Governance costs	12,124	12,124	12,426
Total support costs	462,990	462,990	460,350
2023 total	460,350	460,350	

7. Staff

a) Staff costs

Staff costs during the period were:

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Wages and salaries	765,219	752,860
Social security costs	74,744	66,664
Pension costs	182,485	201,303
	1,022,448	1,020,827
Agency staff costs	10,695	9,547
Staff restructuring costs	7,343	-
	1,040,486	1,030,374
Staff restructuring costs comprise :		
Redundancy payments	7,343	-
	7,343	-

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

7. Staff (continued)

c) Staff numbers

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

	2023/24 Number	2022/23 Number
Teachers	11	7
Administration and support	15	17
Management	2	3
	<u>28</u>	<u>27</u>

d) Higher paid staff

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

	2023/24 Number	2022/23 Number
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1

e) 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 £338,738 (2023: £300,683).

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

8. Related Party Transactions - Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

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

Anna McGuire (principal and trustee)	
Remuneration	£85,000 - £90,000 (2023 : £80,000 - £85,000)
Employer's pension contributions paid	£20,000 - £25,000 (2023 : £20,000 - £25,000)
Nicola Hartland (staff trustee)	
Remuneration	£35,000 - £40,000 (2023 : £35,000 - £40,000)
Employer's pension contributions paid	£5,000 - £10,000 (2023 : £5,000 - £10,000)
Laura Bridge (staff trustee)	
Remuneration	£25,000 - £30,000 (2023 : £25,000 - £30,000)
Employer's pension contributions paid	£5,000 - £10,000 (2023 : £5,000 - £10,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2024, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £nil (2023 : £nil) were reimbursed or paid directly to nil (2023 : nil) trustees.

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 23

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

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer hardware £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 September 2023	144,359	105,218	102,900	352,477
Additions	19,307	9,944	53,572	82,823
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2024	<u>163,666</u>	<u>115,162</u>	<u>156,472</u>	<u>435,300</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2023	13,954	79,630	88,287	181,871
Charge for the year	5,911	13,730	9,931	29,572
Released by disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2024	<u>19,865</u>	<u>93,360</u>	<u>98,218</u>	<u>211,443</u>
Net book values				
At 31 August 2024	<u>143,801</u>	<u>21,802</u>	<u>58,254</u>	<u>223,857</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>130,405</u>	<u>25,588</u>	<u>14,613</u>	<u>170,606</u>

11. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Debtors from operations	3,016	5,114
VAT recoverable	7,665	14,910
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>57,135</u>	<u>44,823</u>
	<u>67,816</u>	<u>64,847</u>

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

12. Creditors

	2024 £	2023 £
(a) Amounts falling due within one year :		
Creditors from operations	5,321	1,227
Other taxation and social security	35,806	45,117
Accruals and deferred income	31,804	35,489
Loans	8,566	8,566
	<u>81,497</u>	<u>90,399</u>

Loans represent an equal pay liability loan of £3,411 (2023: £3,411) inherited on conversion which is repayable over 5 years plus a Salix loan of £5,155 (2023 : £5,155) from the Education and Skills Funding Agency repayable half yearly. Neither loan has any interest charge.

Deferred income

Deferred income at 1 September 2023	16,125	16,027
Resources deferred in the year	13,991	16,125
Amounts released from previous years	(16,125)	(16,027)
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	<u>13,991</u>	<u>16,125</u>

At the balance sheet date the multi academy trust was holding funds received in advance for universal infant free school meals.

(b) Amounts falling due after more than one year :

Loans	2,579	7,735
	<u>2,579</u>	<u>7,735</u>

Loans after more than one year represent a Salix loan of £2,579 (2023 : £7,735) from the Education and Skills Funding Agency repayable half yearly. The loan has no interest charge.

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

13. Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	117,783	1,078,180	(1,091,363)	(25,860)	78,740
UFSM	-	22,353	(22,353)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	105,713	(105,713)	-	-
Other grants	-	170,261	(170,261)	-	-
	<u>117,783</u>	<u>1,376,507</u>	<u>(1,389,690)</u>	<u>(25,860)</u>	<u>78,740</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	-	-	-	-	-
DfE Group capital grants	128,765	45,509	(18,859)	-	155,415
Capital expenditure from GAG	46,995	-	(10,706)	25,860	62,149
Local authority funding	-	-	-	-	-
Donations	6,299	-	(6)	-	6,293
	<u>182,059</u>	<u>45,509</u>	<u>(29,571)</u>	<u>25,860</u>	<u>223,857</u>
Pension reserve	<u>(132,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,000</u>	<u>61,000</u>	<u>(62,000)</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>167,842</u>	<u>1,422,016</u>	<u>(1,410,261)</u>	<u>61,000</u>	<u>240,597</u>
Unrestricted funds					
Teaching school hub	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	85,930	71,176	(45,079)	-	112,027
Total unrestricted funds	<u>85,930</u>	<u>71,176</u>	<u>(45,079)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>112,027</u>
Total funds	<u>253,772</u>	<u>1,493,192</u>	<u>(1,455,340)</u>	<u>61,000</u>	<u>352,624</u>

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

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

Restricted general funds

These comprise all restricted funds other than restricted fixed asset funds and include grants from The Education and Skills Funding Agency and Sandwell Council.

Unrestricted funds

These comprise resources that may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the academy trust at the discretion of the trustees.

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

13. Funds (continued)

Restricted fixed asset funds

These comprise resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by The Education and Skills Funding Agency and Sandwell Council where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	127,392	1,033,218	(1,040,441)	(2,386)	117,783
UIFSM	-	26,330	(26,330)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	96,790	(96,790)	-	-
Equal pay liability on conversion	(9,262)	-	9,262	-	-
Catch-up premium	-	9,316	(9,316)	-	-
Other grants	-	118,216	(118,216)	-	-
	<u>118,130</u>	<u>1,283,870</u>	<u>(1,281,831)</u>	<u>(2,386)</u>	<u>117,783</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE Group capital grants	127,485	20,740	(19,460)	-	128,765
Capital expenditure from GAG	52,256	-	(7,647)	2,386	46,995
Local authority funding	707	-	(707)	-	-
Donations	6,616	-	(317)	-	6,299
	<u>187,064</u>	<u>20,740</u>	<u>(28,131)</u>	<u>2,386</u>	<u>182,059</u>
Pension reserve	<u>(474,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(37,000)</u>	<u>379,000</u>	<u>(132,000)</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>(168,806)</u>	<u>1,304,610</u>	<u>(1,346,962)</u>	<u>379,000</u>	<u>167,842</u>
Unrestricted funds					
Teaching school hub	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	55,249	83,109	(52,428)	-	85,930
Total unrestricted funds	<u>55,249</u>	<u>83,109</u>	<u>(52,428)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>85,930</u>
Total funds	<u>(113,557)</u>	<u>1,387,719</u>	<u>(1,399,390)</u>	<u>379,000</u>	<u>253,772</u>

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2024
are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted pension funds £	Restricted general funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	223,857	223,857
Current assets	112,027	-	162,816	-	274,843
Current liabilities	-	-	(81,497)	-	(81,497)
	112,027	-	81,319	223,857	417,203
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(2,579)	-	(2,579)
Pension scheme liability	-	(62,000)	-	-	(62,000)
Total net assets	112,027	(62,000)	78,740	223,857	352,624

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

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted pension funds £	Restricted general funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	170,606	170,606
Current assets	85,930	-	215,917	11,453	313,300
Current liabilities	-	-	(90,399)	-	(90,399)
	85,930	-	125,518	182,059	393,507
Creditors due after one year	-	-	(7,735)	-	(7,735)
Pension scheme liability	-	(132,000)	-	-	(132,000)
Total net assets	85,930	(132,000)	117,783	182,059	253,772

15. Commitments under operating leases

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

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Amounts due within one year	12,381	467
Amounts due between one and five years	17,540	-
	29,921	467

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

16. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities	2023/24	2022/23
	Total	Total
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for reporting period (as per the SoFA)	37,852	(11,671)
Adjusted for :		
Depreciation (note 11)	29,572	28,131
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(45,509)	(20,740)
Interest receivable (note 5)	(29)	(29)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 24)	(16,000)	17,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost/(income) (note 24)	7,000	20,000
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	(2,969)	(38,715)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	(8,902)	49,092
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	1,015	43,068

17. Cash flows from investing activities	2023/24	2022/23
	Total	Total
	£	£
Interest received	29	29
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(82,823)	(14,334)
Capital grants from DfE Group	45,509	20,740
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities	(37,285)	6,435

18. Cash flows from financing activities	2023/24	2022/23
	Total	Total
	£	£
Loan repayments in period	(5,156)	(11,008)
Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities	(5,156)	(11,008)

19. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents	At	At
	31 August	31 August
	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	207,027	248,453
	207,027	248,453

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

20. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 31 August 2023 £	Cash flows £	Other non-cash changes £	At 31 August 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	248,453	(41,426)		207,027
Loans falling due within one year	(8,566)			(8,566)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(7,735)	5,156		(2,579)
	<u>232,152</u>	<u>(36,270)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>195,882</u>

21. 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.

22. Pension and similar obligations

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

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

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies the level of future contributions.

Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 27 October 2023, with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation outcome are:

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

22. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £110,136 (2023 : £90,020).

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 is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan. Accordingly, the academy trust has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The academy trust has set out above, the information available on the scheme.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £94,000 (2023 : £91,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £76,000 (2023 : £71,000) and employees' contributions totalled £18,000 (2023 : £20,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 30.5% for employers and between 5.5% and 9.9% for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of 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.

The trustees have agreed that the trust will make additional contributions in addition to normal funding levels over the next 26 years.

Principal actuarial assumptions

	At 31 August 2024	At 31 August 2023
Rate of increase in salaries	2.65%	3.00%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	3.65%	4.00%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.00%	5.20%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.00%	2.00%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	50.00%	50.00%

Sensitivity analysis

	At 31 August 2024 £'000s	At 31 August 2023 £'000s
Discount rate +0.1%	(33)	(31)
Discount rate -0.1%	33	31
Mortality assumption 1 year increase	57	53
Mortality assumption 1 year decrease	(57)	(53)
CPI rate +0.1%	30	26
CPI rate -0.1%	(30)	(26)

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

22. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

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

	At 31 August 2024	At 31 August 2023
Retiring today		
Males	20.5	20.6
Females	23.5	23.5
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	18.8	18.9
Females	24.8	24.9

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

	31 August 2024 £	31 August 2023 £
Equities	704,600	809,200
Bonds	474,250	249,900
Property	81,300	83,300
Cash and other liquid assets	94,850	47,600
Total market value of assets	1,355,000	1,190,000

The actual return on scheme assets was 8.6% (2023 : 1.2% negative).

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities		
Current service cost	60,000	88,000
Interest income	(63,000)	(50,000)
Interest cost	70,000	70,000
Total amount recognised in the SoFA	67,000	108,000

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

22. Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

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

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
At 1 September 2023	1,322,000	1,617,000
Current service cost	60,000	88,000
Interest cost	70,000	70,000
Employee contributions	18,000	20,000
Actuarial gains/(losses) - financial assumptions	(48,000)	(347,000)
Actuarial gains/(losses) - demographic assumptions	(3,000)	(70,000)
Actuarial gains/(losses) - experience gains/losses	32,000	(34,000)
Benefits paid	(34,000)	(22,000)
At 31 August 2024	1,417,000	1,322,000

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

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
At 1 September 2023	1,190,000	1,143,000
Interest income	63,000	50,000
Actuarial gains/(losses)	-	(8,000)
Return on assets less interest	42,000	(64,000)
Employer contributions	76,000	71,000
Employee contributions	18,000	20,000
Benefits paid net of transfers in	(34,000)	(22,000)
At 31 August 2024	1,355,000	1,190,000
Net pension scheme liability	(62,000)	(132,000)

23. 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.

No related party transactions took place in the period of account other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 8.