

# **AP Barnet Multi-Academy Trust Limited**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements**

31 August 2023

Company Limited by Guarantee  
Registration Number  
10711125 (England and Wales)

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## Reference and administrative information

<b>Members</b>	Robin Archibald Andy Stainton Violet Walker
<b>Trustees</b>	Robin Archibald (Resigned 30.06.2023) Nick Christou – Acting Chair (from 01.07.2023) Joanne Kelly Rayna Paw (Appointed 27.06.2023) Rhona Povey Lynda Walker Barley Birney Marina Costa (Resigned 30.06.2023)
<b>Company Secretary</b>	Nicola Baker
<b>Senior Leadership Team</b>	Joanne Kelly (Executive Headteacher and Accounting Officer to 11 October 2022) Kevin Grant (Head Teacher – Oak Hill and Accounting Officer from 12 October 2022) Wendy Hartley (Assistant Head/SENco – Oak Hill)
<b>Registered address</b>	The Pavilion Whetstone 58b Chandos Avenue Whetstone London N20 9DX
<b>Company registration number</b>	10711125 (England and Wales)
<b>Auditor</b>	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
<b>Bankers</b>	Lloyds Bank Plc 25 Gresham Street London EC2V 7HN

## **INTRODUCTION**

The trustees of the AP Barnet Multi-Academy Trust ('the Trust') present their statutory report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the period from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report under charity law and a directors' report under company law.

AP Barnet is a Multi Academy Trust whose main objectives are to advance education for the public benefit, by establishing and maintaining schools specially organised to provide special educational support for children and young people with special educational needs predominantly in the areas of social, emotional and mental health. The Trust remains in a stage of infancy with Oak Hill School remaining the only operational school in the Trust. However, planning continues to ensure the expansion of the Trust to include two additional alternative provisions, The Pavilion and Northgate School, in the near future. The Trust has a clear vision for the future which will enable all young people to achieve success and positive pathways for the future.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Constitution and governance**

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The trustees of AP Barnet Multi-Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as AP Barnet Multi-Academy Trust.

Details of the trustees who served during the year and the governance arrangements of the Trust and delegations to senior executive officers and committees are set out in the Governance Statement.

### **Members' liability**

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

### **Trustees' indemnities**

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the premium for the period ended 31 August 2023 was included within the overall insurance premium.

### **Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees**

The members and trustees of the Trust are set out on page 1.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT** (continued)

### **Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees** (continued)

Trustees have been recruited through a mixture of personal and professional networks and schools within the local community. When appointing and recruiting trustees, regard is given to the skills mix and backgrounds of the existing members and potential new members so as to ensure that the Board of Trustees, its committees and local governing bodies have all the necessary skills required to carry out their roles and contribute fully to the Trust's development.

### **Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees**

All new trustees are recruited on their ability to play an active part in the governance of the AP Barnet Multi-Academy Trust. On their appointment, trustees are taken through an induction process which involves signposting to key documentation and assessment of skills, supported by training sessions run by the Trust, the London Borough of Barnet and other external providers. The Board of Trustees meet at least once per term and steer the strategic aims of the Trust.

### **Organisational structure**

The aim of the management structure is to delegate responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Executive Headteacher, as the Chief Executive Officer and the Accounting Officer, is directly responsible for the day to day running of the Trust. She was assisted by the Headteacher of Oak Hill School. The Executive Headteacher stood down as the Accounting Officer on 11.10.22. With effect from 12.10.22 the Headteacher of Oak Hill School is the Accounting Officer.

The Executive Headteacher and Head of Oak Hill School implement the policies agreed by the Board of Trustees, supporting the school in the Trust and providing evidence, reports and data analysis to trustees to enable them to monitor effectively the performance of the Trust and its school.

The Head of Oak Hill School has delegated responsibility for the day-to-day running of the school and the implementation of the policies of the Trust and is responsible for the internal organisation, management and control of the school and for the direction of teaching and the curriculum. The Head of Oak Hill School was accountable to the Executive Headteacher during the year.

AP Barnet has no subsidiaries.

### **Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel**

The Board of Trustees and the Resources and Risk Committee ultimately approve pay scales for all key management personnel including the Executive Headteacher and the Head of School.

The rate of pay for the Executive Headteacher has been set following a benchmarking exercise of comparable academy trusts. The School Teachers Pay and Conditions have been used to set the pay range for the Head of Oak Hill School.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT** (continued)

### **Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel** (continued)

The performance of all key management personnel is assessed under the performance management framework. The Chair of Trustees completes an annual assessment of the Executive Headteacher and the Executive Headteacher assesses the Head of Oak Hill School performance alongside the Chair of Trustees. All pay decisions are approved by the Board of Trustees.

### **Trade Union Facility Time**

The Trust has nothing to disclose in respect of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017.

### **Connected organisations, including related party relationships**

The Trust works with the Department of Education and the ESFA and maintains links with Barnet Local Authority. It also has strong links with other Local Authorities which commission the services of Oak Hill School.

The Trust has strong links with secondary schools and primary schools in the areas it operates in and also participates in local school partnerships. The Trust works closely with the two pupil referral units in Barnet – Northgate and The Pavilion.

The Executive Headteacher is also the Headteacher of The Pavilion Study Centre. This arrangement in relation to the Executive Head is an interim measure and subject to annual review pending expansion of the Academy Trust (see note 8 for further detail).

### **Covid-19**

There were no closures or adaptations to the running of the school which were linked to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic throughout the 2022-23 academic year. However, the intake of Year 7 pupils had missed a considerable chunk of their primary education and settling into secondary school was challenging due to the gaps in their academic and social progression on account of the time spent away from face-to-face teaching.

There was one staff absence due to coronavirus in 2022-23 academic year.

### **Public benefit**

In setting the Trust's objectives and planning its activities, the Board of Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's objectives and aims and in planning future activities. The trustees consider that the Trust's aims are demonstrably to the public benefit.

## **STRATEGIC REPORT**

### **Objectives and aims**

AP Barnet provides alternative provision across Barnet and beyond for young people unable to remain in mainstream education for a wide range of reasons, predominantly social, emotional and mental health challenges.

AP Barnet is dedicated, goal driven and unique with a growing reputation for high standards of social and emotional development, academic achievement, teaching and integrity.

The aims of the Trust are:

- ◆ To build a Multi Academy Trust with high performing educational outcomes for pupils with SEND, specifically SEMH, that provides educational excellence, social mobility and community development, with a capacity for growth
- ◆ Ensure the learning journey for all students is 'outstanding' and provides positive pathways for the future
- ◆ To develop a challenging curriculum that inspires all students to achieve regardless of need, and enhances progression through the key stages
- ◆ To build an effective partnership that shares resources to improve educational outcomes of young people
- ◆ To recruit, retain and support high quality educational staff, sharing of good practice between schools and develop an efficient and sustainable corporate training and performance system, which ensures capacity for improvement and succession planning, in accordance with the Strategic Development Plan priorities and which effectively tackles underperformance.
- ◆ To develop effective and efficient corporate support systems across the organisation providing value for money and clarity of accountability at all levels
- ◆ To meet the aspirations and ambitions of a diverse and dynamic community
- ◆ To actively engage parents/carers and families to engage in the school community and work in partnership with AP Barnet to ensure positive outcomes for all

The Trust will value the individual ethos and traditions of each provision and will not aim to impose uniformity although high expectations and standards in behaviour and learning are at the core of all.

The Trust believes that school-to-school support, sharing good practice, is the best way to raise standards and improve outcomes.

The Trust has a commitment to inclusion and support for local schools and provides training and professional development opportunities for all.

**STRATEGIC REPORT** (continued)

**Oak Hill School**

Oak Hill School remains the first and only academy within the Trust. Oak Hill School has grown from strength to strength, providing an innovative and progressive education for young people aged between Year 7 and Year 11 with complex social, emotional and mental health needs. There are currently 51 pupils on roll. Plans to expand the provision at Oak Hill School are underway with the commissioning of 57 places from the ESFA from 1 September 2023.

The school continues to focus on driving up standards within teaching and learning, ensuring that all young people have access to an appropriate curriculum and make good or outstanding progress in all areas including academic, social and emotional.

**Achievements and performance**

***Year 11 Student Outcomes and Destinations***

GCSE Maths	GCSE English	GCSE Art	GCSE Biology	BTEC Construction Level 1
3, 2, 2 (3)	No Entries	No Entries	No Entries	Pass, Pass Pass, Pass (4)
Functional Skills English Level 1	F/S Eng Level 2	F/S Maths Level 1	F/S Maths Level 2	Catering BTEC Level 1
Passes x 8 (10))	Pass, Pass Pass, Pass (4)	Pass, Pass Pass, Pass (5)	No Entries	Pass (1)
Catering BTEC Level 2	ICT Entry Level 1/2	ICT Entry Level 3	Maths Entry Level 1/2	Maths Entry Level 3
Pass, Pass (2)	Pass x 19 (20)	Pass x 9 (10)	Pass, Pass, Pass (3)	Pass, Pass (2)
Science Entry Level Certificate				
Pass x 7 (7)				

◆ Total number of pupils entered per qualification in brackets

	Maths		English	
	Non FSM	FSM	FSM	Non FSM
Exceptional	0	0	5%	0
Exceeding	21	5	15%	14%
Expected	58%	70%	55%	56%
Below	21%	25%	25%	30%



**STRATEGIC REPORT** (continued)

**Achievements and performance** (continued)

***Year 11 Student Outcomes and Destinations*** (continued)

<b>Pupil</b>	<b>Qualifications</b>	<b>Destination</b>
A	Level 1 Diploma in Plumbing	Barnet Southgate College
B	Foundation Studies in IT and Business	Barnet Southgate College
C	Diploma in sports and IT	Barnet Southgate College
D	Level 1 Diploma in Electrical Installation	Barnet Southgate College
E	Level 2 UAL Diploma in Creative Media	Barnet Southgate College
F	Level 2 Diploma in Creative media	Barnet Southgate College
G	Level 2 Extended Certificate in ICT	Barnet Southgate College
H	Level 1 Diploma in Electrical Installation	Barnet Southgate College
I	Level 1 Diploma in Construction	Barnet Southgate College
J		

***Pupil Progress***

The majority of pupils made expected progress across the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science.

Notwithstanding the fact that the majority of pupils on roll have reading ages which are significantly below average, most made expected progress. Ten pupils made exceptional progress..

Due to their below average academic abilities when starting at Oak Hill, the majority of Year 11 pupils were not able to take GCSEs, but most passed Functional Skills qualifications and all but one are currently enrolled in FE education.

## **STRATEGIC REPORT** (continued)

### **Achievements and performance** (continued)

#### **Attendance:**

Overall school attendance averages 80% across the year. Overall average attendance fell by more than 5% per pupil in the first half of the Easter term. This was primarily due to many pupils being off due to illness but also due to the marked increase in the number of pupils who have been placed on adapted timetables due to serious and persistent SEMH concerns, the high number of new pupils who have been deemed unable to manage a whole day in school and the inability of the LA to find alternative provisions for pupils whose placements have either broken down or are being disputed by parents/carers.

19/50 or 38% of pupils have very complex profiles, are mostly subject to adapted timetables due to their SEMH needs and in most cases, joined after Year 7. It is also noteworthy that the vast majority are in KS4. This significantly increases the risk of criminal involvement at a time when significant cuts to outside engagements services have been made.

All other pupils have acceptable levels of attendance and are on full timetables. We continue to have fortnightly EWO on site visits.

The above makes it problematic to present a favourable picture of the effectiveness of our efforts to improve attendance since in most cases above, the significant determinant in deteriorating attendance is out of our hands and we are dependent on families' ability to access or engage with additional external professional support.

#### **Safeguarding and Welfare**

Our safeguarding remains strong and we have grown our number of on-site Level 3 safeguarding trained staff to 6.

There has been a marked increase in the number of students with active social care involvement due to either experiencing abuse or being at risk of abuse outside of school. There is also an increase in number of pupils requiring free school meals which now stands at 58% or 29/50 pupils.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The majority of the Trust's income is obtained from the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

The Trust's total income for the year was £2,000,000 (2022: £1,766,000), and total expenditure for the year was £1,858,000 (2022: £1,716,000). This led to an in-year surplus of £142,000 (2022: surplus of £50,000). Taking into account the actuarial loss of £10,000 (2022: gain of £451,000) there was a positive net movement in funds for the year of £132,000 (2022: positive net movement in funds of £501,000).

The total funds carried forward balance at 31 August 2023 are in surplus by £563,000 (2022: surplus funds of £431,000).

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW** (continued)

### **Financial position and reserves policy**

The trustees review the free reserves of the Trust annually. The review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure stream, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of the reserves. The trustees have determined that the level of free reserves held is adequate for the Trust's needs. The objective is to hold a minimum reserves of £100,000 to £120,000 (in order to cover staff costs for one month).

The Trust held free reserves at 31 August 2023 of £452,000 (2022: £357,000) consisting of restricted general reserves (excluding the pension reserve) of £406,000 and unrestricted general reserves of £46,000. The Trust has exceeded its target level of reserves which is deemed appropriate in the short term given the uncertainty as a result of budgetary constraints.

The Trust is in the process of developing a three-year plan to expend excess free reserves on areas including ICT, curriculum and therapy. This plan had been delayed due to the pandemic but during the year 2022-2023 pupils benefited from the following:

- Music Therapy provided by Resources for Autism once a week
- Expanded enrichment curriculum including increased frequency of boxing lessons and resumption of annual residential camping trip, as well as trips run by the English and Science departments.
- Installation of educational vinyl wall wrappings throughout the building providing a more stimulating and interesting environment.
- Continued replacement of and upgrading of IT hardware to ensure pupils and staff can carry out their work more efficiently.
- Replacement of outdated fitness equipment as and when necessary for use by pupils and staff
- Buy into alternative provisions offering vocational courses off-site. These will offer motor mechanics, construction skills and computing in 2023-24 academic year.

The Trust had a tangible fixed asset reserve of £127,000 (2022: £89,000) which consists of the Trust's capitalised assets as at 31 August 2023.

The Trust also has a negative pension reserve of £16,000 (2022: £15,000), equal to the value of its liability in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme. This disclosure does not mean that the liability is already committed and the funds are no longer available to the trustees to further the School's objectives. Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, in the event of an academy closure, outstanding Local Government Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013. In the short term, the cash flow impact of having a pension scheme liability is that employer contributions may increase in order to reduce the liability.

### **Investment policy**

The Trust's liquid assets are held in the form of cash balances. The Trust does not invest these cash balances in longer terms deposits or other investment vehicles. Should it wish to do so in the future, the trustees will consider a recommendation by the Trust's executive officers.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW** (continued)

### **Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries including consideration of the impact of the current high cost inflation, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the 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 adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the principal accounting policies on pages 31 to 35.

## **PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES**

### *1. Government funding*

AP Barnet has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA and Top Up Funding from Local Authorities and this level of requirement is expected to continue. There can be no assurance that National or Local Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms. This risk will be mitigated in a number of ways:

- ◆ Funding is derived through a number of direct and indirect contractual agreements;
- ◆ By ensuring the academy in AP Barnet is rigorous in delivering high quality education and training;
- ◆ Considerable focus and investment is placed on maintaining and managing key relationships with the EFA and local government.

### *2. Reputation and impact*

The continuing success of AP Barnet, in particular Oak Hill School, is dependent on attracting admissions in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk:

- ◆ Trustees ensure that student success and achievement are closely monitored, reviewed and published.
- ◆ The Executive Headteacher and Head of School continue to market AP Barnet and Oak Hill School to a variety of key stakeholders including Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and the LA Inclusion Team/SEND.

### *3. Staffing*

The success of AP Barnet is reliant on the quality of its staff (as well as the numbers) and so the trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning.

### *4. Expansion of AP Barnet*

The expansion of AP Barnet is dependent on the academisation of two additional schools. Currently the factors relating to this are not within the control of AP Barnet.

## **PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES** (continued)

### *5. Estate Management*

To enable the school to open to pupils on a daily basis, and for all stakeholders to occupy the building safely, the premises must be in a state of good repair and compliant with all H&S regulations. A full H&S and Fire Risk inspection is carried out on an annual basis by HR Solutions, who are licensed to carry out the required checks. The full report is forwarded to Trustees and the Headteacher and SBM ensure that any remedial works are carried out. AP Barnet is a member of RPA insurance. A Premises Management Policy is in place, reviewed annual in line with government and local authority guidance, and H&S regulations. The school building was inspected by a local contractor who was able to confirm that there was no Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC).

## **FUNDRAISING**

The Academy Trust does not actively solicit donations and therefore is not registered with the Fundraising Regulator and does not subscribe to any fundraising codes of practice. When donations from individuals are received, the Academy Trust aims to protect personal data and to never sell data or swap data with other organisations. During 2022-23, AP Barnet received no complaints about fundraising activities.

## **PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIOD**

There are plans for a small staffing restructure in order to support an expansion of the school. The first stage of this will take place in January 2024, when our new Deputy Head will join the school. This is a new post. We will also be increasing our staffing numbers – three teachers and two classroom learning support roles. There are plans for the number of pupils on roll to increase from 51 (current) to 57, in order to provide educational placements for a cohort of highly anxious pupils. These pupils will be educated in a separate, self-contained part of the building which was refurbished for this purpose.

## **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.

Trustees' report was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, and signed on its behalf by:



Nick Christou

Trustee

Date: 08 December 2023

## Governance statement 31 August 2023

AP Barnet Multi-Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity; the formal governance arrangements for the Trust are set out in its Articles of Association.

The following persons were in office for the year ended 31 August 2023 inclusive and until the approval of the accounts (or part of that period):

<b>Members</b>	<b>Appointed/Resigned</b>
Robin Archibald Andy Stainton Violet Walker	

<b>Trustees</b>	<b>Appointed/Resigned</b>
Robin Archibald	Resigned 30.06.2023
Nick Christou	
Joanne Kelly	
Rayna Paw	Appointed 27.06.2023
Rhona Povey	
Lynda Walker	
Barley Birney	
Marina Costa	Resigned 30.06.2023

The members of the Trust are the subscribers to the Memorandum of Association – the people who established the Trust – and any other individuals appointed by the members. The members have an overview of the governance arrangements of the Trust and may amend the Trust's Articles of Association. The members appoint trustees and may remove trustees.

### The Board of Trustees

The members have delegated all their powers and duties, apart from those specified above, to the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees consists of trustees appointed by the members plus the Executive Headteacher, as long as she remains in office. The trustees may in addition appoint co-opted trustees.

The Board of Trustees retains responsibility for:

- ◆ Formal accountability for the statutory functions of the Trust and for the operation and performance of all schools in the Trust.
- ◆ Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the Trust as a whole.
- ◆ Approving the Trust budget and the annual report and financial statements of the Trust and ratifying the annual budget of each school within the Trust.
- ◆ Oversight of the financial and educational performance of the schools in the Trust.
- ◆ Holding the Executive Headteacher to account for the financial and educational performance of the Trust as a whole.

**The Board of Trustees** (continued)

- ◆ Agreeing Trust policies and procedures and ratifying school policies and procedures as required to ensure that the Trust fulfils its statutory responsibilities and the oversight, monitoring and review of the implementation of those policies.

The Board of Trustees can delegate powers and functions other than those above to committees but retains legal accountability for any decisions taken. The Board of Trustees will not get involved in the day-to-day running of the Trust or its schools.

**Trust Committees**

Resource and Risk Committee – This Committee meets at least three times per year and is responsible for finance, risk, personnel issues, and matters relating to the buildings and site of Oak Hill School. The Committee reviews the annual budget; approves the programme of internal assurance; receives the annual report of the auditors; informs the Trust’s governance statement and makes recommendations to the Board regarding all of the above (including in particular audit and risk).

Educational Standards Committee – This meets at least three times per year and its key responsibility is to ensure sound management of the school’s academic life, including the monitoring and evaluation of pupil achievement and the quality of teaching, ensuring the school provides a high-quality learning experience and delivers a broad and balanced curriculum in keeping with the school’s aims, all pupil needs and legal requirements.

**Delegation to Trust Executive officers**

The Board of Trustees delegated to the Executive Headteacher (CEO) responsibility for delivery of the Trust’s strategy and for the implementation of the policies of the Trust, and for the day-to-day running, internal organisation, management and control of central Trust services. The Executive Headteacher was responsible for the performance management of the Trust executive and the Headteacher of Oak Hill School.

The Board of trustees delegated to the Headteacher of Oak Hill School the responsibility for the day-to-day running of the school, including the internal organisation, management and control of the school and the direction of teaching and the curriculum, and for the implementation of the policies of the Trust.

### **Meeting attendance**

The Board of Trustees formally met 3 times during the period. Attendance during the period at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a possible</b>
R Archibald	3	3
N Christou	2	3
K Grant	3	3
J Kelly	2	3
L Walker	2	3
R Povey	2	3
B Birney	3	3
M Costa	0	3

The Board maintains effective oversight over the Trust's finances by meeting 3 times per year and reviewing the reports of its dedicated Resources and Risk Committee which also formally meets 3 times during the year. Attendance at the sub-committee was as follows:

<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a possible</b>
R Archibald	3	3
N Baker	3	3
K Grant	3	3
J Kelly	3	3
N Christou	3	3
L Walker	1	3

### **Conflicts of interest**

An up to date and complete register of business and pecuniary interests is held by AP Barnet and Trustees have a personal responsibility to update this regularly on Governor Hub. Trust governance and the register of interests is regularly reviewed by Trustees to ensure that any conflicts of interest are managed in line with ATH requirements.

### **Scope of responsibility**

As trustees, we acknowledge our overall responsibility for ensuring that AP Barnet Multi-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 Executive Headteacher, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between the Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The Executive Headteacher is also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control. With effect from 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022, the Head of Oak Hill School is the Accounting Officer for AP Barnet.



### **Review of value for money**

As Accounting Officer, the Executive Headteacher has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, 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 period, and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use on benchmarking data where available. The Accounting Officer for the Academy Trust has delivered and improved value for money during the period by:

- ◆ Negotiation of new lease for the minibus – delivery delayed until 2024 because of low stock
- ◆ Continue to ensure all funding is received – OLAs invoiced at the beginning of each term and payments followed up, Barnet funding monitored on a monthly basis and final reconciliation done at end of year
- ◆ Completion of the installation of new secure doors, involving the installation of the final four doors on the ground floor, which will better protect the security system and keep pupils safe.
- ◆ Replacement of any broken windows with stronger safety glass.
- ◆ Cover supervisor continues to ensure staff absence can be managed in house – savings on supply staff for sickness absence.
- ◆ HR Solutions, third party contractor, provides year round H&S advice and guidance, and carries out an annual full H&S inspection and Fire Risk Assessment. AP Barnet buys into RPA Insurance.

In response to the Policy Procurement Notices published by government earlier this year the Trust continued to pay its teaching and support staff supply agencies and its cleaning company during the lockdown period.

There were no instances where the pandemic affected value for money negatively in the procurement of goods or services.

### **The purpose of the system of internal control**

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

**Capacity to handle risk**

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

**The risk and control framework**

The Board of Trustees are satisfied that they have a plan in place to improve processes and controls to ensure compliance with the standards expected under the Academies Financial Handbook and internal policies to improve the achievement of value for money.

The framework for risk and control includes the following:

- ◆ 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 Resources and Risk Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- ◆ setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- ◆ Identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, for the year ended 31 August 2022 Landau Baker Chartered Accountants performed an internal scrutiny review of financial monitoring and management. The results of the review have been reported to the Board of Trustees.

**Review of effectiveness**

As Accounting Officer, the Executive Headteacher has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the period in question, the review has been informed by:

- ◆ the work of the external auditor;
- ◆ the additional assurance work carried out by a trustee;
- ◆ the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- ◆ the work of the senior management team within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

**Governance statement** 31 August 2023

**Review of effectiveness** (continued)

The Accounting Officer has advised the Board of the implications of her review of the system of internal control and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the Board of trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Nick Christou  
(Chair of Trustees)



Kevin Grant  
(Accounting Officer)

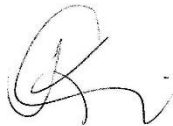
Approved on: 08 December 2023:

**Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance** 31 August 2023

As Accounting Officer of AP Barnet Multi-Academy Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the trustees of the Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with ESFA terms and conditions of funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Grant', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Kevin Grant  
Accounting Officer

Date: 08 December 2023

## Statement of Trustees' responsibilities 31 August 2023

The trustees (who are also the directors of the Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the Annual Accounts Requirements issued 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 Trust and of 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 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- ◆ make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards (FRS 102) 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 Trust will continue in operation.

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

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

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the Trust'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 08 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Nick Christou  
Chair of Board of Trustees of the Trust

**Independent auditor's report to the members of AP Barnet**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of AP Barnet (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, 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), Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (the Charities SORP 2019) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.

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 income and expenditure, for the period then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.

**Basis for opinion**

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

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

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

**Conclusions relating to going concern** (continued)

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 trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**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, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law and includes the strategic report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- ◆ the trustees' report, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law and includes the 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report including the 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

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception** (continued)

- ◆ certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- ◆ the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

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

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

- ◆ the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;



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

- ◆ we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charitable company through discussions with management, and from our knowledge of the academy trust sector;
- ◆ the identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit;
- ◆ we considered the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charitable company and determined that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019, the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, and the academy trust's funding agreement with the ESFA as well as legislation pertaining to safeguarding in the UK;
- ◆ we understood how the charitable company is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making inquiries to management and those responsible for legal, compliance and governance procedures. We corroborated our inquiries through our review of the minutes of trustees' meetings and papers provided to the trustees.
- ◆ we planned and carried out a separate limited assurance engagement in respect of regularity, propriety and compliance in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts issued by the ESFA, as set out in our separate independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ making enquiries of management and those charged with governance as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- ◆ considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- ◆ tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- ◆ tested the authorisation of expenditure as part of our substantive testing thereon;
- ◆ assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in the accounting policies were indicative of potential bias; and
- ◆ used data analytics to identify any significant or unusual transactions and identify the rationale for them.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

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

- ◆ agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- ◆ reviewing the minutes of trustees' meetings;
- ◆ enquiring of management and those charged with governance as to actual and potential litigation and claims;
- ◆ reviewing any available correspondence with Ofsted, ESFA and HMRC; and
- ◆ the work undertaken in relation to the limited assurance engagement in respect of regularity, propriety and compliance in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts issued by the ESFA, as set out in our separate independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. International Standards on Auditing also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://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.



Shachi Blakemore (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
For and on behalf of Buzzacott LLP, Statutory Auditor  
130 Wood Street  
London  
EC2V 6DL

Date: 15 December 2023

**Independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity to AP Barnet Multi-Academy Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency**

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

**Respective responsibilities of AP Barnet Multi-Academy Trust's Accounting Officer and the reporting accountant**

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of AP Barnet Multi-Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academies Trust Handbook, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 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.

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.

**Approach** (continued)

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- ◆ An assessment of the risk of material irregularity and impropriety across all of the academy trust's activities;
- ◆ Further testing and review of the areas identified through the risk assessment including enquiry, identification of control processes and examination of supporting evidence across all areas identified as well as additional verification work where considered necessary; and
- ◆ Consideration of evidence obtained through the work detailed above and the work completed as part of our financial statements audit in order to support the regularity conclusion.

**Conclusion**

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



Buzzacott LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
130 Wood Street  
London  
EC2V 6DL

Date: 15 December 2023

## Statement of financial activities Year to 31 August 2023

	Notes	Un-restricted general fund £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Fixed assets fund £'000	<b>2023 Total funds £'000</b>	2022 Total funds £'000
<b>Income from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	1	—	—	20	<b>20</b>	23
. Funding for the Trust's educational operations	2	—	1,977	—	<b>1,977</b>	1,740
Other trading activities	3	3	—	—	<b>3</b>	3
<b>Total income</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>1,977</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>1,766</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities						
. Trust's educational operations	4	—	1,834	24	<b>1,858</b>	1,716
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>—</b>	<b>1,834</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1,858</b>	<b>1,716</b>
<b>Net income (expenditure)</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>50</b>
Transfers between funds		—	(42)	42	—	—
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension scheme	14	—	(10)	—	<b>(10)</b>	451
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>501</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Funds brought forward		43	299	89	<b>431</b>	(70)
<b>Funds carried forward</b>		<b>46</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>431</b>

All gains and losses are included in the statement of financial activities.

**Balance sheet** 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 £'000	2023 £'000	2022 £'000	2022 £'000
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	11		127		89
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	12	44		43	
Cash at bank and in hand		543		513	
		<b>587</b>		<b>556</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(135)		(199)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<b>452</b>		<b>357</b>
<b>Net assets excluding pension scheme liability</b>					
			<b>579</b>		<b>446</b>
Pension scheme liability	18		(16)		(15)
<b>Total net assets (liabilities)</b>			<b>563</b>		<b>431</b>
<b>Funds of the Trust</b>					
Restricted funds					
. Fixed asset fund	14		127		89
. Restricted income	14		406		314
. Pension reserve	18		(16)		(15)
			<b>517</b>		<b>388</b>
Unrestricted funds					
. General fund	14		46		43
<b>Total funds</b>			<b>563</b>		<b>431</b>

The financial statements on pages 27 to 48 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 08 December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:



Nick Christou

Trustee

AP Barnet Multi-Academy Trust  
Company Limited by Guarantee  
Registration Number: 10711125 (England and Wales)

## Statement of cash flows Year to 31 August 2023

		<b>2023</b> <b>£'000</b>	2022 £'000
<b>Net cash inflow from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	A	72	175
<b>Cash flows used in investing activities</b>			
	B	(42)	(50)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds:</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		513	388
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>513</b>

### A Reconciliation of income to net cash flow from operating activities

		<b>2023</b> <b>£'000</b>	2022 £'000
<b>Net income for the year (as per the statement of financial activities)</b>			
		142	50
<b>Adjusted for:</b>			
Depreciation		24	13
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(20)	(8)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 18)		(9)	59
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost		—	7
(Increase) in debtors		(1)	(10)
Decrease in creditors		(64)	64
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>		<b>72</b>	<b>175</b>

### B Cash flows from investing activities

		<b>2023</b> <b>£</b>	2022 £
<b>Purchase of tangible fixed assets</b>			
		(62)	(58)
<b>Capital grants from DfE/ESFA</b>			
		20	8
<b>Net cash (used in) investing activities</b>		<b>(42)</b>	<b>(50)</b>

### C Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

		<b>2023</b> <b>£</b>	2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand		543	513

**Statement of cash flows** Year to 31 August 2023

**D Analysis of changes in net debt**

	At 1 September 2022 £'000	Cash flows £'000	At 31 August 2023 £'000
Cash	513	30	<b>543</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>543</b>



## **Principal accounting policies** Year to 31 August 2023

### **Statement of accounting policies**

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

### **Basis of preparation**

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

The financial statements are presented in sterling to the nearest thousand pounds.

### **Going concern**

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

### **Income**

All income is 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.

The General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

**Income** (continued)

**Grants** (continued)

## **Principal accounting policies** Year to 31 August 2023

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

### ***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.

### **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.

### ***Expenditure on raising funds***

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

### ***Charitable activities***

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

All expenditure is stated net of recoverable VAT.

### **Tangible fixed assets**

Assets costing £2,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

### **Tangible fixed assets (continued)**

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. The related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the Trust's depreciation policy.

## Principal accounting policies Year to 31 August 2023

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

Leasehold buildings	Over 50 years
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Over 7 years
Plant and machinery	Over 5 years
Computer equipment and software	Over 5 years
Motor vehicles	Over 5 years.

Depreciation is charged from the month of acquisition.

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.

### 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.

### Leased assets

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

### Financial instruments

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

#### Financial instruments (continued)

*Financial assets* – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 12. 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.

## **Principal accounting policies** Year to 31 August 2023

### **Taxation**

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

### **Pensions benefits**

Retirement benefits to employees of the academy trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. The TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

### **Pensions benefits (continued)**

The LGPS is a funded 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 operating surplus 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 is also recognised in the statement of financial activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

### **Fund accounting**

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

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

## **Principal accounting policies** Year to 31 August 2023

Restricted ESFA funds comprise all other grants received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Restricted other funds comprise all other restricted funds received and include grants from the Local Authority, London Borough of Barnet.

### **Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement**

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

### ***Critical accounting estimates and assumptions***

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

### **Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement (continued)**

### ***Critical accounting estimates and assumptions (continued)***

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 18, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2016 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.

## 1 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted fixed assets funds £'000	<b>2023 Total Funds £'000</b>
Capital grants	—	20	<b>20</b>
	—	20	<b>20</b>

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted fixed assets funds £'000	2022 Total Funds £'000
Capital grants	—	6	6
Donated fixed assets	—	2	2
Other donations	15	—	15
	15	8	23

## 2 Funding for academy's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	<b>2023 Total Funds £'000</b>
<b>DfE / ESFA grants</b>			
. General Annual Grant (GAG)	—	470	<b>470</b>
<b>Other DfE / ESFA grants</b>			
. Pupil Premium	—	31	<b>31</b>
. Others	—	26	<b>26</b>
	—	527	<b>527</b>
<b>Other government grants</b>			
. Local Authority grants	—	1,447	<b>1,447</b>
	—	1,447	<b>1,447</b>
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	—	3	<b>3</b>
	—	1,977	<b>1,977</b>

**2 Funding for academy's educational operations (continued)**

	<i>Unrestricted funds £'000</i>	<i>Restricted funds £'000</i>	<i>2022 Total Funds £'000</i>
<i>DfE / ESFA grants</i>			
. <i>General Annual Grant (GAG)</i>	—	400	400
. <i>Pupil Premium</i>	—	33	33
	—	433	433
<i>Other government grants</i>			
. <i>Local Authority grants</i>	—	1,304	1,304
	—	1,304	1,304
<i>Other income from the academy trust's educational operations</i>	—	3	3
	—	1,740	1,740

**3 Other trading activities**

	<i>Unrestricted funds £'000</i>	<i>Restricted funds £'000</i>	<b>2023 Total Funds £'000</b>
Catering income staff	1	—	1
Income from other charitable activities	2	—	2
	3	—	3

	<i>Unrestricted funds £'000</i>	<i>Restricted funds £'000</i>	<i>2022 Total Funds £'000</i>
<i>Catering income staff</i>	1	—	1
<i>Income from other charitable activities</i>	2	—	2
	3	—	3

**4 Expenditure**

		<i>Non pay expenditure</i>		<b>2023 Total Funds £'000</b>
	<i>Staff costs £'000</i>	<i>Premises £'000</i>	<i>Other costs £'000</i>	
Charitable activities				
. Academy educational operations				
.. Direct costs	936	24	92	1,052
.. Allocated support costs	519	163	124	806
	1,455	187	216	1,858

**Notes to the financial statements** Year to 31 August 2023

**4 Expenditure (continued)**

	Staff costs £'000	Non pay expenditure		2022 Total Funds £'000
		Premises £'000	Other costs £'000	
<i>Charitable activities</i>				
<i>. Academy educational operations</i>				
<i>.. Direct costs</i>	849	13	95	957
<i>.. Allocated support costs</i>	504	135	120	759
	<b>1,353</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>1,716</b>

	2023 Total Funds £'000	2022 Total Funds £'000
<b>Net income (expenditure) for the year include:</b>		
Operating leases	5	11
Depreciation	24	13
Fees payable to auditor		
. Audit of financial statements	11	9
. Other services	7	6

**5 Charitable activities – Trust's educational operations**

	2023 Total Funds £'000	2022 Total Funds £'000
Direct costs	1,052	957
Support costs (see below)	806	759
	<b>1,858</b>	<b>1,716</b>

	2023 Total Funds £'000	2022 Total Funds £'000
<b>Analysis of support costs</b>		
Support staff costs	519	504
Technology costs	11	9
Premises costs (excluding depreciation)	163	135
Other support costs	58	61
Governance costs	55	50
<b>Total support costs</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>759</b>



## 6 Staff

### (a) Staff costs

Staff costs during the period were:

	<b>2023 Total Funds £'000</b>	2022 Total Funds £'000
Wages and salaries	<b>906</b>	750
Social security costs	<b>88</b>	79
Pension costs	<b>173</b>	212
	<b>1,167</b>	1,041
Supply teacher costs	<b>288</b>	312
	<b>1,455</b>	1,353

### (b) Staff numbers

The average number of persons (including the senior management team) employed by the Academy Trust during the period ended 31 August was as follows:

<b>Charitable activities</b>	<b>2023 No.</b>	2022 No.
Teachers	<b>9</b>	8
Administration and support	<b>14</b>	14
Management	<b>3</b>	4
	<b>26</b>	26

### (c) Higher paid staff

There were two employees who earned over £60,000 in the year. Their salary was between £60,001 - £70,000 (2022: one employee earned over £60,000).

### (d) Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the trustees and the Senior Leadership Team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employee pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £164,998 (2022: £155,703).

## 7 Comparative statement of financial activities

	Notes	Un-restricted general fund £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Fixed assets fund £'000	2022 Total funds £'000
<i>Income from:</i>					
Donations and capital grants	1	15	—	8	23
. Funding for the Trust's educational operations	2	—	1,740	—	1,740
Other trading activities	3	3	—	—	3
<b>Total income</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>1,740</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1,766</b>
<i>Expenditure on:</i>					
<i>Charitable activities</i>					
. Trust's educational operations	4	—	1,703	13	1,716
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>—</b>	<b>1,703</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1,716</b>
<b>Net income (expenditure)</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>50</b>
<i>Transfers between funds</i>		—	(50)	50	—
<i>Other recognised gains and losses</i>					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension scheme	14	—	451	—	451
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>501</b>
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>					
Funds brought forward		25	(139)	44	(70)
<b>Funds carried forward</b>		<b>43</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>431</b>

## 8 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

The Chief Executive only receives remuneration in respect of services she provides undertaking the role of Chief Executive and not in respect of her services as a trustee. Other trustees did not receive any payments from the Academy Trust in respect of their role as trustees. The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits whilst in office was as follows:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Joanne Kelly, Chief Executive Officer and trustee		
. Remuneration	15 – 20	15 – 20
. Employer's pension contributions	0 – 5	0 – 5

During the period to 31 August 2023, no travel and subsistence expenses were reimbursed to trustees (2022: £nil).

Joanne Kelly is employed as the Headteacher of The Pavilion School and provides services to the Trust as Chief Executive. The Pavilion School pays Joanne Kelly's salary and benefits and subsequently invoices the Trust for her time undertaking the role of Chief Executive. This arrangement is an interim measure and subject to annual review pending expansion of the Academy Trust. These amounts meet the definition of related party transactions and totalled £19,950 in respect of the year ended 31 August 2023 (2022: £19,500), of which £4,156 was unpaid as at 31 August 2023 (2022: £54,845).

Other related party transactions are set out in note 19.

## 9 Trustees' and Officers' insurance

The Academy Trust has opted into the Department for Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the trustees' and officers' indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

## 10 Central services

As there was only one school within the Trust during the period. Thus no central services were provided and no central charges arose.

## 11 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £'000	Computer equipment £'000	<b>Total funds £'000</b>
<b>Cost/valuation</b>			
At 1 September 2022	68	44	<b>112</b>
Additions	48	14	<b>62</b>
At 31 August 2023	<u>116</u>	<u>58</u>	<u><b>174</b></u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 September 2022	7	16	<b>23</b>
Charge in year	13	11	<b>24</b>
At 31 August 2023	<u>20</u>	<u>27</u>	<u><b>47</b></u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 August 2023	<u><b>96</b></u>	<u><b>31</b></u>	<u><b>127</b></u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>61</u>	<u>28</u>	<u><b>89</b></u>

### ***Land and school buildings***

The school buildings and the land on which they are situated were occupied by the Trust under a tenancy at will arrangement at 31 August 2023 with the London Borough of Barnet. The tenancy at will agreement is technically terminable at any time by either party and hence means that the Trust did not exercise legal control over the assets or the benefits flowing from them at 31 August 2023. The value of these have not been included on the balance sheet in these financial statements.

## 12 Debtors

	<b>2023 £'000</b>	2022 £'000
VAT recoverable	<b>13</b>	9
Prepayments and accrued income	<b>31</b>	34
	<u><b>44</b></u>	<u>43</u>

### 13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Trade creditors	41	53
Taxation and social security	41	38
Accruals	53	108
	<b>135</b>	<b>199</b>
<b>Deferred income</b>		
Deferred income at 1 September	—	11
Amounts released from previous periods	—	(11)
Resources deferred in the year	—	—
Deferred income at 31 August	—	—

### 14 Funds

	At 1 September 2022 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	At 31 August 2023 £'000
<b>Restricted general fund</b>					
. General Annual Grant (GAG)	310	470	(336)	(42)	402
. Pupil premium	—	31	(31)	—	—
. Catch-up premium	4	—	—	—	4
. Other grants	—	1,476	(1,476)	—	—
. Pension reserve	(15)	—	9	(10)	(16)
	<b>299</b>	<b>1,977</b>	<b>(1,834)</b>	<b>(52)</b>	<b>390</b>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
DfE/ESFA capital grants	34	20	(11)	—	43
Capital expenditure from GAG	55	—	(13)	42	84
	<b>89</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>(24)</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>1,997</b>	<b>(1,858)</b>	<b>(10)</b>	<b>517</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
. General funds	43	3	—	—	46
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>(1,858)</b>	<b>(10)</b>	<b>563</b>

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

#### **ESFA revenue grant fund and other restricted funds**

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.

Other funds relate to monies received for specific purposes such as pupil premium funding.

14 Funds (continued)

**Pension reserve**

The pension reserve relates to the local government pension scheme liability.

**Comparative information**

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period as follows:

	At 1 September 2021 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	At 31 August 2022 £'000
<i>Restricted general fund</i>					
. General Annual Grant (GAG)	257	400	(297)	(50)	310
. Pupil premium	—	33	(33)	—	—
. Catch-up premium	4	—	—	—	4
. Other grants	—	1,307	(1,307)	—	—
. Pension reserve	(400)	—	(66)	451	(15)
	<u>(139)</u>	<u>1,740</u>	<u>(1,703)</u>	<u>401</u>	<u>299</u>
<i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i>					
DfE/ESFA capital grants	28	8	(2)	—	34
Capital expenditure from GAG	16	—	(11)	50	55
	<u>44</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>(13)</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>89</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>(95)</u>	<u>1,748</u>	<u>(1,716)</u>	<u>451</u>	<u>388</u>
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
. General funds	25	18	—	—	43
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<u>25</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>43</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>(70)</u>	<u>1,766</u>	<u>(1,716)</u>	<u>451</u>	<u>431</u>

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Restricted fixed assets fund £'000	<b>Total 2023 £'000</b>
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	—	—	127	<b>127</b>
Current assets	46	541	—	<b>587</b>
Current liabilities	—	(135)	—	<b>(135)</b>
Pension scheme liability	—	(16)	—	<b>(16)</b>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>46</u>	<u>390</u>	<u>127</u>	<u><b>563</b></u>

**15 Analysis of net assets between funds** (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds £'000</i>	<i>Restricted general funds £'000</i>	<i>Restricted fixed assets fund £'000</i>	<i>Total 2022 £'000</i>
<i>Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:</i>				
<i>Tangible fixed assets</i>	—	—	89	89
<i>Current assets</i>	43	513	—	556
<i>Current liabilities</i>	—	(199)	—	(199)
<i>Pension scheme liability</i>	—	(15)	—	(15)
<i>Total net assets</i>	<u>43</u>	<u>299</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>431</u>

**16 Members' liability**

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

**17 Commitments under operating leases**

	<b>2023 £'000</b>	2022 £'000
Amounts due within one year	<b>5</b>	7
Amounts due between two and five years	<b>2</b>	7
	<u><b>7</b></u>	<u>14</u>

**18 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 the London Borough of Barnet pension fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

There were no contributions payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023.

***Teachers' Pension Scheme***

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

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

## 18 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% 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; and
- ◆ the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2023.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £73,000 (2022: £76,000).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pension Scheme 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 (LGPS)***

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £115,000 (2022: £95,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £91,000 (2022: £75,000) and employees' contributions totalled £24,000 (2022: £20,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are unknown pending valuation information.

**18 Pension and similar obligations** (continued)

**Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)** (continued)

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

<b>Principal Actuarial Assumptions</b>	<b>At 31 August 2023</b>	At 31 August 2022
Rate of increase in salaries	<b>4.0%</b>	3.75%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	<b>3.0%</b>	3.05%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	<b>5.2%</b>	4.25%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	<b>3.0%</b>	3.05%

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

	<b>At 31 August 2023</b>	At 31 August 2022
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	<b>19.4</b>	21.7
Females	<b>24.4</b>	24.3
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	<b>21.2</b>	23.1
Females	<b>25.9</b>	26.1

The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities are set out below, expressed as an approximate increase in the defined benefit obligation:

	<b>At 31 August 2023</b>	At 31 August 2022
	%	%
Discount rate -0.1%	<b>2%</b>	2%
Salary increase rate +0.1%	<b>0%</b>	4%
CPI rate +0.1%	<b>2%</b>	2%



**18 Pension and similar obligations** (continued)

**Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)** (continued)

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

	<b>Fair value at 31 August 2023 £'000</b>	Fair value at 31 August 2022 £'000
Equities	450	417
Bonds	213	145
Property	44	36
Cash and other liquid assets	29	6
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>605</b>
<b>Present value of scheme liabilities</b>		
Funded	(752)	(620)
<b>Deficit in the scheme</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>(15)</b>

<b>Amounts recognised in statement of financial activities</b>	<b>2023 £'000</b>	2022 £'000
Current service cost	82	134
Interest income	(28)	(10)
Interest cost	28	17
<b>Total amount recognised in the SOFA</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>141</b>

**Analysis of pension finance income/(costs)**

Expected return on pension scheme assets	(28)	—
Interest on pension liabilities	28	—
<b>Pension finance income/(costs)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

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

	<b>2023 £'000</b>	2022 £'000
At 1 September	620	956
Current service cost	82	134
Interest cost	28	17
Employee contributions	24	20
Actuarial loss	4	(492)
Benefits paid	(6)	(15)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>620</b>

**Changes in the present value of the Academy's share of scheme assets**

	<b>2023 £'000</b>	2022 £'000
At 1 September	605	556
Interest income	28	10
Actuarial (loss) gain	(6)	(41)
Employee contributions	91	20
Employer contributions	24	75
Benefits paid	(6)	(15)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>605</b>

**19 Related party transactions**

Owing to the nature of the Trust's operations and the composition of the Board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the board of trustees may have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

Details of related party transactions in the year are given in note 8 to the financial statements.

The Trust believes that it conducted these related party transactions in accordance with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and seeking to obtain their approval where required, and with their financial regulations and procurement procedures.