

Company Registration No. 07694050 (England and Wales)

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

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THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

Dr D Absalom
Mrs E Aiyere
Mr F Green

Trustees

Acting Chair of the Board of Trustees
(01.09.2022. – 28.09.2022) Miss R Johnson

Chair of the Board of Trustees
(Appointed as Chair 29.09.2022) Mrs L Wolsey

Chief Executive and Accounting Officer Miss N Sanghara

Miss R Johnson
Mr J Maxwell
Mrs S Powell
Mr N Riddington
Mrs S Butterfill
Mrs B Khun Khun
Mr A Ahmed
Mr W Cannock
Mr N Osborne
Ms D Toyinbo

Appointed 19.10.2022
Appointed 19.10.2022
Appointed 19.10.2022
Appointed 19.10.2022

Senior Leadership Team

Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer
Chief Finance and Operating Officer and Principal Finance Officer

Miss N Sanghara
Mrs S Ashton
Miss L Mark (Jul 23)
Mrs J Carson
Miss C Ingrams
Mrs T King (Jan 23)
Mr J Leslie (Sept 22-Feb 23)
Ms D Indresano (Jun 23)
Mrs C Ferla
Mrs A Oldfield

Director of Education
Executive Headteacher
Headteacher, Knockhall Primary
Headteacher, Northumberland Heath Primary
Headteacher, Northumberland Heath Primary
Headteacher, Peareswood Primary
Headteacher, Willow Bank Primary

Company registration number 07694050 (England and Wales)

Registered office

The Woodland Academy Trust
c/o Northumberland Heath Primary School
Wheelock Close
Erith
DA8 1JE
United Kingdom

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Academies operated

Knockhall Primary School
Northumberland Heath Primary School
Peareswood Primary School
Willow Bank Primary School

Location

Kent
Erith
Erith
Thamesmead

Independent auditor

Baxter & Co
Lynwood House
Crofton Road
Orpington
BR6 8QE

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Bank PLC
78 New Road
Gravesend
DA11 0AR

Solicitors

Stone King LLP
Boundary House
91 Charterhouse Street
London
EC1M 6HR

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 01 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

The principal activity of the company is the operation of four state-funded academies, providing education for students aged 3 to 11. The pupil capacity of the Trust is as follows:

- Knockhall Primary School offers 60 places for Reception intake and a 52-place nursery.
- Northumberland Heath Primary School offers 90 places for Reception intake and a 52-place nursery;
- Peareswood Primary School offers 60 places for Reception intake and a 52-place nursery;
- Willow Bank Primary School offers 60 places for Reception intake; and
- Lime Wood Primary School offers 60 places for Reception.

The total FTE pupils within the Trust as at the school census on 17th January 2023 was 1,655.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The charitable company is known as The Woodland Academy Trust.

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee with no share capital and an exempt charity.

The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust.

The Trustees of The Woodland Academy Trust are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

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

Members' liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute an amount as may be required (not exceeding £10) to the Company's assets if it should be wound up while he or she is a member or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.

This contribution is for payment of the Company's debts and liabilities before he or she ceases to be a member, and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

Trustees' indemnities

The Trust has not provided any indemnities to any third parties on behalf of any Trustees.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Members and Trustees

In accordance with the adopted Articles of Association, the Members of the charitable company comprise:

- a) The Members of the Company on the date of the adoption of the Articles of Association;
- b) The Chairman of the Board of Trustees
- c) any person appointed under Article 15A

The Members may agree unanimously in writing to appoint such additional Members as they think fit and may unanimously (save that the agreement of the Member(s) to be removed shall not be required) in writing agree to remove any such additional Members.

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

As at 31 August 2023, the Board of Trustees comprised of the following:

- a) 3 Trustees appointed by Members
- b) The Chief Executive Officer
- c) 11 Co-opted Trustees appointed by the Board

When a vacancy arises, the Members and Trustees seek to make an appointment that would maximise the relevant skills and experience on the Board and enable it to comprise appropriately qualified and experienced Trustees.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend on their existing experience. Where appropriate this will comprise of induction and training on charity and educational, legal and financial matters. Mandatory induction training for Trustees takes place within their first two terms following appointment. All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees.

Organisational structure

The Board of Trustees, the majority of whom are non-executive, comprises of those persons appointed under the Articles of Association. The Board meets at least four times a year and delegates specific responsibilities through the Trustee Committees as follows:

- Audit Committee
- Education Committee
- Finance Committee
- People Committee

The Board of Trustees are informed of the activities of the committees at the Board of Trustees' meetings.

Day to day leadership of the company is undertaken by the Chief Executive Officer, supported by the Strategic Leadership Team.

The Headteacher undertakes the day-to-day running of each school, supported by their Senior Leadership Team.

The Chief Executive Officer is the Accounting Officer of the Trust and the Chief Finance and Operating Officer is the Principal Finance Officer.

The Scheme of Delegation outlines the responsibilities at Board, Executive and Local Academy Committee level. In addition, financial policies and procedures establish the operational authorities of the Headteachers.

There are no subsidiary companies currently operating.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Trust and School Senior Leadership Teams are the key management personnel of the Trust.

Trustees are also senior management although they receive no pay or other remuneration in respect of their role as Trustees. Where staff Trustees are in place, they receive remuneration for their role as staff and their pay is determined in the same way as applicable to all other staff. Further details of remuneration paid to staff who are Trustees is set out within the notes to the accounts.

The Trustees make determinations of pay in accordance with the Trust's Pay Policy. The Board of Trustees has fully delegated powers and is established in accordance with the appropriate school governance regulations.

The Board of Trustees sets the pay of the Chief Executive Officer who must demonstrate sustained high quality of performance, with regard to leadership, management and school improvement across the Trust's schools.

The Board of Trustees approves the pay of the Senior Leadership team members, having regard to performance against previously agreed objectives.

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Trade Union Facility Time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
0	0

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of Employees
0%	0
1% - 50%	0
51% - 99%	0
100%	0

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total Cost of facility time	£0
Total Pay bill	£8,466k
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	0%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	0%
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Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

The Trust has the following community-based organisations operating from the school sites under letting arrangements:

- Toddles Wood Pre-School
- Howbury Pre-School
- Jacqueline's Gems Childcare Services at Northumberland Heath and Knockhall Primary Schools
- NHS (Oxleas) Midwifery
- STLS (Rowhill School)

Objectives and activities

Objects and Aims

The principal object of the company is the advancement of education in the United Kingdom. It achieves this object through the operation of The Woodland Academy Trust, the aim being to provide the highest possible standard of education and pastoral care, maximising the life-chances of its pupils.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The Woodland Academy Trust is a Multi Academy Trust based in and serving communities within the London Borough of Bexley and Kent. The principal activity of the multi-academy trust is 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 schools and settings offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Mission

Ignite the spark, reveal the champion.

The Woodland Academy Trust is an inclusive and ambitious Trust committed to achieving the best possible outcomes for all children. We believe that every individual has a unique gift to offer and as educators through providing a rich and diverse curriculum, we seek opportunities to reveal this. Our core mission, vision and values were relaunched in September 2021 and are revisited Trust-wide annually via INSET days and ongoing all year round.

The Woodland Academy Trust is committed to the very highest professional standards. We value individuality and promote the unique ethos of each school, firmly at the heart of its community. Through collaboration, we seek to build on the strengths that exist within each school so that our collective intellectual capital benefits our broader Woodland Academy community.

Our core mission is to ignite the spark, reveal the champion which we believe each child possesses. We aim to do this by:

- Providing the highest quality learning experiences for every child every day
- Creating an ethical culture of empowerment and growth for all
- Nurturing strong partnerships with our local communities and beyond

The Trust values were refreshed by all stakeholders are now Ambition, Collaboration, Compassion, Excellence and Inclusivity. We are all committed to these values as a group of schools and aspire to live them through our daily practice.



AMBITION



COLLABORATION



COMPASSION



EXCELLENCE



INCLUSIVITY

Although we work collaboratively as a Trust, each school has its own strategically targeted School Improvement Plan that meets the needs of that school. This plan sets out some overarching objectives for the Trust within the coming year and it builds on the previous year's progress.

Public benefit

In setting the objectives and planning the associated activities, directors have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

Early Years

72% of pupils across the trust achieved the 'good level of development' in 2023, this is above national figures (based on 2021-22).

Key Stage One

77% of pupils reached the expected standard in the phonics screening check across the Trust and is currently 2% above national figures. (based on 2021-22).

Trust averages for reading, writing and maths are all above national figures this year and broadly in line or above national for greater depth.

Key Stage Two

55% of pupils reached the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined which is 4% below national figures.

In individual subjects, Trust figures were above national figures in writing but below in reading and maths.

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Pupils enter our schools from a wide range of social, cultural and economic backgrounds as illustrated below. We pride ourselves on being inclusive, diverse communities and our curriculum focuses on addressing the particular challenges these pupil groups face as a result of the closure. See below for the percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals, from ethnic minority backgrounds and on the Special Educational Needs register for each school:

	% of pupils who are eligible for free school meals	% of pupils whose first language is not English	% of pupils on Special Education Needs register
Knockhall Primary School	30.3%	22.7%	18.7%
Northumberland Heath Primary School	48.2%	27.7%	17.7%
Peareswood Primary School	50.3%	32.4%	31.7%
Willow Bank Primary School	65.6%	44.0%	25.9%
Trust Averages	48.6%	31.7%	23.5%

Key Performance Indicators

To ensure that standards are continually raised the Trust operates a programme of internal and external reviews of the quality of education and curriculum offer and have an external quality assurance review provided by a School Improvement Partner, besides education these include safeguarding and SEND reviews.

The individual academies within the Woodland Academy Trust are judged by Ofsted as follows:

Knockhall Primary School as 'Requires Improvement'

Northumberland Heath Primary as 'Good'

Peareswood Primary School as 'Good'

Willow Bank Primary School as 'Requires Improvement with Good Leadership'

The Trust measures financial performance against a range of benchmarking indicators including:

Total Staff Costs as % of Total income (target 80%)

Spend per pupil on non-payroll expenditure (benchmarked between schools to identify school specific performance)

Average class sizes (indicator of financial pressures due to under capacity)

Total reserves as % of General Annual Grant (the Trust aims to maintain consolidated reserves at between 6% and 10% of total GAG to provide an adequate buffer to address reducing roll)

Pupil roll trends year on year (to inform staffing and class organisation)

The Finance Committee scrutinises the Trust performance against the financial PIs.

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 Accounting Policies.

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Financial review

We receive our income from different sources. Our income largely comes from central government via the Education and Skills Funding Agency who provide us with grant, based on our student numbers to cover our staffing and other general running costs (General Annual Grant - GAG). The ESFA may provide us with additional grants earmarked for specific purposes (such as Pupil Premium for raising the attainment of disadvantaged pupils). These appear in the accounts as DfE/ESFA grants. Where we receive grant or other funding from the Local Authority (such as where we undertake responsibilities on their behalf in respect of our students) this appears in the accounts as other government grants. Such income is collectively referred to as "Restricted Funds".

The trust received recovery premium and national tutoring grant funding to support catch up activities. This was targeted at the employment of intervention teachers for phonics and towards other school-based intervention activities.

Other income is received from parents (for example as contributions to trip or other costs) and from third parties (for example from our bank for interest on our account balances or from others who are charged for their use of our facilities). Such other income may be restricted or unrestricted, depending on whether there are conditions as to its use or whether it is available for spending at the discretion of the trustees.

We hold funds in two broad categories, funds that are available for spending, and other funds that are not available for spending.

Spendable funds are in turn sub-categorised between funds that are available for spending at the discretion of trustees ("Unrestricted Funds"), and funds that are subject to condition or restriction, ("Restricted Funds").

Funds not available for spending include the book value of fixed assets such as land, buildings and equipment. These have a value and are therefore included as assets in the accounts but clearly, we cannot spend this value. In common with all academies and Local Authorities, the accounts must report on our share of the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit liability. As this is not a conventional liability, it does not need to be deducted from spendable funds. We meet our obligations in respect of the LGPS by paying over pension contributions due as calculated by the scheme's actuaries.

The following balances held were held at 31 August:

Fund	Category	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
GAG	Restricted General Funds	538	699
Start Up Grant	Restricted General Funds	16	125
Other DfE / ESFA Grants	Restricted General Funds	-	113
Other Government Grants	Restricted General Funds	-	-
Other Income	Restricted General Funds	-	-
	Sub-total General Restricted Funds	554	937
Unspent Capital Grants	Restricted Fixed Asset Fund	101	432
Other Income	Unrestricted General Fund	1,155	995
	Sub-Total Spendable Funds	1,810	2,364
Net Book Value of Fixed Assets	Restricted Fixed Asset Fund	20,571	20,433
Share of LGPS Deficit	Restricted Pension Reserve	-	(883)
	Total All Funds	<u>22,381</u>	<u>21,914</u>

During the year under review there was a decrease of £383k (2022: increase of £336k) on general restricted funds, an increase of £160k (2022: increase of £214k) on unrestricted funds and after LGPS valuation adjustments, depreciation and capital income and expenditure, an overall decrease of £467k (2022: increase of £6,217k).

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

During 2022/23 the financial position of the Trust has continued to be impacted by increasing costs in respect of emotional support post pandemic.

The principal risks for the Trust are falling pupil rolls impacting on three of our schools. The reduction in numbers entering reception classes is linked to a combination of factors including Local Authority place planning resulting in overcapacity in local areas, delays in releasing new housing as part of the Thamesmead regeneration scheme and parental choice.

Careful class organisation and staffing profiling, in conjunction with communication with the Local Authority admissions, has enabled the Trust to offset, at least in part, the financial impact of falling rolls.

The Trust has successfully recruited to vacant Headteacher posts during 2022/23 and completed a staffing review to achieve economies and best value for 2023/24.

The Trust has continued to invest in the Digital Strategy, increasing the stock of Ipads in 2022/23 to enable 1 to 1 devices across three years groups at each school and as a result the Trust became an Apple accredited training provider.

Key factors that will affect the financial position going forward will be the ability to manage class sizes where numbers are low and yet would exceed the threshold for reception/KS1 numbers if merges with another year group. This will result in underfunded classes and result in a cost pressure to be met from reserves.

The overall financial position of the Trust as at 31 August 2023 is an improved and robust level of available reserves and cash flow. Short term creditors and debtors are related to year end accruals, rather than undue delays in supplier payments and monies owed from invoices raised by the Trust.

The revenue reserves will be essential to support the 2023/24 cost pressures resulting from the substantial pay awards and continued energy costs.

There are no schools with material deficits as at 31 August 2023.

Reserves policy

The principal policy on reserves is that the accumulation of unspent GAG balances should not breach any limits thereon set out in the Funding agreement. The level of reserves should never be in deficit. Further details are set out under Key Performance Indicators.

The Trustees review and approve an annual budget having considered the resource requirements and forecast grant and other income.

Investment policy

There are no investments held beyond cash deposits retained with the major UK clearing banks. Speculative investments are not permitted.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees have assessed the Trust exposure to major risk, particularly those relating to academic performance/finances/child welfare. The directors have implemented systems to assess risks that the company faces and have developed policies and procedures to mitigate those risks. Where significant financial risk remains, they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The Trust has an effective system of internal financial controls explained in more detail in the Governance Statement.

As the nature of the financial instruments dealt with by the company is relatively simple (bank balances, debtors and "trade" creditors), governors consider the associated risk in this area to be minimal.

The risk resulting from the company's share of the LGPS deficit is managed by following the advice of the scheme's actuaries, specifically the level of contributions payable, ensuring that annual budgets are drawn up to reflect the actuary's advice.

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The risk management process includes the adoption and regular review of both strategic and operational risk registers implemented by the Leadership Team and overseen by Trustees.

The DfE (via the Education and Skills Funding Agency) allocate the majority of the trust's funding in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted. The restricted grants received from the DfE during the period ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are included in the statement of financial activities as restricted funds.

Our fundraising practices

The trust and individual academies within it may organise fundraising events and co-ordinate the activities of our supporters both in the academies and in the wider community on behalf of the trust. The trust will not use professional fundraisers or involve commercial participators.

Each school has developed parent partnerships to deliver coordinated fundraising activities with the local community.

There have been no complaints about fundraising activity this year.

The trust complies with the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice.

The trust will undertake all fundraising in a manner that seeks to ensure that it is not unreasonably intrusive or persistent. Promotion and communication is via school email, newsletters, websites and students.

All fundraising material will contain clear instructions on how a person can select removal from mailing lists.

Plans for future periods

In February 2016, the Department for Education approved the Trust's bid to open a Free School in Bexley.

Lime Wood Free School, the fifth school to join the Trust, is a brand-new school development on the site of a disused quarry in Erith, as part of a large housing development.

The planned opening date for Lime Wood is September 2023 and will cater initially for a Reception cohort of 60 children with increasing capacity to 630 places for children aged 3-11 years.

Lime Wood will support the need for places generated by housing development planned for the Borough of Bexley, reflecting the aspirations we have for all our schools, offering another avenue of choice for parents and pupils.

Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others

The academy trust or its Trustees do not act as custodian trustee for any third parties.

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
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 07 December 2023 and signed on the Board's behalf by:



.....
Mrs L Wolsey

Chair of the Board of Trustees

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Scope of responsibility

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between The Woodland Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is 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.

Attendance at meetings

The Members met formally once during the year and attendance during the year at the meetings was as follows:

Members	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Dr D Absalom	1	1
Mrs E Aiyere	1	1
Mr F Green	1	1

The Trustees met formally 5 times during the year. Effective oversight was maintained by providing Trustee access to Governor Hub where key documents are accessible to all Trustees including management accounts and by the additional four Trustee Committees focussing on People, Finance, Audit & Risk and Education.

Attendance during the year at Trustee meetings was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mrs L Wolsey (Chair)	5	5
Miss R Johnson (VCoT)	3	5
Mr N Riddington	3	5
Mr J Maxwell	4	5
Mrs S Butterfill	4	5
Mrs S Powell	5	5
Miss N Sanghara (CEO and Accounting Officer)	5	5
Ms B Khun Khun	2	5
Mr A Ahmed (appointed 19.10.22)	2	4
Ms D Toyinbo (appointed 19.10.22)	3	4
Mr N Osborne (appointed 19.10.22)	3	4
Mr W Cannock (appointed 18.10.22)	2	4

The Board of Trustees are responsible for overseeing the management of the schools' budgets, accounting records and systems of control. It establishes, maintains and develops the Trust's financial policies and accounting and budgetary systems in accordance with the Academy Trust Handbook. It monitors the overall performance of the Trust against the objectives of the Schools' Improvement Plans and ensures the Members are kept apprised of national developments in relation to finance.

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Conflict of interest

Conflicts of interest are managed effectively by the following controls:

- Maintaining an up to date and complete register of business interest
- Declaration of conflicts of interest invited at the beginning of each Trustee meeting
- Avoidance of procuring services from any related parties

Governance reviews

Following significant recruitment to the Trust Board during 2022/23, successfully raising specialist skills across the Trust Board in audit, finance, education and human resources, the Board of Trustees commissioned the National Governance Association to undertake an External Review of Governance in May 2023. As a result of this activity a Governance Action Plan was written. and will form part of the Trustees continued work over the course of academic year 23/24.

Finance Committee	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mr J Maxwell (Chair of Committee)	2	3
Mr N Riddington	1	3
Ms B Khun Khun	3	3
Mrs L Wolsey	1	1
Miss N Sanghara	3	3

Audit & Risk Committee	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mr N Riddington (Chair of Committee)	1	3
Mr A Ahmed	2	3
Mr N Osborne	3	3
Mr J Maxwell	2	3

Education Committee	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Miss R Johnson	3	3
Mrs S Powell	2	3
Ms N Sanghara	3	3
Ms D Toyinbo	1	2
Mr W Cannock	2	2

People Committee	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mrs L Wolsey	3	3
Mrs S Butterfill	3	3
Miss N Sanghara	3	3
Mr N Osborne	1	2

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Review of Value for Money

As the Trust's Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for ensuring that the Trust delivers best value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Accounting Officer considers how the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data from the Education Skills and Funding Agency where available. The Accounting Officer has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- **Raising Pupil Attainment**

The Trust regularly reviews its staffing structure in order to deploy staff efficiently to support the needs of the children and the school. Pupil progress is assessed and tracked using a variety of methods. There are appropriate and timely interventions to raise attainment including one-to-one support.

Free school meal children are supported through interventions funded from the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) along with the national tutoring funding aimed at narrowing the attainment gap.

The Trust collaborates with other educational providers and experts to share delivery or good practice and regularly reviews professional development needs of staff and provides a range of training, support and coaching as required .

- **Financial governance and oversight**

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. This 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 Board in terms of financial reports which indicate fiscal 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 guidelines and best value procurement;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- Identification and management of risks;
- Income generation through lettings and bid applications.

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 The Woodland Academy Trust for the period 01 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks and that controls have been in place for the period 01 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

The Board of Trustees regularly reviews risk management controls.

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 Trustees of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- Identification and management of risks.

Following changes to the Academy Trust Handbook, Trustees decided to appoint the Trust's Compliance, Asset & Risk Manager as internal auditor.

The reviewer's role includes performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. In particular the checks carried out in the current period included:

- testing of payroll systems
- quality assuring salary statements are accurate and match payroll
- testing of purchasing systems
- testing of control account/ bank reconciliations

Twice a year the auditor reports to the board of Trustees, through the audit and finance committees on the operation of the systems of control, recommendations on improvements to enhance financial controls and on the discharge of the board of Trustees' financial responsibilities.

Academy trusts should confirm whether the internal auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned, provide details of any material control issues arising as a result of the internal auditor's/reviewer's work and, if relevant, describe what remedial action is being taken to rectify the issues.

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

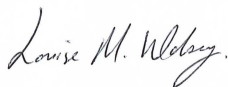
Review of effectiveness

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

- The audit work of the Internal Auditor;
- The audit work of the External Auditor;
- The financial management and governance self-assessment process
- The work of the Executive leaders within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- The maintenance of the Accounting Officer's Log and the ongoing external QA of this documentation by the Auditor and Chair of the Board.

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the audit and risk committee and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on 07 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Mrs L Wolsey

Chair of the Board of Trustees



.....
Miss N Sanghara

Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

I confirm that I and the Academy Trust's 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 2022.

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



Miss N Sanghara
Accounting Officer

07 December 2023

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Woodland Academy Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the Financial Statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

In preparing these Financial Statements, the Trustees are required to:

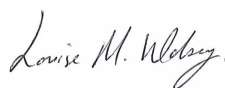
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the Financial Statements; and
- prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 07 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs L Wolsey

Chair of the Board of Trustees

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinion

We have audited the Financial Statements of The Woodland Academy Trust for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the Financial Statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 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 2022 to 2023 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the Financial Statements are prepared is consistent with the Financial Statements; and
- the Trustees' report including the incorporated strategic 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 Academy Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report, including the incorporated strategic report.

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

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the Financial Statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of Financial Statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the Financial Statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company, or 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of management to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing internal assurance reports.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

Use of our report

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



Louise Hallsworth FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Baxter & Co

15 December 2023

Chartered Certified Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Lynwood House
Crofton Road
Orpington
Kent
BR6 8QE

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 24 May 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Woodland Academy Trust during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of The Woodland Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Woodland Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 July 2011 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Review of payments to staff;
- Review of payments to suppliers and other third parties;
- Review of grant and other income streams;
- Review of some key financial control procedures;
- Discussions with finance staff;
- Consideration of the record maintained by the Accounting Officer of the oversight they have exercised;
- Consideration of the programme of internal scrutiny implemented by the Academy Trust in order to comply with its obligations under 3.1 of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, issued by the ESFA.

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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 2022 to 31 August 2023 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Baxter & Co.

Reporting Accountant

Baxter & Co
Lynwood House
Crofton Road
Orpington
Kent
BR6 8QE

Dated: 15 December 2023

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	6	-	296	302	417
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	139	11,242	-	11,381	11,145
Other trading activities	5	108	-	-	108	144
Investments	6	16	-	-	16	1
Total		<u>269</u>	<u>11,242</u>	<u>296</u>	<u>11,807</u>	<u>11,707</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	3	-	-	3	6
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	9	106	11,773	410	12,289	11,747
Total	7	<u>109</u>	<u>11,773</u>	<u>410</u>	<u>12,292</u>	<u>11,753</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		160	(531)	(114)	(485)	(46)
Transfers between funds	17	-	79	(79)	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	952	-	952	6,263
Net movement in funds		160	500	(193)	467	6,217
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		995	54	20,865	21,914	15,697
Total funds carried forward		<u>1,155</u>	<u>554</u>	<u>20,672</u>	<u>22,381</u>	<u>21,914</u>

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2022	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
		funds £'000	General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	2022 £'000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	2	-	415	417
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	134	11,011	-	11,145
Other trading activities	5	144	-	-	144
Investments	6	1	-	-	1
Total		<u>281</u>	<u>11,011</u>	<u>415</u>	<u>11,707</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	6	-	-	6
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	9	61	11,318	368	11,747
Total	7	<u>67</u>	<u>11,318</u>	<u>368</u>	<u>11,753</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		214	(307)	47	(46)
Transfers between funds	17	-	(108)	108	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	6,263	-	6,263
Net movement in funds		214	5,848	155	6,217
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>781</u>	<u>(5,794)</u>	<u>20,710</u>	<u>15,697</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>995</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>20,865</u>	<u>21,914</u>

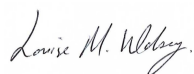
THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

		2023		2022	
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		20,571		20,433
Current assets					
Debtors	14	499		626	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,238		2,319	
		<u>2,737</u>		<u>2,945</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(927)		(581)	
		<u></u>		<u></u>	
Net current assets			1,810		2,364
Net assets excluding pension liability			22,381		22,797
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19		-		(883)
			<u></u>		<u></u>
Total net assets			22,381		21,914
			<u><u></u></u>		<u><u></u></u>
Funds of the Academy Trust:					
Restricted funds	17				
- Fixed asset funds			20,672		20,865
- Restricted income funds			554		937
- Pension reserve			-		(883)
			<u></u>		<u></u>
Total restricted funds			21,226		20,919
Unrestricted income funds	17		1,155		995
			<u></u>		<u></u>
Total funds			22,381		21,914
			<u><u></u></u>		<u><u></u></u>

The Financial Statements on pages 23 to 47 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 07 December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:



Mrs L Wolsey

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Company registration number 07694050 (England and Wales)

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £'000	£'000	2022 £'000	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by operating activities	20		160		334
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		16		1	
Capital grants from DfE Group		296		415	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(548)		(228)	
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities			(236)		188
Cash flows from financing activities					
Repayment of long term bank loan		(5)		(11)	
Net cash used in financing activities			(5)		(11)
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(81)		511
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			2,319		1,808
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			2,238		2,319

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

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

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

Donations

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

Other income

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

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Donated fixed assets

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

Interest Receivable

Interest receivable is included within the statement of financial activities on a receivable basis.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £5,000 or more per item (or less if they form part of a larger purchase or project where the total cost exceeds £25,000) 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 that require 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. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired / funded by other income, the fixed asset fund is also credited. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities.

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 land & buildings	50 years
Computer equipment	3 years
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	3 years

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Fixed Asset Transfer from Predecessor School / Existing Academy Trust

Where fixed assets were transferred to the charitable company, these have been included at a value determined in accordance with the policy described below:

Land

Where land is owned (or occupied under the terms of long term lease), subject to a legally binding restriction as to its use, it is included at a valuation that assumes continuation of existing use. Leasehold land is not depreciated until the unexpired period of the lease is 50 years or less, at which time it is depreciated over the remaining term of the lease.

Buildings

In accordance with the requirements of FRS 102, specialist buildings transferred are recognised at their fair value at the time of the transfer. Future depreciation is charged over the estimated remaining useful life of the buildings.

Other Fixed Assets

Other fixed assets transferred are also included at fair value (subject to the capitalisation limit set).

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

1.6 Liabilities

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

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 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. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities

Trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition.

Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.9 Taxation

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

1.10 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 and the assets and the liabilities are held separately from those of the Academy Trust.

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

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

1.11 Fund accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the Academy Trust at the discretion of the Trustees.

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

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

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

(Continued)

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 19, will impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement

In preparing these Financial Statements, the Trustees have not needed to exercise any subjective judgements that would be critical to the Academy Trust's Financial Statements.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Capital grants	-	296	296	415
Other donations	6	-	6	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6	296	302	417
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

4 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	8,227	8,227	8,306
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- UIFSM	-	127	127	134
- Pupil premium	-	1,155	1,155	1,149
- Others	-	559	559	271
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	10,068	10,068	9,860
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	932	932	913
	=====	=====	=====	=====
COVID-19 additional funding				
DfE/ESFA				
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	242	242	238
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Other funding				
Catering income	76	-	76	81
Trips income	35	-	35	19
Other incoming resources	28	-	28	34
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	139	-	139	134
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total funding	139	11,242	11,381	11,145
	=====	=====	=====	=====

The Academy Trust has been eligible to claim additional funding in the year from government support schemes in response to the Coronavirus outbreak. The funding received is shown above under "COVID-19 additional funding". The funding received for recovery funding and national tutoring programme funding totals £242k is fully spent and included within the costs below.

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Hire of facilities	95	-	95	96
Other income	11	-	11	33
Insurance income	2	-	2	15
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	108	-	108	144
	=====	=====	=====	=====

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

6 Investment income	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Short term deposits	16	-	16	1

7 Expenditure	Staff costs £'000	Non-pay expenditure Premises £'000	Other £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	-	-	3	3	6
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	8,101	328	895	9,324	8,478
- Allocated support costs	1,257	942	766	2,965	3,269
	<u>9,358</u>	<u>1,270</u>	<u>1,664</u>	<u>12,292</u>	<u>11,753</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Operating lease rentals	8	12
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	410	368
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	12	11
- Other services	8	23
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	25	105

Included within expenditure are the following transactions:

	Total	Individual items over £5,000
	2023	2023
	£	£
Gifts made by the Academy Trust - total	<u>458</u>	<u></u>

Clarification – While the majority of disclosure in these accounts are rounded to £'000, the disclosure of gifts made is not. The value of gifts for the year is £458 (and not £458k).

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

8 Central services

The Academy Trust has provided the following central services to its academies during the year:

- human resources;
- financial services;
- business services;
- school improvement / wellbeing;
- governance / clerking / compliance;
- community / extended services;
- leadership - Executive Principal.

The Academy Trust Charges for these services on the basis of 7.5% of GAG.

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Northumberland Heath Primary School	233	429
Peareswood Primary School	146	271
Willow Bank Primary School	139	264
Limewood Primary School	-	-
Knockhall Primary School	118	221
	<u>636</u>	<u>1,185</u>

9 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Direct costs				
Educational operations	39	9,285	9,324	8,478
Support costs				
Educational operations	67	2,898	2,965	3,269
	<u>106</u>	<u>12,183</u>	<u>12,289</u>	<u>11,747</u>

Analysis of costs

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Direct costs		
Teaching and educational support staff costs	8,101	7,396
Staff development	99	68
Depreciation	328	295
Technology costs	164	152
Educational supplies and services	328	419
Educational consultancy	185	96
Other direct costs	119	52
	<u>9,324</u>	<u>8,478</u>

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

9 Charitable activities (Continued)

Support costs

Support staff costs	1,213	1,113
Defined benefit pension scheme - staff costs (FRS102 adjustment)	44	646
Depreciation	82	73
Technology costs	90	104
Maintenance of premises and equipment	274	128
Cleaning	191	174
Energy costs	197	117
Rent, rates and other occupancy costs	148	144
Insurance	42	33
Security and transport	8	11
Catering	408	412
Defined benefit pension scheme - finance costs (FRS102 adjustment)	25	105
Legal costs	6	6
Other support costs	206	164
Governance costs	31	39
	<u>2,965</u>	<u>3,269</u>

10 Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Wages and salaries	6,470	6,167
Social security costs	602	558
Pension costs	1,350	1,251
Defined benefit pension scheme - staff costs (FRS102 adjustment)	44	646
	<u>8,466</u>	<u>8,622</u>
Staff costs - employees	8,466	8,622
Agency staff costs	828	524
Staff restructuring costs	64	9
	<u>9,358</u>	<u>9,155</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy payments	-	5
Severance payments	64	4
	<u>64</u>	<u>9</u>

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

10 Staff

(Continued)

Severance payments

The Academy Trust paid 3 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

£0 - £25,000	2
£25,001 - £50,000	1

Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are three non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £34k (2022: one payment totalling £4k). Individually, the payments were: £4k, £6k and £24k.

Staff numbers

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Teachers	65	61
Administration and support	135	124
Management	19	21
	<u>219</u>	<u>206</u>

The number of persons employed, expressed as a full time equivalent, was as follows:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Teachers	63	60
Administration and support	99	96
Management	19	20
	<u>181</u>	<u>176</u>

Higher paid staff

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£60,000 - £70,000	6	-
£70,001 - £80,000	1	4
£80,001 - £90,000	3	1
£100,001 - £110,000	-	1
£110,001 - £120,000	1	-
£120,001 - £130,000	-	1
£130,001 - £140,000	1	-
	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

10 Staff

(Continued)

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £935,686 (2022: £1,045,624).

11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more of the Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Academy Trust. The Executive Principal and other Staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Executive Principal and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as Trustees.

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

N Sanghara (Executive Principal):

- Remuneration £135,000 - £140,000 (2022: £125,000 - £130,000)
- Employer's pension contributions £30,000 - £35,000 (2022: £30,000 - £35,000)

During the year, expenses payments totalling £nil (2022: £63) were reimbursed or paid directly to 0 Trustees (2022: 1 Trustee).

Other related party transactions involving the Trustees are set out within the related parties note.

12 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim. The cost for the year ended 31 August 2023 is not separately identifiable and is included in the total insurance cost.

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land & buildings £'000	Computer equipment £'000	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £'000	Total £'000
Cost				
At 1 September 2022	23,097	377	245	23,719
Additions	205	107	236	548
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
At 31 August 2023	23,302	484	481	24,267
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2022	2,808	261	217	3,286
Charge for the year	345	52	13	410
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
At 31 August 2023	3,153	313	230	3,696
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net book value				
At 31 August 2023	20,149	171	251	20,571
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
At 31 August 2022	20,289	116	28	20,433
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Leasehold land is included above at a net book value of £5,859k.

14 Debtors

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Trade debtors	34	23
VAT recoverable	66	159
Other debtors	-	20
Prepayments and accrued income	399	424
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	499	626
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Government loans	-	5
Other taxation and social security	157	138
ESFA creditors	30	-
Other creditors	163	132
Accruals and deferred income	577	306
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	927	581
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

16 Deferred income

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	154	80
	<u>154</u>	<u>80</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	80	98
Released from previous years	(80)	(98)
Resources deferred in the year	154	80
	<u>154</u>	<u>80</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	154	80
	<u>154</u>	<u>80</u>

Deferred income includes Universal Infant Free School Meals of £78k (2022: £80k) and London's Mayor Funding for Free School Meals £76k (2022: £nil) which were received in advance.

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	699	8,227	(8,467)	79	538
Start up grants	125	-	(109)	-	16
UIFSM	-	127	(127)	-	-
Pupil premium	62	1,155	(1,217)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	242	(242)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	51	559	(610)	-	-
Other government grants	-	932	(932)	-	-
Pension reserve	(883)	-	(69)	952	-
	<u>54</u>	<u>11,242</u>	<u>(11,773)</u>	<u>1,031</u>	<u>554</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	12,955	-	(174)	-	12,781
DfE group capital grants	2,995	296	(64)	(133)	3,094
Capital expenditure from GAG and other funds	4,915	-	(172)	54	4,797
	<u>20,865</u>	<u>296</u>	<u>(410)</u>	<u>(79)</u>	<u>20,672</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>20,919</u>	<u>11,538</u>	<u>(12,183)</u>	<u>952</u>	<u>21,226</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	995	269	(109)	-	1,155
	<u>995</u>	<u>269</u>	<u>(109)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,155</u>
Total funds	<u>21,914</u>	<u>11,807</u>	<u>(12,292)</u>	<u>952</u>	<u>22,381</u>

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

17 Funds

(Continued)

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

The Restricted General Funds are used to fund the general operating costs of the Academy.

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 could carry forward at 31 August 2023.

The Restricted LGPS Fund represents the Academy Trust's share of the LGPS Pension Fund deficit.

The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund represents the net book value of fixed assets plus the unspent element of capital grants. When fixed assets are purchased the fund is increased and depreciation charges reduce the fund.

Unrestricted Funds represent balances held at period end that can be applied at the discretion of the Governors, to support any of the Academy's charitable purposes.

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	339	8,306	(7,948)	(108)	589
Start up grants	155	-	(30)	-	125
UIFSM	-	134	(134)	-	-
Pupil premium	46	1,149	(1,133)	-	62
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	238	(238)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	61	271	(171)	-	161
Other government grants	-	913	(913)	-	-
Pension reserve	(6,395)	-	(751)	6,263	(883)
	<u>(5,794)</u>	<u>11,011</u>	<u>(11,318)</u>	<u>6,155</u>	<u>54</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	13,129	-	(174)	-	12,955
DfE group capital grants	2,498	415	(54)	136	2,995
Capital expenditure from GAG and other funds	5,083	-	(140)	(28)	4,915
	<u>20,710</u>	<u>415</u>	<u>(368)</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>20,865</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>14,916</u>	<u>11,426</u>	<u>(11,686)</u>	<u>6,263</u>	<u>20,919</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	781	281	(67)	-	995
Total funds	<u>15,697</u>	<u>11,707</u>	<u>(11,753)</u>	<u>6,263</u>	<u>21,914</u>

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

17 Funds

(Continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:		
Northumberland Heath Primary School	-	81
Peareswood Primary School	-	8
Willow Bank Primary School	-	21
Limewood Primary School	-	128
Knockhall Primary School	-	17
Central services	1,709	1,677
	<u>1,709</u>	<u>1,932</u>
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	1,709	1,932
Restricted fixed asset fund	20,672	20,865
Pension reserve	-	(883)
	<u>22,381</u>	<u>21,914</u>
Total funds	<u><u>22,381</u></u>	<u><u>21,914</u></u>

Total cost analysis by academy

Expenditure incurred by each academy during the year was as follows:

	Teaching and educational support staff £'000	Other support staff costs £'000	Educational supplies £'000	Other costs excluding depreciation £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Northumberland Heath Primary School	2,517	223	123	702	3,565	3,517
Peareswood Primary School	1,892	165	42	452	2,551	2,229
Willow Bank Primary School	1,439	163	77	445	2,124	1,991
Limewood Primary School	71	14	26	1	112	30
Knockhall Primary School	1,570	147	50	495	2,262	2,158
Central services	612	545	10	101	1,268	1,460
	<u>8,101</u>	<u>1,257</u>	<u>328</u>	<u>2,196</u>	<u>11,882</u>	<u>11,385</u>
	<u><u>8,101</u></u>	<u><u>1,257</u></u>	<u><u>328</u></u>	<u><u>2,196</u></u>	<u><u>11,882</u></u>	<u><u>11,385</u></u>

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	20,571	20,571
Current assets	1,155	1,481	101	2,737
Current liabilities	-	(927)	-	(927)
Total net assets	1,155	554	20,672	22,381

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	20,433	20,433
Current assets	995	1,518	432	2,945
Current liabilities	-	(581)	-	(581)
Pension scheme liability	-	(883)	-	(883)
Total net assets	995	54	20,865	21,914

19 Pension and similar obligations

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016, and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £156k were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022: £138k) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £778k (2022: £788k).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 19.3% to 22.5% for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% for employees.

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

Total contributions made	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Employer's contributions	567	494
Employees' contributions	148	148
Total contributions	715	642

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions	2023 %	2022 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.90 to 4.30	3.95 to 4.30
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.90	2.90 to 2.95
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.30	4.25 to 4.30
CPI Inflation	2.80 to 2.90	2.80 to 2.95

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

	2023 Years	2022 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	20.7 to 21.4	21.0 to 22.3
- Females	23.2 to 23.6	23.5 to 25.1
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.0 to 22.3	22.3 to 23.9
- Females	24.6 to 25.4	24.9 to 27.1

Scheme liabilities would have been affected by changes in assumptions as follows:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Discount rate + 0.1%	7,891	9,029
Discount rate - 0.1%	8,210	
Mortality assumption + 1 year	8,221	
Mortality assumption - 1 year	7,882	
Salary Increase Rate + 0.1%	8,075	9,243
Salary Decrease Rate - 0.1%	8,023	
Pensions Increase Rate + 0.1%	8,211	9,450
Pensions Decrease Rate - 0.1%	7,890	

Defined benefit pension scheme net asset/(liability)	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Scheme assets	8,118	8,355
Scheme obligations	(8,118)	(9,238)
Net asset/(liability)	-	(883)

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 Pension and similar obligations	(Continued)	
The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2023	2022
	Fair value	Fair value
	£'000	£'000
Equities	3,134	3,356
Gilts / Government bonds	658	824
Other Bonds	1,068	1,076
Cash/Liquidity	142	488
Property	1,072	1,290
Other assets	2,044	1,321
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total market value of assets	8,118	8,355
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
The actual return on scheme assets was £(844,000) (2022: £(389,000)).		
Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Current service cost	580	1,118
Interest income	(372)	(145)
Interest cost	397	250
Administration expenses	31	22
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total operating charge	636	1,245
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations		2023
		£'000
At 1 September 2022		9,238
Current service cost		580
Interest cost		397
Employee contributions		148
Actuarial (gain)		(2,168)
Benefits paid		(77)
		<u> </u>
At 31 August 2023		8,118
		<u> </u>

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Changes in the fair value of the Academy Trust's share of scheme assets

	2023 £'000
At 1 September 2022	8,355
Interest income	372
Actuarial (loss)	(1,216)
Employer contributions	567
Employee contributions	148
Benefits paid	(77)
Administration expenses	(31)
	<hr/>
At 31 August 2023	8,118
	<hr/> <hr/>

The asset ceiling adjustment has been accounted for via FRS102 adjustment of £69k to the actuarial (gain) / loss.

20 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	Notes	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(485)	(46)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(296)	(415)
Investment income receivable	6	(16)	(1)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	19	44	646
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	19	25	105
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		410	368
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		127	(268)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		351	(55)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash provided by operating activities		160	334
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

21 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2022 £'000	Cash flows £'000	31 August 2023 £'000
Cash	2,319	(81)	2,238
Loans falling due within one year	(5)	5	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,314	(76)	2,238
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

THE WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

22 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

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

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Amounts due within one year	8	8
Amounts due in two and five years	15	23
	<u>23</u>	<u>31</u>

23 Capital commitments

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the Financial Statements	48	432
	<u>48</u>	<u>432</u>

At 31 August 2023, the Trust was committed to completing the following project:

- Knockhall Primary School: Concrete works project, funded by DFC & CIF, with total expected costs of £166k. Costs of £118k were incurred during the year, with anticipated costs to completion as at 31 August 2023 of £48k.

24 Related party transactions

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain Trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 11.

25 Members' liability

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