

**DEANERY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2024

**Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number: 07667168
(England & Wales)**

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	3
Trustee's Report	4
Governance Statement	13
Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance	16
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	17
Report of the Independent Auditors on the Financial Statements	18
Independent Reporting Accountant's Report on Regularity	22
Statement of Financial Activities Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account	24
Balance Sheet	25
Statement of Cash Flows	26
Notes to the Financial Statements	27

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE ACADEMY, TRUSTEES AND ADVISORS

Members	<p>Rev'd A Evans, Incumbent of Walmley Parish Church/Diocesan Board Representative of Birmingham Church of England Reverend Ann Richardson, Area Dean Mr A Hewston, Deanery Synod (Appointed Member 28.09.22 and resigned as Member 06.12.23) Mrs R Boon, Diocesan Board Mrs E Taylor, Elected Parent (Appointed Member 06.12.23)</p>
Trustees	<p>Mr A Hewston, Deanery Synod (appointed Acting Chair 13.09.23 and Co Chair 06.12.2024) Mrs E Taylor, Elected Parent (appointed Co Chair 06.12.2024)* Rev'd A Evans, Incumbent of Walmley Parish Church* (Chair 28.09.22 to 13.09.23) Mrs R Boon, Diocesan Board* Mrs J Bradbury, Deanery Synod* Mrs H Williams, Diocesan Board Mrs J Lockett, Head Teacher / Principal* Mrs R Armstrong, Appointed (Resigned 03.07.2024) Mr M Mason, Deanery Synod* Mrs N Allison, Staff (support)* Mrs P Wardropper, Staff (teaching) Mrs B Mandley, PCC Mr D Taylor, Deanery Synod (Resigned 17.01.2024) Mr M Gannon, Elected Parent <i>* Member of the Finance and Operations Committee</i></p>
Company registration Number	07667168
Company Name	Deanery Church of England Primary School
Principal and Registered Office	14 Fox Hollies Road Sutton Coldfield Birmingham, B76 2RD
Company Secretary	Mrs N Allison
Senior management team	<p>Mrs J Lockett, Head Teacher Miss A Morris, Deputy Head Teacher Mrs J Griffiths, SENDco and Inclusion Manager Mrs N Allison, Business Manager</p>
Independent auditor	<p>UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP 9-11 Vittoria Street Birmingham B1 3ND</p>
Bankers	<p>The Royal Bank of Scotland 747 Attercliffe Road Sheffield S9 3RF</p>

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 from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a Directors' report, including a strategic report, under company law.

Deanery Church of England Primary School, a Church of England School, operates as an Academy Trust for pupils aged 3 to 11. The pupils are drawn from families living and worshipping within the 14 parish churches of the Old Deanery of Sutton Coldfield, and the local area in accordance with the published admission criteria. The school has a pupil capacity of 420 with a 52 place nursery, current number of pupils on roll 445 and currently has 447 (2023:447) pupils enrolled based on the 3 October 2024 Census.

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 document of the Academy. The Trustees of Deanery Church of England Primary School are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company is known as Deanery Church of England Primary School.

Details of the Trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and administrative details on page 3.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

The Trustees benefit from indemnity insurance purchased by the Academy Trust to cover the liability of the Trustees arising from negligent acts, errors or commissions occurring whilst on Academy Trust business. The limit of this indemnity is £25,000,000.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The Trust shall have the following Trustees, as set out in its Articles of Association and funding agreement:

- a) 11 church Trustees - 5 appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education
4 appointed by the Deanery Synod
1 appointed by the PCC of St John the Evangelist, Walmley
The incumbent of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Walmley
- b) Up to 3 staff Trustees - 2 teachers, 1 support staff
- c) Up to 3 parent Trustees
- d) Up to 2 appointed Trustees
- e) The Headteacher who is treated for all purposes as being an ex-officio Trustee

Trustees are appointed for a 4 year period, except that this time limit does not apply to the Headteacher. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be re-appointed or re-elected.

Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

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

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend upon their existing experience but will always include a tour of the School and a chance to meet staff and pupils. All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents they will need to undertake their role as Trustees. All new Trustees also have the opportunity to undertake National Governor Association training and all Trustees receive regular National Governor Association updates. As there are normally only a few new Trustee appointments each year, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

The academy purchases support from School and Governor Support at Birmingham Local Authority. Support is also offered from The Church of England Birmingham who provide regular courses and training for Trustees. Courses and training are also offered by Birmingham Local Authority and other training providers and the Clerk informs each Trustee about these. All newly appointed and elected Trustees are invited to observe the working of all sub-committees before deciding which committee they could best serve.

Trustees are kept up to date with their legislative obligations and good practise through the above support services and by the Clerk to the Governing Body who attends regular courses. The implementation of The Trust Governor Portal has centralised all Governing Body documentation; giving all Trustees a central point for training details, all Governing Body and Committee meeting documentation and all statutory documents.

Organisational structure

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

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

There are 4 Committees of the Board of Trustees as follows:

- Finance and Operations Committee
- Standards Committee
- Admissions Committee
- Pay Committee

Each Committee has its own terms of reference detailing the responsibilities discharged to it.

The following decisions are reserved to the full Board of Trustees:

- to consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Academy Trust and its committee structure;
- to appoint or remove the Chair and I or Vice Chair; and
- to appoint and I or consider the performance management of the Headteacher.

The Trustees have devolved the day-to-day management of the Academy Trust to the Senior Leadership Team ('SLT'), which is led by the Headteacher. The SLT comprises the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher(s), Inclusion Manager and the School Business Manager. The Headteacher is the Academy Trust's Accounting Officer and has overall responsibility for the day to day financial management of the Academy Trust. The SLT implements the policies laid down by the Trustees and reports back to them on performance.

A Financial Consultant undertakes regular independent audits and reports to the Head Teacher and the Governing Body. The Governing Body approves the statutory accounts. The levels of authorisation of budget spend are detailed in the 'Structure of Financial Management of the Head Teacher' reviewed by the Governing Body annually.

A school evaluation is undertaken annually by the Senior Management Team and Governors who are chairs of the main sub-committees. This is fed into the School Improvement Plan (SIP) which is discussed with all staff. The SIP is then developed and links into the budgeting process. The SIP is reviewed by the Standards Committee and approved by the full Governing Body. The Standards Committee reviews the progress of the plan as part of their regular work and uses a self-evaluation process which is conducted at the beginning of each academic year.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel**

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the senior management team to comprise the key management personnel of the Academy in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Academy on a day to day basis. All Trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee received any remuneration in the current or prior year, other than those Trustees who are also employees of the Academy. Details of Trustees' remuneration and expenses are disclosed in note 10 of the financial statements.

The pay of the Headteacher is reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees based on the annual performance management process for the Headteacher and in line the Academy's pay and remuneration policy, which includes a set point scale for the role.

The pay of the other members of the senior management team is also reviewed annually the Pay Committee in line with the Academy's pay and remuneration policy and by reference to published pay scales for both teaching and administrative support staff and the annual performance management process adopted by the Academy.

Employee involvement and employment of the disabled

The Academy Trust's policy is to consult and discuss with employees, through unions, staff councils and at meetings, matters likely to affect employees' interests. Information about matters of concern to employees is given through information bulletins, reports and meetings which seek to achieve a common awareness on the part of all employees of the financial and economic factors affecting the Academy Trust's performance.

During employment the Trust seeks to work with employees, taking into account their personal circumstances, to ensure appropriate training, development and advanced employment opportunities are available to them to reach their full potential.

Applications for employment by disabled persons are always fully considered, bearing in mind the aptitudes of the applicant concerned. In the event of members of staff becoming disabled, every effort is made to ensure that their employment within the Academy Trust continues and that the appropriate training is arranged. It is the Academy Trust's policy that the training, career development and promotion of disabled persons should, as far as possible, be identical to that of other employees.

Trade Union Facility Time

There are no employees who elect to act as union officials during the course of their work and therefore there is no time spent on these activities.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**Objects and aims**

The principal objects of the Academy Trust, as set out in its Articles of Association, are to:

- advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a school, offering a broad and balanced curriculum; and
- promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of Sutton Coldfield and the surrounding area the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity, disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

At the Deanery we believe that:

- everything we do is a faithful response to God's faithfulness, shown to us through Jesus Christ. Our vision is to reflect Gods Glory in every season of life, in all aspects, from the little things, to the big.
- God's heart is for his children to thrive in a happy, secure and caring environment at the Deanery. It is an essential part of our Christian ethos that we thank God for how he has demonstrated peace, love, faith, joy, grace and hope to us. We seek to reflect these core values throughout all areas of life in the school.
- education, strengthened by our faith, is the vehicle with which children can achieve their full potential.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**Objects and aims (cont'd)**

At the Deanery we aim to provide opportunities and experiences for everyone to learn and develop their social, creative and academic skills within a motivating and stimulating environment.

The aims of the Academy Trust during the year ended 31 August 2024 are summarised below:

- To enable all children, from different experiences, backgrounds or starting points, to become confident readers.
- The opening of a brand new whole school library and class libraries in place to ensure reading continues to be a priority across school and across the curriculum.
- To further improve standards in writing with writing enhancements to provide more opportunities for quality extended pieces of writing.
- Children are able to access the whole curriculum and demonstrate the love of reading.
- To increase effective communication within the Early Years continuing to evolve the curriculum through the use of the outside environment and ensuring assessments are effective.
- Continue to prioritise mental health and wellbeing across school with staff trained and the introduction of the Junior Duke award to provide additional opportunities for pupil personal development.
- Children make accelerated progress through focussed assessments and targeted support and are able to engage with the challenges of the wider curriculum.
- To provide an environment where all children feel safe and secure, where children feel valued as individuals who demonstrate respect and tolerance towards one another regardless of faith, ability, gender or ethnicity, recognising everyone's place in the wider community.
- To continue the review of whole school behaviour principles and policies and to ensure adults actively influence hearts, minds and lives.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The key priorities for the period are contained in the Academy Trust's Improvement Plan which is available from the Head Teacher. The key activities of the Academy Trust for the year ended 31 August 2024 were focused as follows:

- Reading engagement and confidence for all children whether new to the school or country.
- Whole staff training on Deanery pedagogical approaches – consistent for new Early Careers Teachers.
- Review impact of marking and feedback, increase face to face feedback with 'keep-up' throughout core subjects.
- Increased interactions through deliberate conversations.
- Teachers as influencers and role models.
- Monitoring and effectiveness of middle leaders.

Public benefit

The Academy Trust aims to advance for the public benefit education in Sutton Coldfield and the surrounding area, offering a broad curriculum and an excellent education environment for its pupils. The Academy Trust also allows use of its facilities for recreational and other leisure time occupation for the community at large in the interests of social welfare and with the interest of improving the life of that community.

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

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**STRATEGIC REPORT****Achievements and performance****Key performance indicators**

The Academy Trust uses a number of benchmarks or performance indicators to evaluate its financial performance and drive budgetary control and monitoring.

A key financial performance indicator for the Trust is the level of reserves held at the balance sheet date and, in particular, the amount of unrestricted reserves plus restricted income reserves carried forward. At 31 August 2024, the balance of the unrestricted and restricted income reserves was £565,000 (2023: £580,000), which is after transfers of £24,000 to the restricted fixed asset fund to fund capital expenditure during the year. Further details on the level of reserves held by the Academy Trust are set out in the Reserves Policy section.

As the majority of the Academy Trust's funding is based on pupil numbers, pupil numbers are also a key performance indicator. As noted earlier in this report, pupil numbers at the most recent census were 445 (2023: 447), which is an increase of 0.7% (2023: increase of 4%) from the previous year's census. This is wholly due to a fall in pupil numbers in our nursery, which is partly due to a declining birth rate and has been seen across the region.

Staffing costs are another key performance indicator for the Academy Trust and the percentage of total staff costs to total educational grant funding (being GAG funding plus other operating educational grants from the ESFA and/or Local Authority) for the year was 97% (2023:95%), while the percentage of staff costs to total costs (excluding depreciation and LGPS FRS102 pension cost charges) was 85% (2023:85%).

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 within the financial statements.

Achievements and performance

The Academy Trust continues to evolve and to adapt to the ever-changing educational environment. The Trust is in its 13th year of operation since conversion to an Academy Trust. The total number of pupils in the year ended 31 August 2024 was 445 compared to 447 in the previous year. Our pre-school nursery has a capacity of 52 pupils however we currently have 25 pupils enrolled, compared to 27 in the previous year. This is partly due to a national declining birth rate.

The Academy Trust is committed to continual improvement that is achieved in a number of ways; including improvement planning, review meetings, continual professional development, lesson observations, performance management, self-evaluation, data analysis and action planning.

During the academic year 2023-2024, baseline assessments were undertaken for children in reception class within 6 weeks of them starting school. Data was also submitted for Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) at the end of the year, phonics at the end of year 1 including re-checks for children in year 2 who did not achieve the standard when they were in year one. Statutory assessments (SATs) were undertaken by children year 6, which are externally marked. Children in year 4 completed the online multiplication check in June.

The EYFS data showed that 85% of children achieved GLD (Good level of development), which is significantly higher than both Birmingham and National data at 65% and 67.7% respectively. This reflects a 13.3% points rise since 2023. Improvements can be partly attributed to an increased focus on conversation and dialogue within the early years setting.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**Achievements and performance (cont'd)**

The phonics check data in year 1 continues to be very strong with 91.7% of children achieving the check, with 65% achieving at greater depth, scoring over 37 marks, this compares to 51.8% in Birmingham schools and an average point score (APS) of 37.2, against 33.4 APS in Birmingham. This can be attributed to the focus on reading and phonics over the last academic years, with all staff trained in delivering phonics and early reading along with a substantial financial investment in resources and staffing.

The year 4 multiplication check 50% achieved full marks, this compares to 20% national, with 93% of children achieving 80+%. Children achieved an average point score of 23.47 out of 25, this compares favourably against National average point score of 20.83. Data for year 6 SATs continues to be extremely strong with 88 % of children achieving the expected standard in reading, with an average scaled score of 109.53, the second highest that Deanery has scored. In maths 86.73 % achieved the expected standard with an average scaled score of 108.22, again the second best result school has achieved. 90% of children achieved the expected standard in grammar punctuation and spelling and 88.3% in writing. This data is significantly higher than all benchmarks.

FINANCIAL REVIEW**Reserves policy**

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

The Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of reserves should be approximately £200,000. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipts of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance, long term staff absences etc. These reserves will typically be held in a combination of restricted funds and unrestricted funds, with the unrestricted funds representing the Academy Trust's free reserves.

The Academy Trust's current level of reserves at 31 August 2024 is a surplus of £860,000 (2023: £741,000), of which £565,000 (2023: £580,000) is revenue reserves (that is, total funds less the amount held in the restricted fixed asset funds and restricted pension reserve funds) and of which £393,000 (2023: £403,000) is represented by free reserves.

Although the current level of revenue reserves is above the target level identified above, the Trustees expectation is that these reserves will be utilised over the next few years to fund the ongoing curriculum development, building repairs, staffing costs to retain key personnel, increasing energy costs and other increasing cost pressures likely in future years.

The value of the restricted fixed asset fund at 31 August 2024 is £295,000 (2023: £281,000), which is represented by the fixed assets that are used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to the pupils of the Trust. These funds can only be realised by disposing of the associated tangible fixed assets.

Investment policy

All funds surplus to immediate requirements are invested to optimal effect by the Academy Trust with the objective of ensuring maximum return on assets invested but with minimal risk. On a daily basis this is achieved by automatic transfer of surplus funds to an overnight deposit account with the Academy Trust's principal bankers.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**Principal risks and uncertainties**

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed, especially in the operational areas, such as in relation to teaching, health & safety, safeguarding and school trips, and in relation to the control of finances and strategic development of the Trust. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures and internal financial controls in order to minimise risk and have agreed a Risk Management Strategy and Risk Management Plan, which incorporates a Risk Register. Where significant financial risk still remains, the Trustees have ensured the Academy Trust has adequate insurance cover in place. The Risk Management Plan is constantly reviewed in light of any new information and formally reviewed annually.

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

Educational

The continuing success of the Academy Trust is dependent on continuing to attract pupil applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards across all key stages. To mitigate this risk, the Trustees ensure that pupil success and achievement are closely monitored and reviewed, with corrective actions embedded at an early stage, and that relationships and partnerships with parents, the local community and other organisations and groups are maintained and are effective in producing a cohesive and supportive community.

Safeguarding and child protection

The Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety and discipline.

Estates Management

The Trustees' review the condition of trust's estate formally every term, receiving update reports from the Finance and Operations Committee to ensure that the estate is safe, well maintained and complies with relevant legislation. The Finance and Operations Committee review the five year buildings and maintenance plan each term to ensure that the estate is maintained appropriately and to agree forthcoming capital projects in line with the funds available.

Financial

The Academy Trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA and the Local Authority. In the year, approximately 85% of the Academy Trust's income was ultimately Government funded. Whilst this level is expected to continue, there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms, particularly in light of continuing changes in to the National Funding Formula for schools.

Continuing increases in employment costs, pay increases that are not funded by ESFA, increasing pension costs in both the Teachers' Pension Scheme and the Local Government Pension Scheme, and rising premises costs will also continue to place significant pressure on the Trust's financial position and its ability to deliver balance budgets in the future.

The Trustees review the financial health of the Academy Trust formally every term, reviewing performance against budgets and receiving update reports from the Finance and Operations Committee. The Finance and Operations Committee also review the financial performance and position of the Academy Trust six times a year, reviewing the latest management accounts and reports from the Chief Financial Officer, while the Chair of Trustees also receives and reviews the monthly management accounts each month.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**Staffing**

The success of the Academy Trust is reliant on the quality of its staff so the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning. New staff continue to be supported by an experienced year group partner and phase leaders.

Failures in governance and/or management

The risk in this area arises from the potential failure to effectively manage the Academy Trust's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns etc. The Trustees continue to review and ensure appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks, which includes those relating to fraud and mismanagement of funds.

Fraud and mismanagement of funds

The Academy Trust has engaged drb Schools and Academies Services Ltd to perform a program of work aimed at checking and reviewing the financial systems and records as required by the Academies Financial Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and to develop their skills in this area.

At the balance sheet date, the Academy Trust had no significant liabilities arising from trade creditors or debtors where there would be a significant effect on the Academy Trust's liquidity.

The Trustees recognise that the LGPS deficit represents a significant potential liability to the Academy Trust. However, as the Trustees consider the Academy Trust is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, the risk from this liability is minimised.

Financial review

The majority of the Academy Trust's income is received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2024 and the associated expenditure of these grants are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Academy Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the ESFA and other organisations / funders and these are shown as restricted fixed asset funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. The balance of the restricted fixed asset fund is reduced by the depreciation charges on the assets acquired using these funds.

For the year ended 31 August 2024, the Academy Trust's total income (excluding capital grants) was £2,550,000 (2023: £2,406,000) while the total expenditure (excluding depreciation, LGPS FRS102 pension cost charges and transfers to capital) was £2,541,000 (2023: £2,357,000), resulting in a net operating surplus for the year of £9,000 (2023: £49,000).

This net operating surplus has been achieved despite the general funding pressures, additional pressures from loss of income due to Covid-19 and increased staffing related costs incurred in the year. This has been due to the tight expenditure control implemented by management and the Trustees during the year. Covid-19 has had a significant impact on private income generated by the school, however the use of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and savings in overheads resulting from the school closure have minimised this loss.

The balance of reserves at 31 August 2024, excluding the restricted fixed asset funds and LGPS liability fund was £565,000 (2023: £580,000).

Included within the Academy's balance sheet at year-end is a defined benefit pension scheme liability of £Nil (2023: £120,000), which arises from the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme ("LGPS") that is attributable to the Academy. Further details regarding the deficit in the LGPS at 31 August 2024 are set out in note 25 to the financial statements.

The key financial policies reviewed and adopted during the period included the Financial Procedures Policies and Manual, which lays out the framework for the Academy Trust's financial management, including financial responsibilities of the Board of Trustees, Headteacher, managers, budget holders and other staff, as well as the delegated authorities for spending. The other financial policies reviewed and adopted during the period included Charges and Lettings, Asset Management and Insurance.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**Fundraising**

The Academy Trust raises funds for specific projects that will enhance the learning experience and environment for existing and future students, where funds cannot be accessed via existing channels such as government education funding.

Fundraising is primarily undertaken by staff or parents, no professional fundraisers or commercial participators work with the Trust currently. Fundraising is undertaken in line with the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice and is monitored by the finance team. The PTFA support the school in fundraising for specific projects by running community events and during the year the PTFA have supported in fundraising for the new outdoor playground.

The Academy Trust is mindful of the requirement to protect the public, particularly vulnerable people, from unreasonably intrusive or persistent fundraising approaches or undue pressure to donate. No complaints have been received in respect of fundraising activities, the general complaints policy of the trust would be applicable if so.

Plans for future periods

The Academy Trust strives to continually improve levels of attainment for all pupils, equipping them with the skills, knowledge and experiences necessary to flourish in their next stages of education. Supporting them to gain the qualifications, skills and character to follow their chosen pathway, whether it is into further and higher education or employment, as well as promoting the continued professional development of its staff.

The Academy Trust's plans for future periods are:

- To continue the focus of mental health and wellbeing in children and staff by following the NHS 5 steps to wellbeing
- To continue to provide a curriculum that enables children to learn about things outside of their daily experiences and to promote discussion and oracy throughout the curriculum
- To continue to embed middle leaders in post to ensure all staff have a good knowledge across the curriculum and effectively champion outcomes of professional development
- To further enhance reading for pleasure increasing "reading miles" and to further improve standards in both writing and maths
- To continue to review the whole school behaviour principles and policies and improve school attendance
- To develop children's talents and interests in order to develop resilience and engage in self-help strategies
- To continue to increase effective communication and evolve the curriculum to enhance the effectiveness of the early years' provision
- To lead a whole school review of the vision and values of the academy

Funds held as custodian on behalf of others

The Academy Trust and its Trustees do not act as Custodian Trustees of any other charity.

Disclosure of information to auditor

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware, and
- that 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 4 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Mrs E Taylor - Chair
4 December 2024

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**Scope of responsibility**

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

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 Head Teacher, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Deanery Church of England Primary School 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:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mrs J Bradbury, Deanery Synod*	3	4
Mr A Hewston, Deanery Synod (appointed Acting Chair 13.09.23 and Co Chair 06.12.2024)	4	4
Rev'd A Evans, Incumbent of Walmley Parish Church* (Chair 28.09.22-13.09.23)	4	4
Mrs R Boon, Chair, Diocesan Board*	3	4
Mrs H Williams, Diocesan Board	2	4
Mrs J Lockett, Head Teacher/Principal*	4	4
Mrs R Armstrong, Appointed (Resigned 03.07.2024)	-	4
Mr M Mason, Deanery Synod*	2	4
Mrs N Allison, Staff (support)*	4	4
Mrs P Wardropper, Staff (teaching)	4	4
Mrs B Mandley, PCC	3	4
Mr D Taylor, Deanery Synod (resigned 17.01.2024)	2	2
Mr M Gannon, Elected Parent	2	4
Mrs E Taylor, Elected Parent (appointed Co Chair 06.12.2024)*	4	4

* denotes member of finance committee

Conflicts of interest

All Trustees and staff complete a pecuniary interest form annual; this is then used to complete a business register of interests. This register is used as a working document to ensure that we manage any conflicts of interest and also to ensure that Deanery does not transact with any related parties. Deanery CE Primary School has made a decision not to undertake any business with associated parties.

Governance Reviews

The full board had met four times in the year and this coupled with the three finance and operations meetings gives sufficient oversight.

The Finance and Operations Committee is a sub-committee of the Governing Body and its purpose is to monitor progress and evaluate the effectiveness of the trust's strategic priorities and manage audit and risk for the trust. This includes the review of the financial health of the Academy Trust, approving the annual budget, monitoring performance against budgets on a termly basis. The Finance and Operations Committee review the management accounts six times a year and the Chair of the Governing Body reviews the management accounts every month to ensure effective oversight of funds. The committee also ensure that the trust's financial procedures are complied with, oversee and approve the trust's programme of internal scrutiny and review the risk management of the trust at every meeting.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**Governance Reviews**

The Finance and Operations Committee has met formally 3 times during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Finance and Operations Committee was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mrs N Allison	3	3
Mrs R Boon	2	3
Mrs J Bradbury	3	3
Mr A Evans	1	3
Mrs J Lockett	3	3
Mr M Mason	1	3
Mrs E Taylor	3	3

Review of value for money

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

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

- 1) Robust governance and oversight of the trust finances:
 - DRB Financial services have been appointed to perform 'Responsible Officer' tasks.
 - Board of Trustees is responsible for approving budgets each year and reviewing budget monitoring reports at every meeting. The Chair of the of Trustees receives monthly accounts.
- 2) Ensuring the efficient and effective use of resources:
 - Benchmarking financial performance against other academy trusts to demonstrate value for money.
 - Reviewing the staffing structure on a regular basis to ensure resources are spent as efficiently.
 - For purchases over £1,000 ensuring a minimum of 2 quotations and for purchases over £5,000 ensuring a minimum of 3 quotations to ensure best value for goods and services.
- 3) Maximising income generation:
 - The Trust explores every opportunity to generate income through the letting of the facilities/
 - Grant funding is sought for all major projects.
- 4) Reviewing controls & managing risks:
 - The monthly budget reports are reviewed by the Accounting Officer and Chair of Trustees.
 - The Accounting Officer and Board of Trustees review the risk register on a regular basis.
- 5) Estates Strategy:
 - The Trust has a strategy in place for planned preventative maintenance, condition surveys.

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 academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Deanery Church of England Primary School for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 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.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**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 Operations 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 Governing Body has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint DRB Schools and Academies Services to undertake internal audit services.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and other matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. In particular, the checks carried out during the year included:

- Testing of month end procedures and accounting systems
- Testing of income and expenditure
- Testing of audit management letter points
- Testing of contracts and capital grant expenditure
- Review of Governance

No significant weaknesses were noted and the financial responsibilities of the Governing Body are being discharged.

On a termly basis, the appointed internal auditor reports to the Governing Body on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Governing Body's financial responsibilities.

Review of effectiveness

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

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

Conclusion

Based on the advice of the finance and operations 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 4 December 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Mrs E Taylor - Chair
4 December 2024



.....
Mrs J Lockett - Accounting Officer
4 December 2024

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

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



J. Lockett
Accounting Officer
4 December 2024

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Trustees, who are also the Trustees 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 Annual Accounts Direction issued by the Education 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 judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards FRS102 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 to 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 4 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
E Taylor
Chair of Trustees

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DEANERY CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024****Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Deanery Church of England Primary School for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statement, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), 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 Deanery Church of England Primary Schools affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company 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 statement 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 Deanery Church of England Primary Schools 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.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the financial statements. 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DEANERY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

- the information given in the Trustees' report (incorporating the Strategic Report, and the Trustees Report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' report has 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 17, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Deanery Church of England Primary Schools 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:

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DEANERY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

Based on our understanding of the Deanery Church of England Primary School and the industry in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the acts by the Deanery Church of England Primary School, which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations including fraud, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, Charities SORP 2019 and Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to inflated revenue and the Deanery Church of England Primary School's net income for the year.

Audit procedures performed included: review of the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation, review of correspondence with and reports to the regulators, including correspondence with the Education and Skills Funding Agency review of correspondence with legal advisors, enquiries of management and review of internal audit reports in so far as they related to the financial statements, and testing of journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the Trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

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

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

- 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 academy trust'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 academy trust'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 academy trust 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.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DEANERY CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)****Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the Deanery Church of England Primary School'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 Deanery Church of England Primary School'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 Deanery Church of England Primary School'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 Deanery Church of England Primary School's and the Deanery Church of England Primary School's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



.....
Malcom Winston
Senior Statutory Auditor
UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP, Statutory Auditor
9-11 Vittoria Street
Birmingham
B1 3ND

4 December 2024

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO DEANERY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 21 June 2024 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 the Deanery Church of England Primary School during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Deanery Church of England Primary School's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of the Deanery Church of England Primary Schools funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 July 2013, 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 and 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 Accountants issued by the 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.

Summary of the work undertaken was as follows:

- Analytical review of the Deanery Church of England Primary School's general activities are within the academy trusts framework of authorities;
- Consideration of the evidence supporting the Accounting Officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance;

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO DEANERY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**Approach (cont'd)**

- Review of the general control environment for the Deanery Church of England Primary School on financial statements and on regularity;
- Sample testing of expenditure transactions to ensure the activity is permissible within the academy trust's framework of authority;
- Confirmation that a sample of expenditure has been appropriately authorised in accordance with the multi academy trust's delegated authorities;
- Formal representations obtained from the board of Trustees and the accounting officer acknowledging the responsibilities including disclosing all non compliance with laws and regulations specific to the authorising framework;
- Confirmation that any extra contractual payments such as severance and compensation payments have been appropriately authorised;
- Review of credit card expenditure for any indication of personal use by staff, principal or Trustees;
- Review of specific terms of grant funding within the funding agreement;
- Review of related party transactions for connections with the principal/finance manager or Trustees; and
- Review of income received in accordance with the activities permitted within the academy trust's charitable objectives.

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.



Reporting Accountant

UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP

9-11 Vittoria Street

Birmingham

B1 3ND

4 December 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024
(Including Income and Expenditure Account)


		Restricted				
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Fixed		
	Note	Funds	General	Asset	Total	Total
		£'000	Funds	Funds	2024	2023
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	14	54	68	65
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	4	-	2,262	-	2,262	2,139
Other trading activities	5	266	-	-	266	234
Investment income	6	8	-	-	8	6
Total		274	2,276	54	2,604	2,444
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	115	-	-	115	106
Charitable activities:						
- Academy trust's educational operations	7	-	2,417	64	2,481	2,284
Total		115	2,417	64	2,596	2,390
Net income/(expenditure)		159	(141)	(10)	8	54
Transfers between funds	15	(169)	145	24	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses						
Actuarial gain on defined benefit pension schemes	26	-	125	-	125	648
Asset ceiling adjustment	25	-	(14)	-	(14)	-
Net movement in funds		(10)	129	14	119	702
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	15	403	57	281	741	39
Total funds carried forward	15	393	186	295	860	741

All of the Deanery Church Of England Primary School's activities derive from acquisitions and continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	<u>295</u>	<u>281</u>
		<u>295</u>	<u>281</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	13	106	102
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>667</u>	<u>757</u>
		<u>773</u>	<u>859</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(208)</u>	<u>(279)</u>
Net current assets		<u>565</u>	<u>580</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		860	861
Net assets excluding pension liability		860	861
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	26	-	(120)
Total Net Assets		<u><u>860</u></u>	<u><u>741</u></u>
Funds of the Academy:			
Restricted funds			
- Fixed asset fund	15	295	281
- Restricted income fund	15	172	177
- Pension reserve	15	-	(120)
Total Restricted Funds		<u>467</u>	<u>338</u>
Unrestricted income fund	15	<u>393</u>	<u>403</u>
Total Unrestricted Funds		<u>393</u>	<u>403</u>
Total Funds		<u><u>860</u></u>	<u><u>741</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 24 to 46 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 4 December 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



 E Taylor
 Chair

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	19	(74)	69
Cash flows from investing activities	20	(16)	(72)
Cash flows from financing activities	21	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>(90)</u>	<u>(3)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September	22	757	760
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	22	<u>667</u>	<u>757</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**1 Statement of Accounting Policies**

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

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities : Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Deanery Church of England Primary School meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going Concern

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

Income

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

• Grants

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

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

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

• Sponsorship income

Sponsorship income provided to the academy trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is receivable, where receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where there is certainty of receipt and the amount can be reliably measured.

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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

- **Donated goods, facilities and services**

Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in stock and 'Income from other trading activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from other trading activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from other trading activities'.

Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'.

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

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.

- **Governance costs**

These include the costs attributable to the academy trust's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

- **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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**Tangible Fixed Assets**

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

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

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

Leasehold property improvements	10 years straight line
Furniture & equipment	5 years straight line
Computer equipment	3 years straight line

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of fixed assets 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.

Where academies are operating under a licence to occupy, the land and buildings are not recognised as fixed assets in the financial statements.

The Trustees have chosen not to include the building valuations on the Balance Sheet. Deanery Church of England Primary School does not own any of the school sites. The school sites are owned by The Birmingham Diocesan Trustees and are made available to the school by a Church Supplemental Agreement. The site trustees can withdraw the school site at any time on two years notice. Deanery Church of England Primary School cannot sell the 'asset' or mortgage the asset as security for any borrowing. The economic benefit to Deanery Church of England Primary School is that it does have the use of the site for nil consideration, but only for the use as a church school. Therefore, Deanery Church of England Primary School has concluded not to include the value of the sites and buildings they use. The risks and rewards of ownership have not been passed to Deanery Church of England Primary School and therefore no value has been attributed to the land and buildings at 31 August 2024. The Academy also holds a lease of land from Birmingham City Council for a period of 125 years from 1 April 2015 at a peppercorn rent. However, this lease can be terminated 90 working days after the Funding Agreement termination date.

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of fixed assets 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**Leased assets**

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

Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 13. 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 instrument, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 14. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than

Taxation

The academy trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the academy trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Pensions 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 so as 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 a multi employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently the TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a multi funded 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 the 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.

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.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The 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 25, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement

The critical judgements that the Trustees have made in the process of applying the Academy Trust's accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the statutory financial statements are discussed below:

The critical areas of judgement are accounting for government grants, accounting for the write down of assets through depreciation and accounting for the pension liability. Government grants are accounted for as restricted funds. The pension liability is assessed by an independent actuarial valuation. Depreciation rates are based on the expected life of the asset.

In assessing whether there have been any indicators of impairment assets, the Trustees have considered both external and internal sources of information such as market conditions, counterparty credit ratings and experience of recoverability. There have been no indicators of impairments identified during the current financial year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

2 GENERAL ANNUAL GRANT (GAG)

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State the academy trust was subject to limits at 31 August 2024 on the amount of GAG that could be carried forward from one year to the next, however these limits have been removed under the Academies Trust Handbook 2023 paragraph 5.60.

3 DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
DfE/ESFA capital grants	-	9	9	9
Other ESFA capital grants	-	-	-	19
Donations	-	14	14	37
Other capital donation	-	15	15	-
Other capital grant	-	30	30	-
	-	68	68	65

The income from donations and capital grants was £68,000 (2023: £65,000) of which £Nil (2023: £13,000) was unrestricted, £14,000 (2023: £14,000) restricted and £54,000 (2023: £38,000) restricted fixed assets.

4 FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY TRUST'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG) (note 2)	-	1,850	1,850	1,791
Rates relief grant	-	10	10	9
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
Universal infant free school meals grant	-	79	79	76
PE and sports grant	-	20	20	20
Pupil premium grant	-	48	48	43
Teachers pay grant	-	30	30	1
Teachers pension grant	-	15	15	3
Supplementary grant	-	-	-	47
Mainstream additional schools grant	-	57	57	24
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	-	-	2
	-	2,109	2,109	2,016
Other Government grants				
Special educational needs	-	15	15	10
Local authority grants	-	83	83	58
	-	98	98	68
COVID-19 DfE/ESFA additional funding				
Recovery Premium	-	4	4	4
	-	4	4	4
Other income from the				
Other	-	1	1	-
Pupil catering income	-	50	50	51
	-	51	51	51
	-	2,262	2,262	2,139

The income from funding for the Academy Trust's Educational Operations was £2,262,000 (2023: £2,139,000) of which £Nil (2023: £Nil) was unrestricted and £2,262,000 (2023: £2,139,000) restricted.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

5 OTHER TRADING	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Hire of facilities	44	-	44	38
Income from Clubs	179	-	179	162
Parental income from nursery provision	32	-	32	21
Income from music	11	-	11	13
	<u>266</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>266</u>	<u>234</u>

The income from the academy trusts' other trading activities was unrestricted for both 2024 and 2023.

6 INVESTMENT INCOME	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Bank interest received	8	-	8	6
	<u>8</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>

The income from the academy trusts' investment activities was unrestricted for both 2024 and 2023.

7 EXPENDITURE	Non Pay Expenditure			Total	Total
	Staff		Other	2024	2023
	Costs	Premises	Costs	£'000	£'000
Expenditure on raising funds	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
- Allocated support costs	99	-	16	115	106
	<u>99</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>115</u>	<u>106</u>
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	1,610	-	85	1,695	1,580
- Allocated support costs	451	211	124	786	704
	<u>2,061</u>	<u>211</u>	<u>209</u>	<u>2,481</u>	<u>2,284</u>
	<u>2,160</u>	<u>211</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>2,596</u>	<u>2,390</u>

The expenditure was £2,596,000 (2023: £2,390,000) of which £115,000 (2023: £106,000) was unrestricted, £2,417,000 (2023: £2,234,000) restricted and £64,000 (2023: £50,000) restricted fixed assets.

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Net (income)/expenditure for the year includes:		
Operating leases rentals	3	2
Depreciation	64	50
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- audit	9	8
- other services	2	2
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

8 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Direct costs - educational operations	1,695	1,580
Support costs - educational operations	786	704
	<u>2,481</u>	<u>2,284</u>

Analysis of Support Costs	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Support staff costs	451	422
Depreciation	64	50
Technology costs	18	16
Premises costs	147	117
Legal costs - other	2	-
Other support costs	78	74
Governance costs	26	25
	<u>786</u>	<u>704</u>

9 STAFF COSTS	Total 2024 £'000	Total 2023 £'000
a Staff costs and employee benefits		
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	1,559	1,480
Social security costs	142	133
Pension costs	388	346
Other employee benefits	-	-
	<u>2,089</u>	<u>1,959</u>
Agency staff costs	71	50
Staff restructuring costs	-	-
	<u>2,160</u>	<u>2,009</u>

b Staff numbers

The average number of persons (including School Leadership Team) employed by the Academy during the year ended 31 August 2024 expressed as whole persons was as follows:

Charitable Activities	2024 No	2023 No
Teachers	21	23
Administration and support - including Teaching Assistants	51	49
Management	3	4
	<u>75</u>	<u>76</u>

c Higher paid staff

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

	No	No
£60,001 - £70,000	1	-
£80,001 - £90,000	-	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

d Key management personnel

The key management of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the Senior Leadership Team as listed on page 3. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £419,410 (2023: £491,799).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

10 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS – TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

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

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Mrs P Wardropper (Staff Trustee)		
Remuneration	£40,000 - £45,000	£40,000 - £45,000
Employers pension	£10,000 - £15,000	£5,000 - £10,000
Mrs J Luckett (Head Teacher & Staff)		
Remuneration	£95,000 - £100,000	£85,000 - £90,000
Employers pension	£20,000 - £25,000	£20,000 - £25,000
Mrs E Hickling (Staff Trustee - Resigned 04/02/2023)		
Remuneration	£Nil - £Nil	£10,000 - £15,000
Employers pension	£Nil - £Nil	£0 - £5,000
Mrs N Allison (Staff Trustee)		
Remuneration	£50,000 - £55,000	£45,000 - £50,000
Employers pension	£10,000 - £15,000	£10,000 - £15,000

During the year ended 31 August 2024, there were no expenses reimbursed to the CEO undertaking their role as accounting officer (2023: None).

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

11 TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

In accordance with normal commercial 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 of £9,700 (2023: £9,420).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

12 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Leasehold Improve- ments	Computer Equipment	Furniture & Equipment	Assets Under Construction	Total
Cost	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
At 1 September 21	777	181	77	70	1,105
Additions	41	10	10	17	78
Disposals	-	(27)	-	-	(27)
Reclassification	87	-	-	(87)	-
At 31 August 2024	905	164	87	-	1,156
Depreciation					
At 1 September 21	576	176	72	-	824
Charged in year	55	7	2	-	64
Disposal	-	(27)	-	-	(27)
At 31 August 2024	631	156	74	-	861
Net book value					
At 31 August 2024	274	8	13	-	295
At 31 August 2023	201	5	5	70	281

The Birmingham Diocesan Trustees Registered have agreed to make their land available for use by Deanery Church of England Primary School during the continuance of the Funding Agreement between the Secretary of State for Education and Deanery Church of England Primary School subject to the right by the Birmingham Diocesan Trustees Registered to give not less than 2 years written notice to terminate the agreement, such notice to expire on 31 August 2013 or any subsequent anniversary of that date. The Academy holds a lease of land from Birmingham City Council for a period of 125 years from 1 April 2015 at a peppercorn rent. However, this lease can be terminated 90 working days after the Funding Agreement termination date.

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
13 DEBTORS		
Trade debtors	1	2
VAT recoverable	9	11
Prepayments and accrued income	96	89
	<u>106</u>	<u>102</u>
14 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Trade creditors	56	76
Other creditors	33	52
Taxation & social security	31	30
Accruals	33	63
Deferred income	55	58
	<u>208</u>	<u>279</u>
Deferred Income		
Deferred income at 1 September	58	40
Resources deferred in the	55	58
Amounts recognised as income during the year	(58)	(40)
Deferred income at 31 August	<u>55</u>	<u>58</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance of £54,637 (2023: £57,744) for 2023/24 comprising: £45,848 (2023: £46,969) from the ESFA in relation to universal infant school meals and other £8,789 (2023: £10,775).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

15 FUNDS

The income funds of the academy applied for specific purposes are as follows:

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £'000	Incoming Resources Resources £'000	Resources Expended £'000	Gains, Losses & Transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General annual grant (GAG) (note i)	-	1,850	(2,005)	155	-
Rates Relief (note vii)	-	10	(10)	-	-
Pupil premium grant (note ii)	-	48	(48)	-	-
PE and sports grant (note iii)	-	20	(20)	-	-
Teachers pay grant (note iv)	-	30	(30)	-	-
Teachers pension grant (note v)	-	15	(15)	-	-
Infant Free School Meals (note vi)	-	79	(79)	-	-
SEN grant LA (note viii)	-	15	(15)	-	-
Early Years Funding LA (note ix)	-	83	(83)	-	-
Recovery Premium (note x)	-	4	(4)	-	-
Mainstream Schools Grant (note xii)	-	57	(57)	-	-
Catering income	-	50	(50)	-	-
School fund	177	14	(9)	(10)	172
Other revenue grants	-	1	(1)	-	-
Total general funds	177	2,276	(2,426)	145	172
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Devolved formula capital grant (note xiv)	94	9	(34)	-	69
Capital expenditure from GAG (xv)	147	-	(18)	14	143
Other DfE/ESFA capital grants (xvi)	19	-	(2)	-	17
Fixed asset donation (xvii)	21	-	(2)	(10)	9
Other capital grant (xviii)	-	30	(3)	-	27
Other capital donation (xviii)	-	15	(2)	10	23
School Fund (xviii)	-	-	(3)	10	7
Total fixed asset funds	281	54	(64)	24	295
Restricted pension scheme liability					
Pension reserve (note xix)	(120)	-	9	111	-
	(120)	-	9	111	-
Total restricted funds	338	2,330	(2,481)	280	467
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted funds	403	274	(115)	(169)	393
Total unrestricted funds	403	274	(115)	(169)	393
Total funds	741	2,604	(2,596)	111	860

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)**15 FUNDS (cont'd)****Notes**

- i) The General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the School. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it would carry forward at 31 August 2024.
- ii) The Pupil Premium grant represents funding received from the ESFA for the purpose of improving education outcomes for disadvantaged pupils at the academy.
- iii) The PE and Sports Grant represents funding received from the ESFA to fund additional and sustainable improvements to the provision of PE and sport, and to encourage the development of healthy, active lifestyles.
- iv) The Teachers Pension Grant represents funding from the ESFA to support the academy with the costs of teachers' pay awards.
- v) The Teachers Pension Grant represents funding from the ESFA to support the academy with the cost of increased teachers' pension contributions .
- vi) The Universal Infant Free School Meals grant represents funding received from the ESFA to provide free school meals to pupils from reception to year 2.
- vii) The Rates Relief grant represents funding received from the ESFA to assist the academy in meeting the costs of their National Non-Domestic Rates (NDR).
- viii) Special Educational Needs is funding received by the Local Authority to fund further support for students with additional needs. £15,000 was received during the period, all of which has been spent.

- ix) The Early Years Funding grant is received from the local authority and is a means of allocating funding for the free early education and childcare entitlement for 3- and 4-year-olds. £83,000 was received during the period, all of which has been spent.
- x) The recovery premium grant is part of the government's package of funding to support pupils whose education has been impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19).
- xi) The Supplementary Grant represents funding from the ESFA to provide support for the costs of the Health and Social Care Levy and wider costs.
- xii) Mainstream schools have been allocated additional funding through the mainstream schools additional grant. This grant is to be used for the purposes of the school.
- xiii) Grants received from the ESFA used to support the academy trust.
- xiv) The £9,000 received from the DfE/ESFA represents the devolved formula capital grant received during the year. Depreciation charged for the year has been charged to the fund. Of this amount received, £Nil remains unspent at the year end.
- xv) The gross transfer from the restricted general fund and unrestricted fund to the restricted fixed asset fund of £14,000 (2023: £78,000) represents the total capital expenditure from GAG during the
- xvi) DfE/ESFA capital grants have been utilised to purchase capital assets for the academy.
- xvii) Donated assets by the DfE/ESFA to be utilised by the academy.
- xviii) Other capital income received in the form of donations and grants to purchase capital assets for the academy.
- xix) The defined benefit pension scheme fund relates to the valuation of the Local Government Pension Scheme transferred on conversion. The deficit was reduced at the year end to £Nil (2023: £120,000) and this is included as a liability on the balance sheet (see note 25).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

15 FUNDS (cont'd)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £'000	Incoming Resources £'000	Resources Expended £'000	Gains, Losses & Transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General annual grant (GAG) (note i)	33	1,791	(1,901)	77	-
Rates Relief (note vii)	-	9	(9)	-	-
Pupil premium grant (note ii)	-	43	(43)	-	-
PE and sports grant (note iii)	-	20	(20)	-	-
Teachers pay grant (note iv)	-	1	(1)	-	-
Teachers pension grant (note v)	-	3	(3)	-	-
Infant Free School Meals (note vi)	-	76	(76)	-	-
SEN grant LA (note viii)	-	10	(10)	-	-
Early Years Funding LA (note ix)	-	58	(58)	-	-
Recovery Premium (note x)	-	4	(4)	-	-
Supplementary Grant (note xi)	-	47	(47)	-	-
Mainstream Schools Grant (note xii)	-	24	(24)	-	-
Other ESFA Grants (note xii)	-	2	(2)	-	-
Catering income	-	51	(51)	-	-
School fund	165	14	(2)	-	177
Total general funds	198	2,153	(2,251)	77	177
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Devolved formula capital grant (note xiv)	120	9	(35)	-	94
Capital expenditure from GAG (xv)	82	-	(13)	78	147
Other DfE/ESFA capital grants (xvi)	-	19	-	-	19
Fixed asset donation (xvii)	13	10	(2)	-	21
Total fixed asset funds	215	38	(50)	78	281
Restricted pension scheme liability					
Pension reserve (note xix)	(785)	-	17	648	(120)
	(785)	-	17	648	(120)
Total restricted funds	(372)	2,191	(2,284)	803	338
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted funds	411	253	(106)	(155)	403
Total unrestricted funds	411	253	(106)	(155)	403
Total funds	39	2,444	(2,390)	648	741

16 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Pension Restricted Funds £'000	General Restricted Funds £'000	Fixed Assets Restricted Funds £'000	Total £'000
Tangible fixed	-	-	-	295	295
Current assets	393	-	380	-	773
Current liabilities	-	-	(208)	-	(208)
Non current liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	-	-
	393	-	172	295	860

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

16 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS (cont'd)

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Pension Restricted Funds £'000	General Restricted Funds £'000	Fixed Assets Restricted Funds £'000	Total £'000
Tangible fixed	-	-	-	281	281
Current assets	403	-	456	-	859
Current liabilities	-	-	(279)	-	(279)
Non current liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Pension scheme liability	-	(120)	-	-	(120)
	<u>403</u>	<u>(120)</u>	<u>177</u>	<u>281</u>	<u>741</u>

17 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	-	17

18 LONG TERM COMMITMENTS INCLUDING OPERATING LEASES

Operating leases

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

	2024 Other £'000	2023 Other £'000
Amounts due within one year	3	3
Amounts due between one and five years	2	6
Amounts due more than five years	-	-
	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>

19 RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	8	54
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation (note 12)	64	50
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(54)	(38)
Interest receivable	(8)	(6)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 26)	(15)	(49)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 26)	6	32
Increase in debtors	(4)	(39)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(71)	65
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	<u>(74)</u>	<u>69</u>
20 CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Interest received	8	6
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(78)	(116)
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	54	38
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(16)</u>	<u>(72)</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

21 CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	2024	2023	
	£'000	£'000	
Repayments of borrowing	-	-	
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	-	
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	-	-	
22 ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	At 31 Aug	At 31 Aug	
	2024	2023	
	£'000	£'000	
Cash in hand and at bank	667	757	
Total cash and cash equivalents	667	757	
23 ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET	At 1 Sept	Cash	At 31 Aug
	2023	Flows	2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash at bank	757	(90)	667
Overdraft	-	-	-
	757	(90)	667
Loans within one year	-	-	-
Loans within more than one year	-	-	-
	757	(90)	667

24 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

During the period of the funding agreement between the Deanery Church of England Primary School and the Secretary of State, in the event of the sale or disposal by other means of any asset for which a Government capital grant was received, the Deanery Church of England Primary School is required either to reinvest the proceeds or to repay to the Secretary of State for Education the same proportion of the proceeds of the sale or disposal as equates with the proportion of the original cost met by the Secretary of State.

Upon termination of the funding agreement, whether as a result of the Secretary of State or the Deanery Church of England Primary School serving notice, the Deanery Church of England Primary School is obliged to repay to the Secretary of State sums determined by reference to:

- a) the value at that time of the Deanery Church of England Primary School's sites and premises and other assets held for the purpose of the Deanery Church of England Primary School; and
- b) the extent to which expenditure incurred in providing those assets was met by payments by the Secretary of State under the funding agreement.

25 MEMBER LIABILITY

Each member of the Deanery Church of England Primary School undertakes to contribute to its assets 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.

26 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS

Deanery Church of England Primary School'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 Gloucestershire County Council Pension Fund. Both are defined multi employer benefit schemes.

As described in note 1 the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Deanery Church of England Primary School, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the scheme in the period. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Trust's at the balance sheet date.

The total pension cost to the Academy during the year ended 31 August 2024 was £388,000 (2023: £346,000) of which £261,000 (2023: £164,000) relates to the TPS and £127,000 (2023: £182,000) relates to LGPS.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020 and of the LGPS to the period ended 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £Nil were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 (2023: £35,884) and are included within other creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions 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:

- 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

26 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (cont'd)

The employer's costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £261,000 (2023: £164,000).

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 scheme, with the assets held in a separate trustee administered funds. The total contributions made for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £170,000 (2023: £233,000) of which employers contributions totalled £136,000 (2023: £199,000) and employees contributions totalled £34,000 (2023: £34,000).

The agreed contribution rates for future years are between 5.5% - 12.5% (2023: 5.5%-12.5%) for employees and is 23.2% (2023 : 22%) for employers.

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

Principal Actuarial Assumptions

The major assumptions used by the actuary were:

	2024	2023
	August	August
	% per	% per
	annum	annum
Discount rate	5.0%	5.2%
Salary increases	3.7%	4.0%
Pension increase	2.7%	3.0%

Sensitivity analysis for the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities were as follows:

	At 31	At 31
	August	August
	2024	2023
	Approx	Approx
	Change to	Change to
	Employers	Employers
	Liability	Liability
	£'000	£'000
Discount rate reduced by 0.1% per annum	73	66
Salary increase rate increased by 0.1%	4	8
Pension increase rate increased by 0.1%	71	59

The mortality assumptions used were as follows:

	At 31	At 31
	August	August
	2024	2023
	years	years
Longevity at age		
- Men	18.8	18.9
- Women	24.4	24.5
Longevity at age		
- Men	23.0	23.1
- Women	25.3	25.4

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

26 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (cont'd)

Deanery Church of England Primary School's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	Fair value at 31 August 2024 £'000	Fair value at 31 August 2023 £'000
Equity instruments	1,712	1,993
Debt instruments	1,152	616
Property	198	205
Cash and other liquid assets	230	117
Total market value of assets	<u>3,292</u>	<u>2,931</u>
Present value of scheme liabilities:		
- Funded	3,292	2,931
- Unfunded	-	120
Total liabilities	<u>3,292</u>	<u>3,051</u>
Deficit in the scheme	<u>-</u>	<u>(120)</u>

The actual return on the scheme assets in the year was a surplus of £257,000 (2023: £34,000 deficit).

Amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Current service cost	121	150
Interest income	(155)	(125)
Interest cost	161	157
Total amount recognised in the SoFA	<u>127</u>	<u>182</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (cont'd)

26 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (cont'd)

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Changes in deficit during the year:		
Balance at 1 September	120	785
Movement in year:		
- Employer service cost (net of employee contributions)	121	150
- Employer contributions	(136)	(199)
- Expected return on scheme assets	(155)	(125)
- Interest cost	161	157
- Actuarial gains	(125)	(648)
- Asset ceiling adjustment	14	-
Deficit in the scheme at 31 August	<u>-</u>	<u>120</u>
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 September	3,051	3,628
Current service cost	121	150
Interest cost	161	157
Contributions by scheme participants	34	34
Benefits paid	(52)	(45)
Actuarial gains	(23)	(873)
Scheme liabilities at 31 August	<u>3,292</u>	<u>3,051</u>
Changes in the fair value of the share of scheme assets:	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 September	2,931	2,843
Expected return on scheme assets	155	125
Actuarial gains/(losses)	102	(225)
Asset ceiling adjustment	(14)	-
Contributions by employer	136	199
Benefits paid	(52)	(45)
Contributions by scheme participants	34	34
Fair value of scheme assets at 31 August	<u>3,292</u>	<u>2,931</u>

The estimated value of employer contributions for the year ended 31 August 2025 is £160,000 (2024: £149,000).

The fair value of the pension plan assets at 31 August 2024 is in excess of the present value of the defined benefit obligations at that date, giving rise to a net surplus of £14,000 (2023: £Nil). This surplus is recognised in the financial statements only to the extent that the academy trust can recover this surplus, either through a reduction in future contributions or through a refund to the academy trust.

The academy trust is not able to determine that future contributions will be reduced and it is not possible for the academy trust to receive a refund from the scheme, as the specific conditions for this have not been met. Therefore an asset ceiling is in place such that the surplus of £14,000 (2023: £Nil) is not recognised as an asset at 31 March 2024 and the net asset/liability recognised in the financial statements is capped at £Nil.

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

No related party transactions took place during the period with the trustees. No amounts are owed to or due from the trustees as at 31 August 2024.

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustee's remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 10.

28 EVENTS AFTER THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD

There are no material adjusting or non adjusting events arising after the balance sheet date.