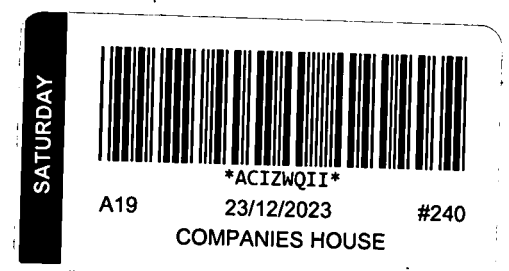


The Perins MAT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 31 August 2023

Company Registration Number:
07699705 (England and Wales)



The Perins MAT

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The Perins MAT

Reference and Administrative Details

Members of The Perins MAT

Ms Margaret Crowe

Ms Alison Mayne

Ms Susan Pakenham-Walsh (Resigned 13th January 2023)

Mrs Susan Rafter (Appointed 13th July 2023)

Ms Katy Toms

Bishop David Williams (Chair)

Trustees of The Perins MAT

Rev. Heather Brearey

Mr Jonathan Flory

Mr Richard Green (Resigned 20th October 2022)

Mr Charles Hammel

Mr James Howell

Mr Dominic Hubble

Mr Steve Jones (Executive Headteacher)

Mrs Marilyn Penman (Appointed 25th May 2023)

Mr Julian Roskill

Ms Katy Toms

Mrs Caroline Whiting (Appointed 13th July 2023)

Company Secretary

Ms Katie Gould

Senior Leadership Team

Mr S Jones, Executive Headteacher of The Perins MAT and Headteacher of Perins School

Mr M Nevola, Senior Deputy Headteacher of Perins School

Mr A Western, Deputy Headteacher of Perins School

Ms A Craig, Assistant Headteacher of Perins School

Mr A Papanicolaou, Assistant Headteacher of Perins School (resigned December 2022)

Mr C Rait, Assistant Headteacher of Perins School (from February 2023)

Mrs A Russell, Assistant Headteacher of Perins School

Ms M Pearce, Assistant Headteacher of Perins School

Mr W Locke, Assistant Headteacher of Perins School

Ms S Griffiths, Headteacher of Sun Hill Junior School

Ms M Woods, Deputy Headteacher

Mr C Surry, Chief Operations Officer of The Perins MAT

Ms R Abbott, PA to EHT & Human Resources Manager of The Perins MAT

Mr P Segal, Core Services Manager of The Perins MAT

The Perins MAT

Reference and Administrative Details

Company Name

The Perins MAT

Principal and Registered Office

Pound Hill

Alresford

Hampshire

SO24 9BS

Company Registration Number

07699705 (England and Wales)

Independent Auditor

Hopper Williams & Bell Limited

Statutory Auditor

Highland House

Mayflower Close

Chandlers Ford

Eastleigh

Hampshire

SO53 4AR

Bankers

Lloyds Bank Plc

16a High Street

Cosham

Portsmouth

Hampshire

PO6 3BY

Solicitors

Veale Wasbrough Vizards LLP

Orchard Court

Orchard Lane

Bristol

BS1 5WS

The Perins MAT

Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their Annual Report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year ended 31st August 2023. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' Report and a directors' report under company law.

The Perins Multi-Academy Trust (The MAT) was formed on 1st September 2017. Prior to that, Perins School had been a Standalone Academy Trust (SAT) since 2011 and Sun Hill Junior School had been a maintained school run by Hampshire County Council. The MAT operates two academy schools serving a catchment area in and around New Alresford, Hampshire: Perins School (Perins) is a secondary school for pupils aged 11-16 and Sun Hill Junior School (SHJS) is a junior school for pupils aged 7-11. In the school census on 1st October 2022, Perins had 1179 pupils on roll (with a net capacity assessment of 1075) and SHJS had 200 pupils on roll (with a net capacity assessment of 264).

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The MAT is a company limited by guarantee as defined by the Companies Act 2006 and an exempt charity. The Memorandum & Articles of Association and the Funding Agreements with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) are the primary governing documents of The MAT. The Trustees of The MAT are Charity Trustees for the charitable activities of The MAT and are also the Company Directors for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as The Perins Multi-Academy Trust.

Details of the Trustees who served on the Board of Trustees of The MAT during the year 2022-23, and to the date these accounts are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1 above.

Members' Liability

At the top of the structure of a multi-academy trust, there is a group of Members who have the power to appoint and remove the Trustees and to wind up The MAT. There are currently five Members of The Perins Multi-Academy Trust. Each Member 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

Under the ESFA Risk Protection Arrangements, the Trust has arrangements to protect Trustees, local advisors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business. This provides cover up to £10m on any one claim and any one membership year.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

Up to eight Trustees may be appointed by the Members. The Executive Headteacher (EHT) is appointed as a Trustee by the Members for as long as s/he remains in office as such. Trustees may also co-opt additional Trustees according to the skills and responsibilities required on the Trust Board. A co-opted Trustee means a person who is appointed to be a Trustee by being co-opted by Trustees who have not themselves been so appointed. The term of office for any Trustee is four years.

The Perins MAT

Trustees' Report

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

All new Trustees are given information such as the Memorandum & Articles of Association and the Funding Agreements with ESFA, as well as previous Trust Board Minutes, access to the Academies Financial Handbook (AFH) and the Governance Handbook, as well as links to MAT and school policies. New Trustees receive a tour of the schools and are introduced to the Executive Headteacher (EHT), the Headteachers and the School Leadership Team (SLT). There is a list of requirements to be fulfilled by the new Trustee with the help and cooperation of the Clerk. Training is offered through Hampshire Governor Services and within the schools, as well as access to online information sources and national associations.

Organisational Structure

The governance structure of The Perins Multi-Academy Trust is made up of a group of Members (currently, there are five Members, four of whom are independent) and a Trust Board (currently, there are ten Trustees including the Executive Headteacher). Under the terms of the Memorandum & Articles of Association, the Members delegate responsibility for managing the business of The Perins Multi-Academy Trust to the Trust Board. The Members meet at least twice a year, with an Annual General Meeting every Spring term; the Trust Board meets at least twice a term.

The Trust Board has three core responsibilities: to set the vision, ethos and strategic direction of The MAT; to hold the senior executive leadership accountable for the effective management of the schools; and to ensure the sound management of The MAT's finances. Each Trustee takes responsibility for a particular area where they have relevant knowledge or experience and reports regularly to the Trust Board on related matters, for example: Finance, Safeguarding and SEND.

The Trust Board is responsible for:

- monitoring and discussing the long-term strategic vision and direction of The MAT; reviewing the schools' annual priorities (particularly in relation to number on roll and progress) within the structure of a three-year development plan;
- determining curriculum policy and delivery; ensuring the best possible teaching and learning experience for all staff and students; maximising and monitoring the progress and attainment of all students; maintaining a broad curriculum and wide range of extra-curricular opportunities; maintaining effective pastoral and safeguarding measures; supporting policies for the well-being and effective performance management of staff; developing links to comparable MATs and schools; monitoring the development of appropriate policies and procedures; monitoring behaviour, attendance and exclusions; monitoring admissions; forming discipline and other panels as required by law; overseeing The MAT's relationships with stakeholders and external partners and promoting The MAT in the wider community; monitoring a programme of consultation and feedback; reviewing the security and effective management of data; ensuring methods of internal and external communication and development are professional, appropriate and supportive of The MAT's ethos and values;

The Perins MAT

Trustees' Report

Organisational Structure (continued)

- monitoring the management of The MAT's finances; reviewing the monthly accounts and budget forecasts and monitoring any variances; approving the annual three-year budget for submission to ESFA; reviewing financial procedures and delegations; benchmarking The MAT's financial performance; monitoring compliance with ESFA requirements; monitoring the implementation of the teaching and support staff pay policies; promoting effective and efficient procurement; ensuring the proper maintenance of the grounds and premises; reviewing new building proposals and grant applications; maximising funding opportunities.

Although the Trust Board is responsible and accountable for all major decision-making, it delegates certain tasks, within the framework of any relevant legislation, to the Executive Headteacher and to the various Trustee-led sub-committees as appropriate. At The Perins MAT during the financial year 2022/23, these Trustee-led sub-committees were:

- a Resources Committee – with five Trustee members. The other attendees are the HR Manager, the Chief Operations Officer and the Chief Financial Officer.
- a Student & Standards Committee (SSC) – with five Trustee members. The other attendees are the Executive Headteacher, the Deputy Headteacher of Perins School and the Headteacher of Sun Hill Junior School. Other members of the senior leadership team are invited to attend.
- an Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) – with three Trustee members; the Accounting Officer, the Chief Financial Officer, the Core Services Manager and the Chief Operations Officer are invited to attend;
- a Pay & Performance Management Committee (PPMC) – with three Trustee members; the Executive Headteacher attends to provide performance management and staffing information;
- an Executive Headteacher Performance Management Committee (EHTPMC) – with four members, of whom three are Trustees, and one is an External Adviser; the Executive Headteacher attends as necessary; and
- a Local Advisory Board (LAB) which consists of up to fifteen elected staff and parents and a Trustee attends.

In addition, there is an admissions panel led by a Trustee, a working group dealing with health & safety matters attended by both Trustees and staff and other ad hoc working groups dealing with specific projects (made up of different combinations of Trustees, parents and staff).

The Resources Committee, the SSC, the ARC and the Health & Safety Working Group meet twice a term; the PPMC and EHTPMC meet as and when required in relation to effective performance management and staffing matters; the admissions panel meets as and when required to carry out correct scrutiny of in-year admissions; the LAB meets at least termly; then other working groups are set up and meet as and when required.

The Perins MAT

Trustees' Report

Organisational Structure (continued)

The Resources Committee

The Resources Committee has been established by the Trust Board to review and monitor all aspects of business management, human resources management and financial management at the MAT.

It is responsible for monitoring legal obligations in these areas; overseeing the policies relating to them; monitoring the financial performance of the MAT in relation to the agreed budget and scrutinising the monthly management accounts. It makes recommendations to the Trust Board as necessary.

The Student and Standards Committee (SSC)

The SSC has been established by the Trust Board to review and monitor the educational performance of the MAT

It is responsible for monitoring each school's curriculum delivery and key performance indicators; overseeing the policies relating to education and student welfare; monitoring SEND and Pupil Premium impact; monitoring and contributing to the effectiveness of safeguarding and child protection arrangements.

The Audit & Risk Committee (ARC)

The ARC has been established by the Trust Board to provide oversight of governance, risk management and financial probity at The MAT.

The ARC is responsible for: reviewing the internal financial and business management systems and controls of The MAT; establishing a programme of internal audit checks which may be undertaken either by a Responsible Officer, a member of the ARC, or an external adviser; reviewing, maintaining and monitoring the risk register of The MAT; recommending the appointment of the external auditors; receiving the auditor's report; recommending the approval or otherwise of the Annual Accounts.

The Pay & Performance Management Committee (PPMC)

The PPMC has been established by the Trust Board to ensure a robust performance management and pay system for all teaching and support staff.

The PPMC is responsible for: monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness of the Teaching & Support Staff Pay & Performance Management Policies; ensuring the consistent application of pay & performance management policies; considering recommendations from the Executive Headteacher in relation to all other staff and the EHTPMC in relation to the Executive Headteacher; determining the annual pay statements; determining pay ranges for new appointments, where necessary.

The Local Advisory Board

The LAB provides information, feedback and support to the Board of Trustees as well as being ambassadors for the MAT. It carries out its functions on behalf of the Trustees in accordance with policies and the Scheme of Delegation determined by the Trustees. Members of the LAB may have additional roles approved by the Trustees.

The Perins MAT

Trustees' Report

Organisational Structure (continued)

The LAB has a maximum of fifteen Local Advisors who will be elected parents and staff of both schools. The Board has an elected Chair and the meetings are attended by a Trustee.

The role of the Local Advisory Board is to promote the vision, mission and values of The MAT within the community; to monitor the satisfaction of students and parents/carers by reviewing matters referred to them by the Trust Board; to support the schools to develop partnerships with each other, with external agencies and within the community to improve the schools, support the curriculum, and increase curricular and extra-curricular learning opportunities for students and to monitor and contribute to the effectiveness of safeguarding and child protection arrangements at the individual schools.

Health & Safety Working Group (H&SWG)

The H&SWG has been established by the Trust Board to ensure as far as possible the health, safety and wellbeing of all staff, students and visitors on the school sites.

The H&SWG is responsible for: monitoring legal obligations in relation to health & safety; overseeing the health & safety policies; monitoring the updating and implementation of the health & safety action plan; making recommendations as necessary to the Trust Board.

Safeguarding

The Trustee responsible for Safeguarding is delegated regularly to review the thoroughness of the safeguarding processes at the schools, including ensuring that relevant audits are up-to-date, and to report this activity and any recommended changes to procedures to the Trust Board.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Trust Board is responsible for setting the pay and remuneration of key management personnel across The MAT. It delegates some of these responsibilities to the PPMC and EHTPMC.

Trade union facility time

As The MAT has more than 49 full-time equivalent employees (the FTE total at 31st August 2023 was 137.73), the provisions of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017 require that the Trustees' Report includes a section on:

- The FTE number of employees who are relevant Union officials: 1
- The percentage of time spent on facility time falls into the band: 1-50%
- The percentage of the staff pay bill spent on facility time: 0.23%
- The time spent on paid Trade Union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time: 0%

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

The MAT works closely with its five partner primary and infant schools – known as 'the seven Alresford Schools' or 'the 7 AS' – but has no involvement in their governance or management. The MAT provides support to help broaden the education of future pupils, particularly in Sport and the Creative Arts, to help prepare those pupils for secondary education and to smooth the transition between schools.

The Perins MAT

Trustees' Report

Objectives and Activities

Objects and Aims

The principal activity of The MAT, as set out in the Memorandum & Articles of Association, is to advance, for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The three-year objectives of The MAT were agreed by the Trust Board in June 2022 following a strategy day with staff and parents in January 2022.

Objective 1: Community/Wider MAT:

- To strengthen the MAT brand within the community and beyond with a focus on inclusion, its broad curriculum offer and its excellence in sports and the creative arts, building links and adopting a flexible strategy to expansion

Objective 2: The Perins MAT experience:

- To grow the bonds between the schools in the MAT, ensuring that all voices are heard and involved in decisions, while building strong curriculum links between the schools and a MAT wide approach to staff development.

Objective 3: Mental Health and Wellbeing

- To embed a positive and supportive approach to student and staff mental health and well-being and empower senior leaders to focus on their own well-being and work/life balance.

Objective 4: Equality and Diversity

- To improve the understanding of equality and diversity across the MAT, celebrating it so that everyone feels valued and welcomed and encouraging pupils to explore their own and other cultures and communities.

Objective 5: Communication

- To ensure a consistent approach to external and internal communications and publicity with stakeholders, so that parents and pupils feel part of the MAT and it and its values are effectively promoted.

Objective 6: Estates

- To make the best use of the space and facilities at both school sites through the three year Estates and sustainability plans that are being developed.

These objectives are built into the three-year Development Plan of The MAT and inform the individual school priorities and action planning led by the Headteachers, as well as the performance management of teams and individual members of staff.

The Perins MAT

Trustees' Report

Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)

The Executive Headteacher annually reviews past activities, redefines aims and objectives, develops a plan for the schools with associated budgets, along with individual responsibilities and success criteria, and proposes the planning cycle and timetable to Trustees. The form and content of the Development Plan are decided by the Trustees and the senior management team and are linked to the financial and other resources expected to be available. Regard is also given to matters included in the guidance given to Academies by the DfE including the Academy Trust Handbook. Lead responsibility for the implementation of the Development Plan is delegated by Trustees to the Executive Headteacher who then works with senior leadership and subject leaders to meet the agreed targets.

Public Benefit

In setting the objectives of The MAT, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

Perins intake is currently well above its published admissions number. Most SHJS pupils come from neighbouring Sun Hill Infant School; Perins has five main feeder primary and junior schools but takes in pupils from over 30 schools in total.

At Perins, 107 students are in receipt of free school meals in the academic year 2022-23 and 26 pupils currently have an education, health, and care plan (EHCP), but with more applications being considered; at SHJS, the numbers were: 27 in receipt of free school meals and 6 with an EHCP.

Education performance remains strong across the majority of subjects at Perins and there were significant improvements during 2022-23 at SHJS. The focus for improvement going forward, in line with the new Ofsted framework and DfE performance measures, will be developing the existing curriculum to maximise progress from starting points for all students across The MAT. At SHJS the emphasis will be on improving numbers achieving expected and higher standards in Year 6 at SHJS. At Perins the focus will be on:

- Progress 8 - progress across 8 qualifications.
- EBacc entry - percentage of pupils entering the English Baccalaureate.
- Pupil destinations - percentage of students staying in education or going into employment after Key Stage 4.
- Attainment in English and maths - percentage of pupils achieving a grade 5 or above in English and maths.
- Attainment 8 - attainment across the same 8 qualifications as Progress 8.
- EBacc APS - English Baccalaureate Average Point Score.

The MAT remains committed, despite the ongoing pressure on budgets, to ensuring that all students in all key stages have access to and can benefit from a genuinely broad and balanced curriculum with a wide range both of academic options and of extra-curricular opportunities.

The Perins MAT

Trustees' Report

Achievements and Performance (continued)

At Perins, this continues to be built into the three-year GCSE programme as well as innovative curriculum initiatives such as the Transformational Learning programme at Key Stage 3, the Gifted & Talented Programme (extension trips and activities), the Notebook Scheme (a laptop for each student), the STEM events, the House activities, and the emphasis on student leadership, throughout the school. In addition, Perins' extra-curricular provision includes large numbers of sporting and creative arts clubs and activities – teams competing in a wide range of sports every week; bands, song, dance and drama groups; the annual Sports Days; the annual Creative Arts Festival; the Perins Sports Tour to South Africa every two years and the Perins Theatre Production in the alternate years as well as numerous opportunities among other subject areas through extracurricular activities trips and visits.

At SHJS, the school has a project-based curriculum centred on the curriculum drivers of confidence, initiative and diversity. The curriculum is designed to ensure that the school is providing an inclusive environment where all children can flourish and reach their personal goals. The school through the Sports Premium offers a wide range of sports and activities both during and after the school day. Each sport is carefully chosen according to whether it provides opportunities for all, has the potential to develop the physical and mental welfare of the pupils, and is sustainable within the school.

The MAT continues to be focussed on the pastoral care and well-being of all staff and students. The Learning Support and SEND teams offer specialised support for a wide range of different needs at both schools. Behaviour, attendance and appearance are important across The MAT.

At Perins, this is reflected in the focus on uniform and the revitalised House system: the four houses, whose names (Ventus – wind, Ignis – fire, Terra – earth, Aqua – water) represent the elements and spell VITA (life), involve students in a number of competitions (including behaviour points), fundraising and outreach opportunities, and an additional range of positions of responsibility. Tutor times and assemblies continue to reinforce key messages about British Values and spiritual, moral, social and cultural matters. The RSE curriculum is a particular strength of the school and provides a solid framework for the students social, cultural and spiritual wellbeing and development.

At SHJS, mental health and well-being is a key focus: this is developed through the positive behaviour policy, the school rules and learning values, the school well-being/therapy dog and our six strands of well-being (active, responsible, connected, resilient, respected, aware). Assemblies, PSHE lessons and the school newsletter help to develop and promote this within the school. SHJS has also signed up to work with a Mental Health Support Team and other Hampshire schools to help promote good mental health, strengthen our settings existing support and bridge the gap between education and the NHS.

The Perins MAT

Trustees' Report

Key Performance Indicators

| | Perins | National** |
|--|--------|------------|
| 5 GCSEs 4+ | 67.37% | 67.8% |
| 5 GCSEs at 4+ (including English and Maths) | 65.68% | N/A |
| 5 GCSEs at 5+ (including English and Maths) | 46.61% | N/A |
| English Language 4+ | 81% | 75% |
| Maths 4+ | 75.97% | 70% |
| EBacc entries | 65.68% | 39% |
| EBacc average points score | 4.5 | 4.05 |
| EBacc Standard Pass (9-4) | 30.08% | 24% |
| EBacc Strong Pass (9-5) | 21.19% | 17% |
| Progress 8 | -0.11 | -0.03 |
| Attainment 8 | 49 | 46.2 |
| Grade 5 or above English and Maths (Threshold) | 48% | 45% |

**All data unvalidated until January 2024

| | SHJS | National |
|--|-------|----------|
| <i>SATs: Achieving expected progress</i> | | |
| Reading | 70.4% | 72.6% |
| Writing (TA) | 72.2% | 71.5% |
| Maths | 74.1% | 72.9% |
| <i>SATs: Achieving higher progress</i> | | |
| Reading | 33.3% | 29% |
| Writing (TA) | 25.9% | 13.3% |
| Maths | 25.9% | 23.8% |

| | MAT |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Staff costs as a % of expenditure | 78% |
| Staff costs as a % of income | 78% |
| Pupil: teacher ratio | Perins 17.1, SHJS 29.1 |

Staff absence throughout the past two academic years has significantly impacted outcomes but in line with government guidelines, these are not used as a direct comparison with other schools or on previous cohorts due to the wide range of extraneous variables.

The Perins MAT

Trustees' Report

Going Concern

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

The financial impact of the Covid 19 pandemic continues to affect the strategic plans for the MAT, delaying plans to reduce expenditure and staffing. The 3 year budget planning for 2022/23 to 2024/25 shows the impact of this on reserves.

Financial Review

The Trust Board is confident that The MAT is in a manageable financial position at the end of this period of operation despite the impact of the pandemic and cost of living crisis which has not only seen a reduction in additional income streams but has also delayed plans for reductions in expenditure and staffing. Additional risks highlighted by control measures now being taken are reviewed at all levels across the MAT and the financial implications of these considered carefully against the need to continue to provide high quality education in a safe environment.

The Trust Board is fully aware of the financial pressures on all schools as a result of the real-term decline of government funding and actively seeks alternative sources of funding in order to fulfil the objectives of The MAT outlined above and maintain the broad and balanced curriculum and wide range of extra-curricular opportunities which the Trust Board believes is essential to the development of rounded, confident and resilient young people.

During 2022-23, the General Annual Grant (GAG) and the Education Services Grant (ESG), together with other incoming resources and reserves, were once again used to finance The MAT's activities.

The in-year deficit on unrestricted and restricted general funds for 2022-23 was £19,278 as reflected in the balance of total funds outlined under the Reserves Policy below.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees aim to use the allocated funding each year for the full benefit of current students. However, the Trustees consider it necessary to carry forward some reserves to:

- Provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants;
- Invest in future years' priorities for the students of The MAT, for example: capital projects;
- Have a contingency reserve to cover expenditure required for unforeseen circumstances
- Have a contingency reserve to protect against any historic falls in number on roll and the effect of lagged funding whilst numbers on roll increase; and
- Have a contingency reserve to cover increasing costs, whilst revenue funding is in real-term decline.

The Perins MAT

Trustees' Report

Reserves Policy (continued)

The reserves as at 31st August 2023 were as follows:

- Unrestricted (free) reserves of £845,038 (2022: £765,222)
- A restricted fixed asset fund of £17,819,445 (2022: £18,079,281), which can only be realised through disposal of tangible fixed assets
- A pension deficit of £84,000 (2022: £517,000)
- Other restricted funds of £277,032 (2022: £376,126)
- Total funds of £18,857,515 (2022: £18,703,629)

The Trustees consider that this is reasonable to meet the objectives outlined above.

Investment Policy

The MAT cash balances are managed to provide for the day-to-day working capital requirements of its operations, whilst protecting the real long-term value of any surplus cash balances against inflation. Surplus cash funds have been invested appropriately to optimise returns, but, at the same time, to ensure that the investment instruments are such that there is no tangible risk of losing any cash funds.

The purposes are:

- To ensure adequate cash balances are maintained in the current account to cover day-to-day working capital requirements;
- To ensure there is no tangible risk of loss in the capital value of any cash funds invested;
- To protect the capital value of any invested funds against inflation; and
- To optimise the returns on any invested funds.

Regular cash flow forecasts are prepared and monitored by the Chief Financial Officer to ensure there are adequate liquid funds to meet all payroll-related commitments and outstanding supply creditors that are due for payment. Cash flow forecasts are also included in monthly management reports for Trustees.

Where the cash flow forecasts identify a level of cash funds that will be surplus-to-requirements, these may, following agreement with the Executive Headteacher or, in his/her absence, the Chair of Trustees, be invested in Treasury Deposits or institutions authorised by the Financial Services Authority, or its successor, and only in interest-bearing deposit accounts with maturity dates which do not result in the cash funds being unavailable for longer than eight weeks (such accounts will be limited to £85,000 per authorised institution, as required in order to maintain eligibility for the Financial Services Compensation Scheme).

Wherever practicable, the Chief Financial Officer ensures that investments are selected from an ethical portfolio. A statement of any monies invested is provided at meetings of the Trust Board. For any fixed term investment for a period longer than six months, the Chief Financial Officer takes independent financial advice, in line with the Memorandum & Articles of Association, and observes any guidance in the Academies Financial Handbook. In addition, any investments are restricted to ones that guarantee a return of capital rather than any equity-based investments.

The Perins MAT

Trustees' Report

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

In common with other schools, The MAT budget going forward will continue to face pressure on budgets and reserves as a result of:

- The recently announced teachers' pay award as well as any change to this as a result of union pressure.
- The recently announced increase in support staff pay.
- The high cost of energy and other goods as a result of high inflation and the wars in Ukraine and Gaza.
- Difficulty recruiting /retaining staff leading to high reliance on expensive supply cover.
- The rising costs involved in the maintenance of property and sporting facilities and protection against damage.
- Auto-pension enrolment which has been applicable since April 2014.
- The risk of lettings income falling significantly due to ageing facilities.

The risks faced by The MAT are regularly reviewed and updated by the Trust Board and the Audit & Risk Committee. The MAT has a Risk Register which is a "live" document managed by the Audit & Risk Committee, with different individuals within the schools and at Trustee level having responsibility for reviewing and monitoring the management of different risks.

As a high-performing, popular MAT, the demand for school places, particularly at Perins, is increasing both locally and further afield. The Marketing team works strategically with Trustees to manage The MAT's number on roll and ensure, as far as possible, that The MAT remains at or close to capacity.

The Health & Safety working group meets half termly to monitor health & safety incidents including near-misses and make sure they have been addressed. The Health & Safety lead and his staff complete on-going training to ensure that both sites continue to be safe and well maintained. An external review of both sites was completed which identified that there was no RAAC concrete used on either site.

The Perins MAT

Trustees' Report

Fundraising

As part of its outreach work within the community, The MAT undertakes fundraising activities in order to make donations to local and national charities and to support some of its own operations. These fundraising activities include concerts, cake sales, sporting activities, non-uniform days, etc.

The MAT undertakes all such activities itself with the help of staff and students, as well as their families and carers, and supporters in the local community. The Trustees confirm that, when fundraising:

- No unsolicited approaches are made to members of the public not previously known to the schools;
- No commercial participators and external fundraisers are used;
- No regularity schemes or standards are applicable;
- No complaints about fundraising activities were made to The MAT during the year 2022-23;

In 2017, Trustees set up the Sports & Arts Foundation (SAF) specifically to raise awareness of the high level of sporting and creative arts opportunities and achievements at The MAT and to encourage financial and other support to develop and extend these activities and facilities for the benefit of both students and the local community. Fundraising efforts have stalled as a result of the pandemic.

Plans for Future Periods

Although there has been ongoing impact on both schools within the MAT as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic and cost of living crisis there is confidence that this will not fundamentally affect its future aims and activities

The Pupil Admission Number (PAN) at Year 7 at Perins was increased in September 2017 from 215 to 230. The aim is to ensure that Perins is able to provide education for students within the school's catchment area, for students moving into the school's catchment area as housing continues to develop, and for appropriate numbers of out-of-catchment students (as well as their siblings). The SHJS PAN at Year 3 has reduced to 45 for 2023-24 as a result of demographic changes in the local area. A consultation on this change was held in December 2021.

The MAT is committed to developing the curriculum across all key stages, maximising opportunities and potential for all students, and improving the teaching, learning and extra-curricular environments within the existing school buildings at both school sites. The MAT was successful in securing substantial funding from ESFA during the past five years. This has allowed for the significant refurbishment of several buildings at Perins school and the replacement of the roof at SHJS. Further bids have been submitted but have not yet been successful.

The Perins MAT

Trustees' Report

Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others

There are no funds held as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others.

Auditor

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 14 December 2023 and signed on the board's behalf by:

Katy Toms

Ms K Toms

Chair of Trustees

The Perins MAT

Governance Statement

Scope of Responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring, on behalf of the Members, that The Perins Multi-Academy Trust (The MAT) 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 Trust Board has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Executive Headteacher, as Accounting Officer, and to the Chief Financial 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 Agreements between The Perins Multi-Academy Trust and ESFA. The Executive Headteacher is also responsible for reporting to the Trust Board any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Trust Board has formally met seven times during the year 2022-23. All board meetings were hybrid meetings, with most attendees in person and others attending virtually. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Trust Board was as follows:

| <u>Trustee</u> | <u>Trust Board Meetings attended</u> | <u>Out of a possible</u> |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dominic Hubble | 6 | 7 |
| Jonathan Flory | 6 | 7 |
| Steve Jones | 7 | 7 |
| Heather Brearey | 3 | 7 |
| James Howell | 7 | 7 |
| Katy Toms | 7 | 7 |
| Julian Roskill | 5 | 7 |
| Charlie Hammel | 6 | 7 |
| Richard Green | 0 | 1 |
| Marilyn Penman | 1 | 2 |
| Caroline Whiting | 1 | 1 |

The Perins MAT

Governance Statement

Governance (continued)

The Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) is a sub-committee of the main Trust Board. Its purpose is to provide oversight of governance, risk management and financial probity at The MAT. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

| <u>Trustee</u> | <u>Trust Board Meetings attended</u> | <u>Out of a possible</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Julian Roskill | 5 | 6 |
| Jonathan Flory | 6 | 6 |
| Dominic Hubble | 6 | 6 |

The Resources committee reviews the Management Accounts every month as well as holding regular meetings to discuss the business management of the MAT. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

| <u>Trustee</u> | <u>Trust Board Meetings attended</u> | <u>Out of a possible</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Julian Roskill | 4 | 6 |
| Jonathan Flory | 6 | 6 |
| Dominic Hubble | 6 | 6 |
| James Howell | 3 | 6 |
| Katy Toms | 5 | 6 |

The Student & Standards Committee review curriculum delivery and staff and student progress, performance and wellbeing. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

| <u>Trustee</u> | <u>Trust Board Meetings attended</u> | <u>Out of a possible</u> |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Heather Brearey | 4 | 6 |
| Richard Green | 0 | 1 |
| Charlie Hammel | 6 | 6 |
| Katy Toms | 6 | 6 |
| Marilyn Penman | 0 | 1 |
| Caroline Whiting | 0 | 0 |

Conflicts of interest

The Trust Board has appropriate procedures in place to deal with conflicts of interest. An up-to-date register of interest is maintained by the clerk. Senior management are also required to complete annual declaration forms.

At the commencement of each trustees meeting, attendees are asked to declare any conflicts of interests. If any conflicts are identified, the trustee is asked to leave the meeting to avoid being involved in any decision making.

The Perins MAT

Governance Statement

Governance (continued)

Governance reviews

The MAT is fortunate to have a wealth of skills, knowledge and experience amongst its Trustees many of whom devote significant amounts of time and effort for the benefit of The MAT and its staff and students. A Scheme of Delegation (updated by the Trust Board annually) clarifies and explains the different roles and responsibilities within the governance structure.

All Trustees are encouraged to attend the training courses offered by Hampshire Governor Services, as well as by the schools through on-line systems such as National Online Safety. In addition, all Trustees have access to online advice and guidance from The Key and The NGA. All Trustees are asked annually to sign the NGA Code of Conduct and are directed towards the seven Nolan principles of public life, the paper on 'What governing bodies should expect from school leaders and what school leaders should expect from governing boards', and the 'Twenty Questions: key questions every governing board should ask itself'. These documents are reviewed on an annual basis to remind Trustees of their specific roles and responsibilities and ensure best practice in governance. In addition, the Chair of Trustees regularly attends training courses and conferences aimed at developing MAT leadership and peer networks.

The focus of the Trust Board and its various sub-committees continues to be on ensuring an effective and transparent process for appropriately supporting and challenging the Executive Headteacher, the Headteachers and Deputy-headteachers of the schools, and the Senior Leadership Team. Trustees recognise that their key roles are creating the ethos and strategic vision of The MAT, holding the executive leadership of the schools to account, and ensuring sound financial management across The MAT. The annual self-evaluation form and three-year development plans created by the schools and for The MAT (including the schools' annual priorities), the reports presented by the Executive Headteacher and the Headteachers to Board meetings, The MAT management accounts and budget forecasts, and The MAT and school policies and procedures are the key management tools for reviewing, implementing and achieving the strategic vision. Much work is done on these in the schools, and Trustees work closely with leadership in the schools to monitor implementation and review progress. This is achieved principally through Board and Committee meetings. The Scheme of Delegation and the Committee Terms of Reference clarify their different roles and responsibilities – as outlined in the Trustees' Report. The Committee Chairs report twice termly to the Trust Board.

The Resources committee focus on financial, human resources and business management aspects of the MAT. The Students and Standards Committee focus on curriculum delivery and staff and student progress, performance and wellbeing. The Local Advisory Board focus on developing local stakeholder and community relationships. The Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) provides oversight of governance, risk management and financial probity and the Pay & Performance Management Committee (PPMC) ensures a robust performance management and pay system for all teaching and support staff.

The Perins MAT

Governance Statement

Governance (continued)

Trustees are aware of the need to evaluate their own performance, effectiveness and impact to ensure the highest possible standards of support and challenge. Their review works in four main ways: firstly, through the working practices of the Board and the other sub-committees, as outlined in the Trustees' Report; secondly, by ensuring an appropriate range of skills and experience is represented on the Board of Trustees (including through an annual individual skills audit coordinated by the Training Liaison Trustee); thirdly, through an annual "Away Day" when all Trustees and other stakeholders meet off-site to review overall performance and discuss a range of issues and opportunities); and, fourthly, through encouraging appropriate training every year – both individually and as a group (there is an annual training session for Trustees targeted at a particular area of development). All Trustees are required to do annual updates of Prevent and Safeguarding training. And, in the last year, Trustees have attended online courses on matters such as finance, governance, safeguarding, SEND, leadership, education funding, student voice and supporting the gifted and talented.

During the academic year 2022-23, Trustees have continued to be involved in supporting the schools during the consolidation of The MAT and in ensuring the efficient and effective operation of both the individual schools and the overall MAT, driving forward school improvement and maximising progress for student and staff across The MAT.

The Perins MAT

Governance Statement

Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer, the Executive Headteacher has responsibility for ensuring that The MAT delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Accounting Officer considers how The MAT's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Trust Board where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for The MAT has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Continuing to remodel and centralise the operational structure of the schools particularly with regards to leadership and central MAT team;
- A further reduction in staffing costs by more cost effective time tabling resulting in a reduction of PPA time and recruitment needs;
- Reviewing the effectiveness of the two-week timetable, school day and structured tutor time at Perins;
- Supporting the Headteacher and staff team at SHJS;
- Maximising staff teaching time whilst also focussing on staff well-being across the MAT;
- Developing the Learning Support teams (particularly in light of local and national pressures on LSA/TA recruitment), as well as focussing on supporting disadvantaged students, improving behaviour, maximising attendance, and seeking opportunities for wider development of our provision through potential resourced provision;
- Developing the teacher training and CPD programmes to support both current and trainee teachers across the MAT including the reintroduction of lead practitioners; and
- Utilising additional funding particularly through the national tutoring programme post Covid and the money provided for support for Ukrainian students.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of The MAT's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in The MAT for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

The Perins MAT

Governance Statement

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Trust Board has reviewed the key risks to which The MAT is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Trust Board is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the MAT's significant risks that has been in place for the year ended 31st August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) and the Trust Board.

The Risk and Control Framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and monthly financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Trust Board;
- regular reviews by the Trust Board and Resources Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and which give details of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks;
- the management of a "live" risk register by the Audit & Risk Committee.

The Chair of the ARC and the Chair of the Resources Committee report to the Trust Board twice each term on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Trust Board's financial responsibilities. The Resources Committee review the management accounts monthly and makes recommendations as necessary to the Trust Board.

A Safeguarding Audit is carried out annually by a group of Trustees led by the Trustee responsible for Safeguarding. The Audit includes an annual review at both schools of the Single Central Register, attendance, site security and general management of safeguarding issues by and for staff and students. The Single Central Register is also reviewed termly at both schools.

The Perins MAT

Governance Statement

The Risk and Control Framework (continued)

The Board of Trustees has appointed an internal scrutiny advisor. This advisor undertook three termly visits during 2022-23. This year the focus of the monitoring visits was as follows:

- Financial and non-financial controls
- Points from previous external and internal audit reports
- Completion of the ESFA fraud checklist with the CFO
- Cyber assurance compliance,
- Managing budgets and updating trustees
- Compliance with ATH top 10 musts
- Census procedures
- Consideration of the term governance professional
- income testing (lettings)
- Business continuity plan
- Website compliance

Progress reports were supplied to the Board of Trustees with recommendations for improvement areas and the full year internal scrutiny report has been delivered to the ARC. The majority of recommendations were of low or medium severity and the recommendations have either been actioned or are in progress. The one recommendation of high severity, concerning staff and trustee training, has led to significant improvements being made in the way training is rolled out and completion monitored.

Review of Effectiveness

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

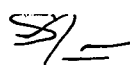
- the work of the Chief Operations Officer, the Chief Financial Officer and their teams across The MAT who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework;
- the work of the Audit & Risk Committee;
- the work of the Resources Committee;
- the work of the external auditor.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 14 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Katy Toms

Ms K Toms
Chair of Trustees



Mr S Jones
Accounting Officer

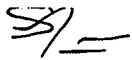
The Perins MAT

Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

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

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

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



Mr S Jones
Accounting Officer
14 December 2023

The Perins MAT

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 14 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Katy Toms

Ms K Toms
Chair of Trustees

The Perins MAT

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of The Perins MAT

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Perins MAT ('the charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (including the Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019, and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been properly 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.

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

The Perins MAT

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of The Perins MAT

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. It includes the Reference and Administrative Details, the Trustees' Report (including the Strategic Report), and the Governance Statement. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other 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 for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters 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;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit.

The Perins MAT

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of The Perins MAT

Responsibilities of the Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material 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 the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our 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 a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Academy Trust, and the sector in which it operates. These include but are not limited to compliance with the Companies Act 2006, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019, the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.
- We obtained an understanding of how the Academy Trust is complying with these frameworks through discussions with management.

The Perins MAT

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of The Perins MAT

- We enquired with management whether there were any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or whether they had knowledge of actual or suspected fraud. These enquiries are corroborated through follow-up audit procedures including but not limited to a review of legal and professional costs, correspondence and a review of board minutes.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Academy Trust's financial statements to material misstatement, including the risk of fraud and management override of controls. We designed our audit procedures to respond to this assessment, including the identification and testing of any related party transactions and the testing of journal transactions that arise from management estimates, that are determined to be of significant value or unusual in their nature.
- We assessed the appropriateness of the collective competence and capabilities of the engagement team, including consideration of the engagement team's knowledge and understanding of the sector in which the Academy Trust operates in, and their practical experience through training and participation with audit engagements of a similar nature.

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. This description forms part of our Independent 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.



G Brown FCCA (Senior statutory auditor)

For and on behalf of Hopper Williams & Bell Limited

Statutory Auditor

Highland House, Mayflower Close, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 4AR

19 Dec 2023

Date

The Perins MAT

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Perins MAT and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

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

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

Respective responsibilities of The Perins MAT's Accounting Officer and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Perins MAT's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 30 August 2017 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

The Perins MAT

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Perins MAT and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Consideration as to whether prior approval was sought from the Secretary of State where it is required by the Academy Trust Handbook (effective from 1 September 2022) (ATH).
- Review of any special payments to staff, including compromise agreements, to consider whether prior approval was sought where required by the ATH and that any payments are in line with the severance guidance published by ESFA.
- Consideration as to whether any borrowings have been made in accordance with the ATH.
- Review of any 'minded to' letters or Notices to Improve which have been issued to the Academy Trust.
- Review of any transactions with related parties to ensure that they have been carried out in accordance with the ATH.
- Review of governance arrangements to determine whether the requirements of the ATH have been met.
- Review of the Academy Trust's internal controls, including whether the general control environment has regard to the regularity of underlying transactions, including fraud management.
- Review of the Academy Trust's procurement policies to determine effectiveness and testing a sample of purchases to confirm that the policies have been correctly implemented.
- Identifying any conditions associated with specialist grant income and determining whether it has been spent as the purposes intended.

The Perins MAT

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Perins MAT and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.



G Brown FCCA

Reporting Accountant

Hopper Williams & Bell Limited

Chartered Accountants

Highland House, Mayflower Close, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 4AR

19 Dec 2023

Date

The Perins MAT

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2023 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

| | Note | Un-restricted funds £ | Restricted General Funds £ | Restricted Pension Funds £ | Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £ | 2022/23 Total £ | 2021/22 Total £ |
|--|------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Income and endowments from: | | | | | | | |
| Donations and capital grants | 2 | - | 69,209 | - | 90,544 | 159,753 | (19,801) |
| Other trading activities | 4 | 569,713 | - | - | - | 569,713 | 626,441 |
| Investments | 5 | 10,816 | 342 | - | - | 11,158 | 172 |
| Charitable activities: | | | | | | | |
| Funding for the academy trust's educational operations | 3 | - | 9,058,823 | - | - | 9,058,823 | 8,570,070 |
| Total | | 580,529 | 9,128,374 | - | 90,544 | 9,799,447 | 9,176,882 |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | 6 | 493,871 | - | - | - | 493,871 | 412,498 |
| Charitable activities: | | | | | | | |
| Academy trust educational operations | 7 | 6,842 | 9,167,381 | 104,000 | 410,467 | 9,688,690 | 9,510,379 |
| Total | | 500,713 | 9,167,381 | 104,000 | 410,467 | 10,182,561 | 9,922,877 |
| Net income / (expenditure) | | 79,816 | (39,007) | (104,000) | (319,923) | (383,114) | (745,995) |
| Transfers between funds | 18 | - | (60,087) | - | 60,087 | - | - |
| Other recognised gains / (losses): | | | | | | | |
| Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes | 27 | - | - | 537,000 | - | 537,000 | 4,432,000 |
| Net movement in funds | | 79,816 | (99,094) | 433,000 | (259,836) | 153,886 | 3,686,005 |
| Reconciliation of funds | | | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | 765,222 | 376,126 | (517,000) | 18,079,281 | 18,703,629 | 15,017,624 |
| Total funds carried forward | | 845,038 | 277,032 | (84,000) | 17,819,445 | 18,857,515 | 18,703,629 |

The notes on pages 36 to 60 form part of these financial statements.

The Perins MAT

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

Company Number 07699705

| | Note | 2023 £ | 2023 £ | 2022 £ | 2022 £ |
|--|------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Fixed assets | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 12 | | 17,819,445 | | 18,079,281 |
| Current assets | | | | | |
| Stock | 13 | 4,677 | | 3,224 | |
| Debtors | 14 | 499,433 | | 278,448 | |
| Investments | 15 | 305,296 | | - | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 1,255,637 | | 1,618,454 | |
| | | <u>2,065,043</u> | | <u>1,900,126</u> | |
| Liabilities | | | | | |
| Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year | 16 | (913,156) | | (716,975) | |
| Net current assets | | | <u>1,151,887</u> | | <u>1,183,151</u> |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | | 18,971,332 | | 19,262,432 |
| Creditors: | | | | | |
| Amounts falling due after more than one year | 17 | | (29,817) | | (41,803) |
| Net assets excluding pension liability | | | 18,941,515 | | 19,220,629 |
| Defined benefit pension scheme liability | 27 | | (84,000) | | (517,000) |
| Total net assets | | | <u>18,857,515</u> | | <u>18,703,629</u> |
| Funds of the academy trust: | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | | | | | |
| Fixed asset fund | 18 | 17,819,445 | | 18,079,281 | |
| Restricted income fund | 18 | 277,032 | | 376,126 | |
| Pension reserve | 18 | (84,000) | | (517,000) | |
| Total restricted funds | | | 18,012,477 | | 17,938,407 |
| Unrestricted income funds | 18 | | 845,038 | | 765,222 |
| Total funds | | | <u>18,857,515</u> | | <u>18,703,629</u> |

The financial statements on pages 33 to 60 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 14 December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

Katy Toms

Ms K Toms

Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 36 to 60 form part of these financial statements.

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Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2023

| | Note | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|--|------|------------------|-----------|
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities | 21 | 3,394 | 753,292 |
| Cash flows from financing activities | 22 | (11,986) | 2,213 |
| Cash flows from investing activities | 23 | (354,225) | (406,214) |
| Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period | | (362,817) | 349,291 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2022 | | 1,618,454 | 1,269,163 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2023 | 24 | 1,255,637 | 1,618,454 |

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

1 Accounting policies

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

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 prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the Academy Trust and are rounded to the nearest £1.

Going Concern

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

Income

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

- **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.

- **Grants**

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

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

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

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Income (continued)

- **Other Income**

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

- **Donated goods, facilities and services**

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

Expenditure

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

- **Expenditure on Raising Funds**

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

- **Charitable Activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Tangible Fixed Assets

Assets costing £5,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Freehold Land and Buildings | 25-50 years straight line on buildings; not provided on land |
| Leasehold Land and Buildings | 25-50 years straight line on buildings; not provided on land |
| Furniture and Equipment | 4 years straight line |
| Computer Equipment | 3 years straight line |

No depreciation has been provided on long leasehold land as it is similar to freehold land, which does not require depreciation.

Where the Academy Trust can identify the value of major components of freehold or leasehold buildings based upon additions following conversion to academy status, the Academy Trust reviews whether one or more such components have significantly different patterns of consumption of economic benefits. In such cases, the Academy Trust allocates the cost of the asset to its major components and depreciates each component separately over its useful life.

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.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Provisions

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

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

Leased Assets

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

Current asset investments

Current asset investments comprise fixed term bank deposits. These investments are classified as a basic financial instrument and are measured at amortised cost.

Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets

Trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank

Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value. An investment is treated as a cash equivalent when it has a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

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.

Stock

Unsold uniforms and catering stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Taxation

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

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

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

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

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

Fund Accounting

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

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

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

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

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

The assumptions used are disclosed in note 27.

Critical areas of judgement

There are no other critical areas of judgement.

2 Donations and capital grants

| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | 2022/23 Total | 2021/22 Total |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Capital grants | - | 90,544 | 90,544 | (58,535) |
| Other donations | - | 69,209 | 69,209 | 38,734 |
| | - | 159,753 | 159,753 | (19,801) |
| <i>Total 2022</i> | - | (19,801) | (19,801) | |

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

3 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

| | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | 2022/23 Total £ | 2021/22 Total £ |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| DfE / ESFA grants | | | | |
| General Annual Grant (GAG) | - | 7,424,650 | 7,424,650 | 7,352,145 |
| Pupil Premium | - | 161,345 | 161,345 | 152,683 |
| Insurance | - | 616 | 616 | 126,171 |
| Rates reclaim | - | 32,691 | 32,691 | 46,548 |
| PE and sports grant | - | 18,240 | 18,240 | 18,180 |
| Other DfE grants | - | 547,065 | 547,065 | 134,262 |
| | - | 8,184,607 | 8,184,607 | 7,829,989 |
| Other government grants | | | | |
| Local authority grants | - | 107,119 | 107,119 | 128,429 |
| COVID-19 additional funding (non-DfE/ESFA) | | | | |
| Other Coronavirus funding | - | - | - | 46,485 |
| Other income from the Academy Trust's educational operations | | | | |
| Trip income | - | 311,694 | 311,694 | 84,104 |
| Tuition fee income | - | 28,999 | 28,999 | 25,376 |
| Catering income | - | 43,731 | 43,731 | 42,176 |
| Other income | - | 382,673 | 382,673 | 413,511 |
| | - | 767,097 | 767,097 | 565,167 |
| | - | 9,058,823 | 9,058,823 | 8,570,070 |
| Total 2022 | - | 8,570,070 | 8,570,070 | |

4 Other trading activities

| | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | 2022/23 Total £ | 2021/22 Total £ |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Hire of facilities | 108,453 | - | 108,453 | 92,647 |
| Nursery income | 395,150 | - | 395,150 | 456,183 |
| Other trading income | 66,110 | - | 66,110 | 77,611 |
| | 569,713 | - | 569,713 | 626,441 |
| Total 2022 | 626,441 | - | 626,441 | |

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

5 Investment income

| | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | 2022/23 Total £ | 2021/22 Total £ |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Short term deposits | 10,816 | 342 | 11,158 | 172 |
| <i>Total 2022</i> | <i>172</i> | <i>-</i> | <i>172</i> | |

6 Expenditure

| | Staff costs £ | Non Pay Expenditure | | Total 2022/23 £ | Total 2021/22 £ |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Premises £ | Other £ | | |
| Expenditure on raising funds | 410,736 | - | 83,135 | 493,871 | 412,498 |
| Academy's educational operations: | | | | | |
| Direct costs | 6,174,944 | - | 1,313,576 | 7,488,520 | 6,781,852 |
| Allocated support costs | 1,040,507 | 565,807 | 593,856 | 2,200,170 | 2,728,527 |
| | 7,626,187 | 565,807 | 1,990,567 | 10,182,561 | 9,922,877 |
| <i>Total 2022</i> | <i>7,591,784</i> | <i>652,805</i> | <i>1,678,288</i> | <i>9,922,877</i> | |

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes:

| | 2022/23 £ | 2021/22 £ |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Operating lease rentals | 108,299 | 191,068 |
| Depreciation | 410,467 | 407,207 |
| Fees payable to auditor for: | | |
| Audit | 11,450 | 11,455 |
| Other services | 5,475 | 6,080 |

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

7 Charitable activities

| | 2022/23 | 2021/22 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | Total | Total |
| | £ | £ |
| Direct costs – educational operations | 7,488,520 | 6,781,852 |
| Support costs – educational operations | 2,200,170 | 2,728,527 |
| | <u>9,688,690</u> | <u>9,510,379</u> |

Analysis of support costs:

| | Educational operations | 2022/23 | 2021/22 |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| | | Total | Total |
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Support staff costs | 1,040,507 | 1,040,507 | 1,521,024 |
| Depreciation | 46,091 | 46,091 | 43,628 |
| Technology costs | 132,864 | 132,864 | 137,214 |
| Premises costs | 565,807 | 565,807 | 652,805 |
| Other support costs | 395,122 | 395,122 | 354,728 |
| Governance costs | 19,779 | 19,779 | 19,128 |
| Total support costs | <u>2,200,170</u> | <u>2,200,170</u> | <u>2,728,527</u> |
| <i>Total 2022</i> | <i>2,728,527</i> | <i><u>2,728,527</u></i> | |

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

8 Staff

a) Staff costs

Staff costs during the period were:

| | 2022/23 | 2021/22 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Wages and salaries | 5,492,737 | 5,112,823 |
| Social security costs | 529,848 | 482,344 |
| Pension costs | 1,265,947 | 1,648,278 |
| | 7,288,532 | 7,243,445 |
| Agency staff costs | 330,084 | 348,339 |
| Staff restructuring costs | 7,571 | - |
| | 7,626,187 | 7,591,784 |
| Staff restructuring costs comprise: | | |
| Other restructuring costs | 7,571 | - |
| | 7,571 | - |

b) Staff numbers

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

| | 2022/23 | 2021/22 |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| | No. | No. |
| Teachers | 85 | 84 |
| Administration and support | 68 | 73 |
| Management | 13 | 12 |
| | 166 | 169 |

c) Higher paid staff

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

| | 2022/23 | 2021/22 |
|---------------------|---------|---------|
| | No. | No. |
| £60,001 - £70,000 | 4 | 2 |
| £70,001 - £80,000 | 3 | 2 |
| £100,001 - £110,000 | - | 1 |
| £110,001 - £120,000 | 1 | - |

d) Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £1,160,465 (2022: £963,972).

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

9 Related Party Transactions – Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

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

| | | 2022/23 | 2021/22 |
|--|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | £000 | £000 |
| S Jones | Remuneration | 110-115 | 105-110 |
| (Staff trustee and Accounting Officer) | Employer's pension contributions paid | 25-30 | 25-30 |

During the period ended 31 August 2023, travel expenses totalling £134 were reimbursed or paid directly to one Trustee (2022: £281 to two Trustees).

10 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 £10m. It is not possible to quantify the Trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

11 Central Services

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

- Human resources
- Technology costs
- Premises costs
- Finance costs
- Governance costs
- Other costs

The Academy Trust charges for these services at 6.27% (2022: 5.50%) of GAG income. The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

| | 2022/23 | 2021/22 |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Perins School | 406,694 | 374,710 |
| Sun Hill Junior School | 58,831 | 49,658 |
| | 465,525 | 424,368 |

12 Tangible fixed assets

| | Freehold Land and Buildings £ | Leasehold Land and Buildings £ | Furniture and Equipment £ | Computer Equipment £ | Total £ |
|------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Cost | | | | | |
| At 1 September 2022 | 17,479,737 | 3,486,358 | 470,139 | 344,732 | 21,780,966 |
| Acquisitions | 84,132 | 31,525 | - | 34,974 | 150,631 |
| At 31 August 2023 | 17,563,869 | 3,517,883 | 470,139 | 379,706 | 21,931,597 |
| Depreciation | | | | | |
| At 1 September 2022 | 2,726,729 | 263,695 | 432,624 | 278,637 | 3,701,685 |
| Charged in year | 301,373 | 63,178 | 13,917 | 31,999 | 410,467 |
| At 31 August 2023 | 3,028,102 | 326,873 | 446,541 | 310,636 | 4,112,152 |
| Net book values | | | | | |
| At 31 August 2022 | 14,753,008 | 3,222,663 | 37,515 | 66,095 | 18,079,281 |
| At 31 August 2023 | 14,535,767 | 3,191,010 | 23,598 | 69,070 | 17,819,445 |

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

13 Stock

| | 2022/23 | 2021/22 |
|--------------|---------|---------|
| | £ | £ |
| Other stocks | 4,677 | 3,224 |

14 Debtors

| | 2022/23 | 2021/22 |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|
| | £ | £ |
| Trade debtors | 5,813 | 2,020 |
| VAT recoverable | 113,976 | 81,430 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 379,644 | 194,998 |
| | 499,433 | 278,448 |

15 Current asset investments

| | 2022/23 | 2021/22 |
|---------------|---------|---------|
| | £ | £ |
| Bank deposits | 305,296 | - |

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2022/23 | 2021/22 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Trade creditors | 267,128 | 104,317 |
| Other taxation and social security | 134,361 | 125,096 |
| Loans falling due within one year | 11,985 | 11,985 |
| Other creditors falling due within one year | 134,467 | 130,877 |
| Accruals and deferred income | 365,215 | 344,700 |
| | <u>913,156</u> | <u>716,975</u> |

| | 2022/23 | 2021/22 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Deferred income at 1 September 2022 | 201,036 | 76,250 |
| Released from previous years | (201,036) | (76,250) |
| Resources deferred in the year | 254,800 | 201,036 |
| Deferred income at 31 August 2023 | <u>254,800</u> | <u>201,036</u> |

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance for trips, tuition fees, and other income which relates to the forthcoming financial year.

Loans falling due within one year comprises interest free Salix energy efficiency loans which are repayable in instalments.

17 Creditors: amounts falling due in greater than one year

| | 2022/23 | 2021/22 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Loans falling due in greater than one year | <u>29,817</u> | <u>41,803</u> |

Loans falling due in greater than one year comprises interest free Salix energy efficiency loans which are repayable in instalments.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

18 Funds

| | Balance at 1 September 2022 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers £ | Gains and losses £ | Balance at 31 August 2023 £ |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Restricted general funds | | | | | | |
| General Annual Grant (GAG) | 341,067 | 7,424,650 | (7,463,999) | (60,087) | - | 241,631 |
| Pupil premium | - | 161,345 | (161,345) | - | - | - |
| Insurance | - | 616 | (616) | - | - | - |
| Rates reclaim | - | 32,691 | (32,691) | - | - | - |
| PE and sports grant | - | 18,240 | (18,240) | - | - | - |
| Other DfE grants | - | 547,065 | (547,065) | - | - | - |
| Local authority grants | - | 107,119 | (107,119) | - | - | - |
| Sports and Arts Foundation | 31,112 | 309 | - | - | - | 31,421 |
| Up cycle workshop | 647 | - | - | - | - | 647 |
| Linbury Trust Theatre project | 3,300 | 33 | - | - | - | 3,333 |
| Other educational activities | - | 836,306 | (836,306) | - | - | - |
| | 376,126 | 9,128,374 | (9,167,381) | (60,087) | - | 277,032 |
| Pension reserve | (517,000) | - | (104,000) | - | 537,000 | (84,000) |
| | (140,874) | 9,128,374 | (9,271,381) | (60,087) | 537,000 | 193,032 |
| Restricted fixed asset funds | | | | | | |
| Fixed asset fund | 18,079,281 | - | (410,467) | 150,631 | - | 17,819,445 |
| ESFA capital grants (DFC) | - | 90,544 | - | (90,544) | - | - |
| | 18,079,281 | 90,544 | (410,467) | 60,087 | - | 17,819,445 |
| Total restricted funds | 17,938,407 | 9,218,918 | (9,681,848) | - | 537,000 | 18,012,477 |
| Total unrestricted funds | 765,222 | 580,529 | (500,713) | - | - | 845,038 |
| Total funds | 18,703,629 | 9,799,447 | (10,182,561) | - | 537,000 | 18,857,515 |

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

18 Funds (continued)

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

General annual grant

This includes all funding received from the ESFA to carry out the objectives of the academy. It includes the school budget share; minimum funding guarantee; education services grant; insurance; rates; and pre-16 high needs funding streams.

Other DfE/ESFA grants

This is funding received from the ESFA for specific purposes.

Local authority grants

This is funding received from the local authority for specific purposes, for example Special Educational Needs funding.

Other educational activities

This includes all other educational income/expenditure.

Pension reserve

This represents the negative reserve in respect of the liability on the LGPS pension scheme which was transferred to the Academy Trust on conversion.

Fixed asset fund

The fund includes the value of the tangible fixed assets of the academy on conversion, and amounts transferred from GAG or other restricted funds specifically for expenditure on tangible fixed assets, and the annual charges for depreciation of these assets.

DfE/ESFA capital grants

This is funding received from the DfE/ESFA specifically for expenditure on capital improvements.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds represents the free reserves of the Academy Trust which are not restricted for particular purposes. In addition, the Trustees have agreed to provide towards the future replacement or refurbishment of the all weather pitch at Perins School by designating annually an amount of the unrestricted reserves. The Trustees have therefore allocated £30,000 (2022: £30,000) in the current year, with a total fund of £110,000 (2022: £80,000) at 31 August 2023. This is included within unrestricted funds.

Transfers between funds

Transfers to the restricted fixed asset fund represent the cost of fixed asset additions which have been funded from restricted or unrestricted general 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.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

18 Funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

| | 2022/23 | 2021/22 |
|---|------------|------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Perins School | 1,053,797 | 1,174,790 |
| Sun Hill Junior School | 51,628 | (28,047) |
| Central services | 16,645 | (5,395) |
| Total before fixed assets and pension reserve | 1,122,070 | 1,141,348 |
| Restricted fixed asset fund | 17,819,445 | 18,079,281 |
| Pension reserve | (84,000) | (517,000) |
| Total | 18,857,515 | 18,703,629 |

Total cost analysis by academy

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

| | Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £ | Other Support Staff Costs £ | Educational Supplies £ | Other Costs (excl. dep- reciation) £ | 2022/23 Total £ | 2021/22 Total £ |
|------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Perins School | 5,415,657 | 1,302,640 | 874,391 | 960,741 | 8,553,429 | 8,283,299 |
| Sun Hill Junior School | 759,287 | 148,603 | 74,809 | 235,966 | 1,218,665 | 1,232,371 |
| | 6,174,944 | 1,451,243 | 949,200 | 1,196,707 | 9,772,094 | 9,515,670 |

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

18 Funds (continued)

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

| | Balance at 1 September 2021 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers £ | Gains and losses £ | Balance at 31 August 2022 £ |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Restricted general funds | | | | | | |
| General Annual Grant (GAG) | 271,307 | 7,352,145 | (7,209,813) | (72,572) | - | 341,067 |
| Pupil premium | - | 152,683 | (152,683) | - | - | - |
| Insurance | - | 126,171 | (126,171) | - | - | - |
| Rates reclaim | - | 46,548 | (46,548) | - | - | - |
| PE and sports grant | - | 18,180 | (18,180) | - | - | - |
| Other DfE grants | - | 134,262 | (134,262) | - | - | - |
| Local authority grants | - | 128,429 | (128,429) | - | - | - |
| Other Coronavirus funding | - | 46,485 | (46,485) | - | - | - |
| Sports and Arts Foundation | 31,112 | - | - | - | - | 31,112 |
| Up cycle workshop | 647 | - | - | - | - | 647 |
| Linbury Trust Theatre project | 18,000 | - | (14,700) | - | - | 3,300 |
| Other educational activities | - | 603,901 | (603,901) | - | - | - |
| | 321,066 | 8,608,804 | (8,481,172) | (72,572) | - | 376,126 |
| Pension reserve | (4,327,000) | - | (622,000) | - | 4,432,000 | (517,000) |
| | (4,005,934) | 8,608,804 | (9,103,172) | (72,572) | 4,432,000 | (140,874) |
| Restricted fixed asset funds | | | | | | |
| Fixed asset fund | 18,138,637 | - | (407,207) | 347,851 | - | 18,079,281 |
| ESFA capital grants (DFC) | - | 30,619 | - | (30,619) | - | - |
| ESFA capital grants (CIF) | 333,814 | (89,154) | - | (244,660) | - | - |
| | 18,472,451 | (58,535) | (407,207) | 72,572 | - | 18,079,281 |
| Total restricted funds | 14,466,517 | 8,550,269 | (9,510,379) | - | 4,432,000 | 17,938,407 |
| Total unrestricted funds | 551,107 | 626,613 | (412,498) | - | - | 765,222 |
| Total funds | 15,017,624 | 9,176,882 | (9,922,877) | - | 4,432,000 | 18,703,629 |

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

| | Un-restricted funds | Restricted general funds | Restricted pension funds | Restricted fixed asset funds | Total funds |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Tangible fixed assets | - | - | - | 17,819,445 | 17,819,445 |
| Current assets | 845,038 | 1,220,005 | - | - | 2,065,043 |
| Current liabilities | - | (913,156) | - | - | (913,156) |
| Non-current liabilities | - | (29,817) | - | - | (29,817) |
| Pension scheme liability | - | - | (84,000) | - | (84,000) |
| Total net assets | 845,038 | 277,032 | (84,000) | 17,819,445 | 18,857,515 |

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

| | Un-restricted funds | Restricted general funds | Restricted pension funds | Restricted fixed asset funds | Total funds |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Tangible fixed assets | - | - | - | 18,079,281 | 18,079,281 |
| Current assets | 765,222 | 1,134,904 | - | - | 1,900,126 |
| Current liabilities | - | (716,975) | - | - | (716,975) |
| Non-current liabilities | - | (41,803) | - | - | (41,803) |
| Pension scheme liability | - | - | (517,000) | - | (517,000) |
| Total net assets | 765,222 | 376,126 | (517,000) | 18,079,281 | 18,703,629 |

20 Long-term commitments, including operating leases

Operating leases

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

| | 2022/23 | 2021/22 |
|--|---------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Amounts due within one year | 33,178 | 105,112 |
| Amounts due between one and five years | 4,977 | 33,178 |
| | 38,155 | 138,290 |

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

21 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

| | 2022/23 | 2021/22 |
|--|--------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Net expenditure for the reporting period | (383,114) | (745,995) |
| Adjusted for: | | |
| Depreciation | 410,467 | 407,207 |
| Capital grants from DfE and other capital income | (90,544) | 58,535 |
| Interest receivable | (11,158) | (172) |
| Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable | 82,000 | 550,000 |
| Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost | 22,000 | 72,000 |
| (Increase) / decrease in stocks | (1,453) | 1,381 |
| (Increase) / decrease in debtors | (220,985) | 563,273 |
| Increase / (decrease) in creditors | 196,181 | (152,937) |
| Net cash provided by Operating Activities | <u>3,394</u> | <u>753,292</u> |

22 Cash flows from financing activities

| | 2022/23 | 2021/22 |
|---|-----------------|--------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Repayments of borrowing | (11,986) | 2,213 |
| Net cash (used in) / provided by financing activities | <u>(11,986)</u> | <u>2,213</u> |

23 Cash flows from investing activities

| | 2022/23 | 2021/22 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Dividends, interest and rents from investments | 11,158 | 172 |
| (Increase) / decrease in current asset investments | (305,296) | - |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets | (150,631) | (347,851) |
| Capital grants from DfE Group | 90,544 | (58,535) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | <u>(354,225)</u> | <u>(406,214)</u> |

24 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

| | 2022/23 | 2021/22 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 1,051,975 | 1,618,454 |
| Notice deposits (less than 3 months) | 203,662 | - |
| Total cash and cash equivalents | <u>1,255,637</u> | <u>1,618,454</u> |

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

25 Analysis of changes in net debt

| | At 1 September 2022 £ | Cash flows £ | Acquisition/ disposal of subsidiaries £ | New finance leases £ | Other non-cash changes £ | At 31 August 2023 £ |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Cash | 1,618,454 | (566,479) | - | - | - | 1,051,975 |
| Cash equivalents | - | 203,662 | - | - | - | 203,662 |
| | 1,618,454 | (362,817) | - | - | - | 1,255,637 |
| Loans falling due within one year | (11,985) | - | - | - | - | (11,985) |
| Loans falling due after more than one year | (41,803) | 11,986 | - | - | - | (29,817) |
| Total | 1,564,666 | (350,831) | - | - | - | 1,213,835 |

26 Member liability

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

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

27 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 Hampshire County Council. 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 2022.

Contributions amounting to £134,894 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022: £127,662) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every four 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 31 March 2016 TPS actuarial valuation results were implemented from 1 September 2019. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation were:

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

The latest actuarial TPS valuation results, as at 31 March 2020, were released in October 2023. The revised employer contribution rate, arising from this valuation, is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

27 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £907,067 (2022: £821,515).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was as follows:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Employer's contributions | 281,000 | 270,000 |
| Employees' contributions | 96,000 | 88,000 |
| | 377,000 | 358,000 |

The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.9% for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% for employees.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Rate of increase in salaries | 4.0% | 3.7% |
| Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation | 3.0% | 2.7% |
| Discount rate for scheme liabilities | 5.2% | 4.1% |
| Inflation assumption (CPI) | 3.0% | 2.7% |
| Commutation of pensions to lump sums | 70.0% | 70.0% |

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

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Retiring today</i> | | |
| Males | 22.1 | 22.9 |
| Females | 24.7 | 25.4 |
| <i>Retiring in 20 years</i> | | |
| Males | 22.6 | 24.7 |
| Females | 25.7 | 27.1 |

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

27 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Sensitivity analysis

| | Increase/(reduction) in defined benefit obligation | |
|--|---|-----------|
| | 2023 | 2022 |
| | £ | £ |
| Discount rate +0.1% | (133,000) | (159,000) |
| Discount rate -0.1% | 133,000 | 166,000 |
| Mortality assumption – 1 year increase | 240,000 | 166,000 |
| Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease | (240,000) | (166,000) |
| CPI rate +0.1% | 131,000 | 153,000 |
| CPI rate -0.1% | (131,000) | (147,000) |

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

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | £ | £ |
| Equities | 3,495,000 | 3,251,000 |
| Gilts | 1,895,000 | 853,000 |
| Property | 355,000 | 438,000 |
| Cash and other liquid assets | 178,000 | 51,000 |
| Other | - | 1,021,000 |
| Total market value of assets | 5,923,000 | 5,614,000 |

The actual return on scheme assets was a gain of £37,000 (2022: a loss of £368,000).

Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

| | 2022/23 | 2021/22 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| | £ | £ |
| Current service cost | 363,000 | 820,000 |
| Interest income | (236,000) | (99,000) |
| Interest cost | 258,000 | 171,000 |
| Total amount recognised in the SOFA | 385,000 | 892,000 |

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

27 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

| | 2022/23 | 2021/22 |
|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| At 1 September | 6,131,000 | 10,023,000 |
| Current service cost | 363,000 | 820,000 |
| Interest cost | 258,000 | 171,000 |
| Employee contributions | 96,000 | 88,000 |
| Actuarial gain | (736,000) | (4,899,000) |
| Benefits paid | (105,000) | (72,000) |
| At 31 August | 6,007,000 | 6,131,000 |

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

| | 2022/23 | 2021/22 |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| At 1 September | 5,614,000 | 5,696,000 |
| Interest income | 236,000 | 99,000 |
| Actuarial loss | (199,000) | (467,000) |
| Employer contributions | 281,000 | 270,000 |
| Employee contributions | 96,000 | 88,000 |
| Benefits paid | (105,000) | (72,000) |
| At 31 August | 5,923,000 | 5,614,000 |

28 Related party transactions

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain Trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 9.