

Company registration number 07465520 (England and Wales)

**WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

A L Tobin
The Bishop of Durham represented by J J G Morgan
N R Wyrley-Birch
Durham Diocesan Board of Finance represented by R G Cooper
V J Cuthbert

Trustees

J M Adamson (Appointed 31 January 2023)
C Alder
S A Beech
D R Coombe (Appointed 26 October 2022)
J Crowe (Principal)
B Morris
S Murray (Appointed 22 November 2022 and resigned 25 October 2023)
N J Rogers (Appointed 31 January 2023)
A L Tobin (Chair)
H A Wardle
L W D Williamson
N Clougher (Resigned 9 January 2023)
T Mulford (Resigned 9 January 2023)
J Carter (Appointed 1 December 2023)

Senior management team

- Principal	J Crowe
- Senior Deputy Headteacher	D Smith
- Deputy Headteacher	C Shaw
- Assistant Headteacher	D Tenet
- Assistant Headteacher	N J Clougher
- Assistant Headteacher	L Craggs
- Chief Finance Officer	C Adams

Company secretary

G Hodgson (South Tyneside Council)

Company registration number

07465520 (England and Wales)

Principal and registered office

Rackly Way
Whitburn
Sunderland
Tyne & Wear
SR6 7EF

Independent auditor

Azets Audit Services
Bulman House
Regent Centre
Gosforth
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 3LS

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Bankers

NatWest plc
Fawcett Street
Sunderland
Tyne & Wear
SR1 1SB

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The trustees present their annual report together with the accounts and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report and strategic report under company law.

Whitburn Church of England Academy is for pupils aged 11 to 18 serving Whitburn and the surrounding area . It has a pupil capacity of 1,265 and had a roll of 1,237 in the October 2023 school census.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The academy is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy.

The charitable company is known as Whitburn Church of England Academy.

The directors of Whitburn Church of England Academy are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the directors who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

The academy has purchased insurance to protect the governors from claims arising against negligent acts, errors, or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. Further details are provided in the notes to the financial statements.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

The majority of directors, including the Principal as a director, are appointed by the members. The Governing Body makes all necessary arrangement for the election or, if required, appointment of Parent Directors and the Governing Body may also co-opt directors when required.

The term of office for any director (other than co-opted) is four years, although this time limit does not apply to the Principal. Any governor may be re-appointed or re-elected for a further term provided that he/she continues to meet the eligibility criteria.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

The training and induction provided for new directors depends on their existing experience. Where necessary induction and training is provided on charity, educational, legal and financial matters. All new directors are given a tour of the academy and the chance to meet with staff and pupils. All directors are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as directors. As there are normally only one or two new directors at a time, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual.

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Organisational structure

During the year the academy continued to operate a unified management structure. The structure consists of four levels: the Governing Body, the Senior Management Team, the Senior Leadership Team, and the Operations Management Team. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels

Governing Body- reviews the working of all sub committees. Meetings are convened by the Governance Support Professional in consultation with the Chair of the committee and the Principal. An agenda is prepared by the Governance Support Professional and distributed together with any supporting papers in accordance with current regulations. Minutes of all committee meetings are kept, including the names of those present. Minutes are taken by the Governance Support Professional and are presented to the next appropriate meeting of the Governing Body. The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected at the first meeting of the committee following the annual review of committees.

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee - draws up and approves each year the academy budget. It has responsibility for all matters relevant to the financial management of the academy, including the monitoring and review of the progress of the academy budget. It also monitors the risk register and health safety matters within the school.

Staffing Committee - To consider and take action on all matters relating to the appointment of staff especially in relation to shortlisting and interviewing of candidates for senior teaching and support staff positions at the Academy. To consider and determine all matters relating to the staffing structure of the Academy, including the grading of posts, promotions and adjustments required to ensure curriculum delivery and where appropriate, to refer decisions to the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee for their consideration of the allocation of appropriate finance.

Senior Management Team (SMT) - consists of the Principal, Senior Deputy Head teacher, Deputy Headteacher and 3 Assistant Headteachers, supported by the Chief Financial Officer, who control the academy finances at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the directors and reporting back to them. This group is responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the recruitment of staff for posts in the Senior Leadership Team, though appointments at this level will always be made by Staffing Committee which includes directors. Some spending control is devolved to members of the Senior Leadership Team, with limits above which the Principal or Senior Deputy Headteacher, or an appropriate member of the SMT must countersign for.

Senior Leadership Team (SLT) - the Senior Management Team (as noted above and on page 1) are supported by a broader Senior Leadership Team which is comprised of the most senior middle leaders in charge of English and Maths and the SENCO who make key decisions about teaching and learning.

Middle Management - consists of Heads of Subject (excluding Maths and English) who have responsibility for holding departmental budgets.

Operations Management Team - includes the SMT, Data Manager, Office Manager, Network Manager and Senior Site Supervisor. Meetings are held fortnightly to discuss all operational matters and review the performance of all events.

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Leadership Teacher Posts (Principal, Senior Deputy, Deputy and Assistant Headteachers)

Pay range for Principal (Individual School Range (ISR))

The Staffing Committee will determine the ISR for a Principal when it intends to make a new appointment or at any other time if it is considered necessary to retain the Principal. The ISR will be reviewed at each annual salary review on 1 September.

The Governing Body regards the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions (STPC) and considers setting the ISR within the group relevant to the academy's unit total. The Governing Body may award discretionary payments up to a maximum of 25% of the current salary point in the following circumstances;

- without such additional payments the relevant body considers that the academy would have substantial difficulty filling the relevant Principal post;
- without such additional payments the relevant body considers that the academy would have substantial difficulty retaining the current Principal; or
- the Principal is appointed as a temporary Principal in one or more additional schools.

Pay ranges for Senior Deputy, Deputy and Assistant Headteachers

The Staffing Committee will determine the pay range for a Senior Deputy Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or Assistant Headteacher when it intends to make a new appointment or at any other time where there is a significant change in the responsibilities of the current postholder. The pay range will be reviewed at each annual salary review on 1 September.

The Principal Pay Range is: L34 - 39

The Senior Deputy Headteacher Pay Range is L24 - 26

The Deputy Headteacher Pay Range is: L19 - 23

The Assistant Headteacher Pay Range is: L14 - 18

The Directors, SENCO, Pay Range is L9 - 13

The Governing Body will normally appoint new leadership teachers at the bottom point of the relevant range.

The Governing Body will pay teachers as a Principal, Senior Deputy, Deputy or Assistant Headteachers only where the Governing Body is satisfied that, in the context of the teacher's duties, the role includes a significant responsibility that is not required of all classroom teachers or Teaching and Learning Responsibility (TLR) holders, and that the role:

- . is focused on teaching and learning;
- . requires the exercise of professional skills and judgement;
- . requires the teacher to lead and manage the academy through:
 - development of teaching and learning priorities across the academy;
 - . accountability for the standards of achievement and behaviour of pupils across the academy;
 - . accountability for the planning and deployment of the academy's resources;
 - . leading policy development and implementation across the academy in accordance with statutory provisions;
 - . managing whole school operational activity;
 - . working with external bodies and agencies; and
 - . securing pupils' access to their educational entitlements;
- . has an impact on educational progress of the school's pupils;
- . involves leading, developing and enhancing the teaching practice of the school's staff; and
- . includes line management responsibility for a significant number of people and /or line management of an individual.

In the case of the Principal, Senior Deputy and Deputy Headteacher posts the Governing Body must also be satisfied that this significant responsibility features a job weight which exceeds that expected of an Assistant Headteacher employed in the same school, including responsibility for discharging in full the responsibilities of the Principal in the absence of the Principal.

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	4
Full-time equivalent employee number	3.40

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	2
1%-50%	1
51%-99%	-
100%	1

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	£ 34,035
Total pay bill	6,455,054
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	1%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	-
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Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The academy works closely with partner primary schools in the area to ensure pupils benefit from a smooth transition into secondary education.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The principal activity is the operation of Whitburn C of E Academy to provide free education for young people between the ages of 11 and 18 of all abilities, based on an inclusive, balanced and broad curriculum.

The Governing Body and staff of the academy are committed to providing an outstanding education, which will support children's particular needs and encourage development of their academic, social and intellectual understanding.

We strive to make our motto "Excellence for All" a reality in order that the young people of this academy are given the best possible opportunity to succeed in life.

We pride ourselves in nurturing confident, responsible, kind young people who are well equipped to take on the challenges of further education and employment and to achieve a fulfilling life.

The academy has a unique ethos, which encapsulates that which we seek to provide for our pupils.

In accordance with the articles of association the charitable company has adopted a 'Scheme of Government' approved by the Secretary of State for Education. The Scheme of Government specifies, amongst other things, the basis for admitting students to the academy, the catchment area from which the students are drawn, and that the curriculum should comply with the substance of the national curriculum.

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Objectives, strategies and activities

The main objectives of the academy during the year ended 31 August 2023 are summarised below:

Strategic Aim 1:

- Progress 8 score continues to be positive for 2022/2023. A Level value added to be positive. Increased proportion of students gaining grades 5+ in English and Maths.

Strategic Aim 2:

- Gaps in achievement and progress between groups of pupils (especially disadvantaged and SEN students) and other students continue to close so that "Excellence for all" is achieved.

Strategic Aim 3:

- Raise the profile of reading across the academy by implementing a Reading Intervention Programme to support weaker readers in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. This will include Re-launching the school library into a reading and learning space.

Strategic Aim 4:

- Make explicit to students the positive behaviours that are important in successful learning, well-being and personal development.

Strategic Aim 5:

- Create and embed consistent classroom routines, expectations and language across all staff to promote the culture of positive behaviour

Strategic Aim 6:

- Middle leaders take more strategic view of their departments work

Strategic Aim 7:

- Continue to explore opportunities for joining a MAT to ensure the long-term financial viability of the school.

Strategic Aim 8:

- Staff and Students can make direct links between the vision and practice of the schools' distinctive Christian values

Public benefit

The academy's aims and achievements are set out within this report and have been undertaken to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit. The directors have complied with the duty under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and the directors have considered this guidance in deciding what activities the academy should undertake.

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

Last academic year saw the Academy return to a sense of normality post Covid and a more settled year than previous years. Our challenge was to ensure that student attendance figures returned back to pre-pandemic numbers and that focus and intervention was provided for students who had been identified as requiring support.

This academic year saw the introduction of a new pastoral system which has provided a far more robust level of support and care across the whole school. In light of an increase in post-pandemic challenges around mental health and emotional resilience, the non-teaching pastoral system has been able to forge greater relationships with families and the community. We have seen quite a dramatic increase in students accessing our counselling provision as students are often held up in long waiting lists with Health providers who are very much up to capacity in many areas.

In line with our Development Plan priorities relating to improving our SEN provision throughout the school, we have made great strides in this area. We have increased the size of our SEN learning support team and have introduced Key Workers who support teams of students with specific needs. We have also appointed an Assistant SENCO to support the new SENCO who started with us in January. A large amount of training has been undertaken with teaching staff in this area and the progress gap between learners without special educational needs and with special educational needs has closed slightly. All students now have accurate and up to date provision maps which are used to help teachers focus upon the most appropriate and effective levels of support.

Headlines:

3 year mean values for GSCE key performance indicators:

Attainment 8 = 53.7

Progress 8 = +0.2

Basics (pass in both English and Maths at GCSE) = 81.3%

EBacc passes = 16.9%

Key performance indicators

Pupil Attendance Data

KPI	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
% Absence	4.59%	7.09%	7.13%	7.51%	7.60%
% Persistent absence	5.6%	0.96%	5.25%	3.96%	3.92%

Staffing /Finance Data HCSS - Key performance indicators

KPI	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Salary costs to ESFA Revenue Income %	92.8%	92.3%	94.6%	91.8%	86.3%
Salary costs to total income	80.1%	84.9%	87.8%	84.1%	82.6%
Salary costs as % Total Expense	73.8%	78.4%	82.3%	78.2%	75.6%
FTE Teaching staff	72.1	72.1	74.9	74.1	76.4
FTE Support staff	47.4	46.6	46.5	49.1	51.1

Going concern

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

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Financial review

The Academy has made a surplus before pension costs and depreciation in the year of £108,260. This is in line with our 3-year financial recovery plan which aimed to eliminate our reserves deficit.

Most of the academy's income is obtained from the Department of Education (DfE) via the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE/ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The academy also receives grants for fixed assets from the DfE/ESFA. In accordance with The Charities SORP (FRS102), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

We note a significant improvement in cumulative revenue reserves which were in a deficit position of £418,000 at 31 August 2019 to a cumulative surplus position of £112,000 at 31 August 2023. This financial improvement has been the result of continued cost cutting exercises and an increase in minimum funding levels from the 21/22 financial year.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, total expenditure of £8,536,178 was in excess of recurrent grant funding from the DfE/ESFA together with other incoming resources. The excess of expenditure over income for the year (before transfers and actuarial gains, and excluding restricted fixed asset fund movements) was £108,260.

All of the expenditure shown in the Statement of Financial Activities is in furtherance of the academies objectives.

At 31 August 2023 the net book value of fixed assets was £13,387,844 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 10 to the Financial Statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the students of the academy.

The provisions of Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 have been applied in full in respect of the LGPS pensions scheme, resulting in an asset of £nil recognised on the balance sheet.

The academy held fund balances at 31 August 2023 of £111,511 comprising of unrestricted funds.

Reserves policy

The academy holds restricted and unrestricted funds (the attached financial statements detail these funds). Unrestricted funds are held:

- to provide funds which can be designated to specific areas such as to cover ongoing costs in relation to the running of the academy, including catering provisions, school trips, and uniform costs.

The level of reserves is reviewed by the directors regularly throughout the year. The minimum level of reserves for the ongoing needs of the academy is reviewed by the directors on an annual basis. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The directors therefore consider it prudent to hold unrestricted reserves in the general fund in the form of free reserves (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds) of £500,000.

This is considered sufficient to cover:

- future cash flow requirements and capital procurements; and
- protection so that it has the ability to adjust quickly to financial circumstances, such as large unbudgeted expenditure, cyclical maintenance and working capital.

The academy's current level of available (restricted general and unrestricted) reserves are in surplus by £111,511 (2022: £3,251) and therefore are considered to be below the level of reserves required for the ongoing needs of the academy. The reserves position has had the long impact of the opening of the sixth form in 2015 whereby costs were incurred in the set up phase prior to it being at full capacity, with no start-up funding provided. Since then The Academy has continued to be funded at minimum per pupil rates (at least £500 per pupil lower than any neighbouring schools) which presents a continuous and significant financial challenge. Further information regarding plans to rebuild reserves are included within note 1 – Going Concern.

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Investment policy

The academy maintains funds in a current account with a sweeping arrangement giving a daily balance of £10,000 to provide for day to day operation; the remainder of funds are held in an interest bearing account.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The academy has developed a risk management strategy and has a risk register which includes the potential financial risks. As part of developing the register, key risks to which the Trust may be exposed were identified and reviewed, together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks.

Key financial policies have been adopted and reviewed throughout the year. These detail the framework for financial management, including financial responsibilities of the board, accounting officer and budget holders, as well as outlining the authority for spending. Finances are reviewed each term by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, evaluating performance against budgets and overall expenditure.

The principle risks and uncertainties are centred on changes in the level of funding from the DfE/ESFA and unfunded pay rises for both teaching and support staff. The increase in costs of living, in particular utilities costs, will start to impact in 2023/24.

The directors have assessed the major risks to which the academy is exposed, in particular specifically relating to teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the academy, and its finances. The directors have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the school faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying and school visits) and in relation to the control of finance. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The academy has in place an effective system of internal financial controls.

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee has oversight of the academy's health and safety risks and risks related to the operation of the premises. The committee ensures the academy complies with relevant regulations and it considers the risk register at each meeting to ensure controls and mitigations are in place.

The academy has fully implemented the requirements of the Safer Recruitment procedures and all staff have received training in this area in addition to training on Child Protection and keeping children safe in education. All directors undertake safeguarding training at least annually.

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

Fundraising

General charitable fundraising of the kind envisaged under the provisions of the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 represent a very small part of the Academy's activities and income, and is generally restricted to fundraising for specific events such as school fairs and performances. Other fundraising is for specific expenditure to support educational activities. Professional fundraisers are not used and there is therefore no monitoring required in this area.

Complaints regarding fundraising would be dealt with in accordance with the Academy's Complaint Policy, available on the website.

Plans for future periods

The academy continues to work with the Diocesan Board of Education to actively consider a range of possible options to ensure the sustainability of the school and this includes the possibility of joining a suitable and compatible MAT. All options here are aimed at improving the academy's financial position through achieving economies of scale, particularly through shared staffing costs. This is whilst ensuring the school's ethos and values and our continued excellent education provision are safeguarded.

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

A resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company will be put to the members.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 19/12/2023..... and signed on its behalf by:


John Crowe 19 Dec 2023 17:12:29 GMT (UTC +0)
.....

J Crowe
Principal


Andrea Tobin 19 Dec 2023 16:50:46 GMT (UTC +0)
.....

A L Tobin
Chair

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Scope of responsibility

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

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the principal, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Whitburn Church Of England Academy and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Directors' report and in the statement of Directors' Responsibilities. The full governing body has met 8 times, 1 of which was a special meeting, during the year, effective control has been maintained through those meetings and meetings of the various sub-committees as detailed below.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the governing body was as follows :

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
J M Adamson (Appointed 31 January 2023)	2	3
C Alder	8	8
S A Beech	8	8
D R Coombe (Appointed 26 October 2022)	7	6
J Crowe (Principal)	8	8
B Morris	7	8
S Murray (Appointed 22 November 2022 and resigned 25 October 2023)	6	6
N J Rogers (Appointed 31 January 2023)	2	3
A L Tobin (Chair)	7	8
H A Wardle	4	8
L W D Williamson	6	8
N Clougher (Resigned 9 January 2023)	3	4
T Mulford (Resigned 9 January 2023)	4	4
J Carter (Appointed 1 December 2023)		

Conflicts of interest

The Academy's Business Interest Policy is updated and approved annually by the Board. It requires every Director and member of staff with any financial or budget holder responsibility to complete a Declaration of Interests form annually. Interests of related persons such as spouse, business partner, parent or anyone who could exert undue influence over the Director or staff member should also be declared.

The declarations from Directors are held by the Principal's Personal Assistant and Policy Officer and the Governance Professional. Staff declarations are held by the Senior Business Officer in the Business Office.

Directors and staff are reminded at the start of every meeting to declare any business interest or conflict of interest arising from the meeting agenda items. Directors and staff are excluded from any discussions and decisions on those items where they have an interest.

All staff and directors are asked to report any changes or new interests as soon as they occur.

The business interest forms are regularly reviewed and considered when making purchasing decisions to ensure Academy policies and the Academy Trust Handbook are being complied with.

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Governance reviews

During the year, the Board completed the recommendations from the external review of governance undertaken by a National Leader of Governance in December 2019. The Board undertakes an annual skills audit and during the year the following directors were appointed: two new staff representatives; a parent with SEN experience and a community director with business skills. The Board uses the National Governance Association (NGA) Twenty Questions as a tool for self-assessment.

The finance, audit and risk committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
S A Beech	3	4
J Crowe (Principal)	4	4
A L Tobin (Chair)	4	4
H A Wardle	4	4
L W D Williamson	4	4

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the Chief Executive had responsibility for ensuring that the Trust delivered good value in the use of public resources during the period. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the tax payers' resources received.

The accounting officer must have oversight of financial transactions, by ensuring the academy trust's property and assets are under the trustees' control, and measures exist to prevent losses or misuse. They must ensure that bank accounts, financial systems and financial records are operated by more than one person. They must keep full and accurate accounting records to support their annual accounts.

The accounting officer considers how the academy's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the governing body where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The school uses the Integrated Curriculum and Financial Planning (ICFP) tool to ensure VFM from the curriculum during the year.

The school used the School Resource Management service during the year. The consultant confirmed that there is little scope for further financial efficiencies.

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Improving educational results :

To ensure that standards are continually raised, the Academy:

- Operated a focused and developmental programme of lesson observations to ensure high quality teaching;
- Developed an updated target setting system to motivate pupils and to benchmark progress in relation to the GCSE grading system;
- Tracked pupil progress at regular intervals to intervene if progress slowed;
- Regular revision sessions were held after school, during holiday periods and
- Underachieving pupils were allocated a senior member of staff as a mentor.

Targeted improvement :

Staffing structure is deployed to support an improved curriculum.

- Pre and after school booster sessions were in place as well as 'master classes' during lessons' time in mathematics and English
- New SENCO appointed in January 2023 to oversee the reorganisation of Learning support provision, in order to deliver the requirements from the development plan.
- Assistant SENCO appointed in the summer term to bolster SEN team and deliver requirements from the Development Plan
- SEN support staff provide a range of interventions before, during and after school. These include:
 - Handwriting support sessions (small groups)
 - LEXIA Powerup programme (to improve vocabulary, grammar and reading skills)
 - Comprehension & inference activities (Small groups)
 - Basic skills Maths tuition (small groups)
 - Entry level English and Maths tuition (during school day for designated Y11 students)
 - Targeted support for identified pupils, with bespoke intervention from tutors employed by the government's National Tutoring Programme.

Focus on individual pupils:

Our intention is to ensure that all students have the opportunity to develop their skills, character and abilities to their fullest potential, irrespective of their background or the challenges they may face.

This intention will be realised by students making good progress in their learning such that they have the knowledge and understanding that will lead to attainment that in turn will give them the springboard to the next stage in their education / career.

This intention will also be realised by all students developing the skills, habits and characteristics that will make them able to participate fully and productively in society and remove any future barriers to learning and aspiration.

Our strategy will be guided by robust diagnoses of the evidence of the issues faced by our students alongside evidence informed strategies and practices such as those published by the EEF. Whilst we will focus on the issues that are most crucial to unlocking the potential of disadvantaged students such as attendance and parental engagement, our strategy is rooted in the belief that the actions that support disadvantaged learners will support all learners to make better progress.

Central to our strategy is the emphasis on Quality First teaching for all students, all the time. Our focus on reading is crucial in improving students' ability to both access the curriculum and gain the generative knowledge that will allow sustained progress in learning and attainment. Allied to a focus on the areas where disadvantaged students require the most support, we intend to ensure that all students make improved progress and that differences in the progress between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students are minimised.

We believe that by making this a whole school approach that reaches into every classroom and makes it the responsibility of all staff we can provide the conditions in which all students can maximise their potential regardless of their starting points.

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Activities range from:

- Employment of additional Science Teacher to create capacity to provide instruction for students in internal isolation in core subjects. Use of dedicated room and resources (including lunchtime) to support reflection and reduce repeat isolations
- Small group and one to one support using additional specialist English and Maths teaching staff, during lessons;
- Booster sessions in Maths and English before school and Master classes, during lessons;
- Reading Strategy commenced January 2022. Including whole school INSET and ongoing CPD. Relaunch of library including physical remodelling, purchase of new furniture and resources
- CPD / Professional Growth to support Quality First Inclusive Teaching. Including INSET / Twilight time.
- Structured reading interventions. CPD from primary schools on delivering interventions, training for SSA staff on delivering interventions. Employment of an extra member of the SSA team. Purchase of Accelerated Reader license and additional texts to support PP students with weaker reading skills
- Remodelling of SEN support including CPD for staff
- Redeployment of staff to create a dedicated Attendance Officer position. Swifter parental contact and ability to work in the home to improve attendance. Improved data collection to aid decision making
- Greater use of external counselling and related services to support wellbeing and emotional health
- Teaching and Learning focus upon improving behaviour. Including INSET time, strategic review of rewards system and redesign of behaviour interventions
- Focus on widening participation in extra curricula activities. Supporting disadvantaged students to participate. Remodelling of directed time to build in increased offer of extra curricula clubs from all teaching staff.
- Subsidising school trips;
- Support with uniform purchase;
- Purchasing lesson specific materials - e.g. Food Technology ingredients, Art materials, calculators, revision guides, texts;
- Personalised provision (Offsite/Vocational Learning);
- Financial assistance for additional Music tuition or purchase of musical equipment
- Enabling through the contribution of extra funds the provision of whole school resources to support learning including MyMaths, Mathswatch and the Accelerated Reading programme; and
- Additional Careers guidance to address PP aspiration.

Whilst the Pupil Premium provides us with much needed additional funding, we always focus on the individual needs of pupils regardless of their background and devote appropriate resources to ensure that all pupils can achieve.

Sixth Form students:

The impact of the 16-19 tuition funding has been to support and enhance our existing intervention strategies for students who would otherwise have been disadvantaged and has allowed them to experience the full range of opportunities offered. We have used this funding to employ a Sixth Form Pastoral Year Lead who works to remove barriers to learning and support identified students who are often (but not exclusively) former PP students and/or SEND students.

- One-to-one mentoring sessions around study skills;
- Supervised study for those who struggle to make use of study periods due to their ASD needs;
- Additional careers guidance for those lacking direction;

Collaboration:

The academy does not have any formal collaboration agreements in place but continues to work alongside primary partners and local secondary schools with similar curricula and profiles.

The purpose of the system of internal control

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

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Capacity to handle risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;
- regular reviews by the finance, audit and risk committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

The board of trustees has decided:

- to employ Clive Owen LLP as internal assurance provider.

During the year ended 31 August 2023 three internal assurance visits were completed (remotely and on site) and reports received outlining the areas reviewed, key findings and recommendations. Three matters classified as "low risk" were identified but were deemed to be completely resolved by 31 August 2023.

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal reviewer;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework;
- the work of the external auditor
- correspondence from ESFA, eg financial notice to improve/notice to improve (FNtl/Ntl) and 'minded to' letters.

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of the review of the system of internal control by the finance, audit and risk committee and a plan to address findings and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place. In addition, A full external review of governance in response to the findings has been undertaken and recommendations from this review and have been fully acted upon.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 19/12/2023 and signed on its behalf by:



John Crowe 19 Dec 2023 17:12:29 GMT (UTC +0)

J Crowe
Principal



Andrea Tobin 19 Dec 2023 16:50:46 GMT (UTC +0)

A L Tobin
Chair

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

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

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



John Crowe 19 Dec 2023 17:12:29 GMT (UTC +0)

J Crowe
Accounting Officer

19 December 2023
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WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

Company law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year. Under company law, the trustees must not approve the accounts 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 accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts 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 accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 19/12/2023 and signed on its behalf by:


John Crowe 19 Dec 2023 17:12:29 GMT (UTC +0)

J Crowe
Principal


Andrea Tobin 19 Dec 2023 16:50:46 GMT (UTC +0)

A L Tobin
Chair

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Whitburn Church of England Academy ('the charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the accounts, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts' section of our report. We are independent of the academy trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts 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.

Emphasis of matter

We draw your attention to the key judgements made in relation to the accounting treatment and assumptions regarding the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). The key judgements are disclosed in note 2 and the pension note includes the relevant pension scheme disclosures. It should be noted that for sector-wide comparability users of these financial statements should take into consideration differing sector judgements relating to asset ceiling calculations, where appropriate. Our Auditor's Report is unmodified in this respect.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the accounts 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 accounts 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 accounts 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.

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and
- the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts 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 accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the accounts, the trustees are responsible for assessing the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

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:

- enquiries of management about any actual or potential litigation and claims;
- enquiries of management about any known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their significant accounting estimates;
- auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias;
- reading correspondence with regulators including the OFSTED; and
- reviewing minutes of those charged with governance;
- reviewing internal assurance reports; and
- reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing support documentation.

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

We identified the following areas as those most likely to have a material impact on the financial statements: Health and Safety; employment law (including the Working Time Directive); and compliance with the Charities Act 2011 and UK Companies Act.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements in the financial statements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the ISAs (UK). For instance, the further removed non-compliance is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the auditor is to become aware of it or to recognise the non-compliance.

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

Use of our report

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

Brian Laidlaw BA CA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Azets Audit Services

Azets Audit Services
Brian Laidlaw 19 Dec 2023 22:22:08 GMT (UTC +0)
.....

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Bulman House
Regent Centre
Gosforth
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 3LS

19 December 2023

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 30 June 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 Whitburn Church of England Academy 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 Whitburn Church of England Academy and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Whitburn Church of England Academy and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Whitburn Church of England Academy and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Whitburn Church of England Academy's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

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

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Review of Governing Body and committee minutes;
- Review of available internal assurance reports;
- Completion of self assessment questionnaire by the Accounting Officer;
- Discussions with the Accounting Officer and finance team;
- Review documentation provided to Governors and Accounting Officer setting our responsibilities;
- Obtained a formal letter of representation detailing the responsibilities of Governors;
- Review of payroll, purchases and expense claims on a sample basis;
- Confirmation that the lines of delegation and limits set have been adhered to;
- Evaluation of internal control procedures and reporting lines;
- Review of cash payments for unusual transactions;
- Review of purchasing card transactions;
- Review of register of interests;
- Review of related party transactions;
- Review of borrowing arrangements;
- Review of land and building transactions;
- Review of potential and actual bad debts;
- Review of gifts and hospitality on a sample basis to ensure in line with policy; and
- Consideration of governance issues.

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.

Azets Audit Services

Brian Laidlaw 19 Dec 2023 22:22:08 GMT (UTC +0)

Reporting Accountant

Azets Audit Services

Bulman House

Regent Centre

Gosforth

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE3 3LS

Dated: 19 December 2023

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WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	199,191	-	74,891	274,082	142,767
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	280,792	7,535,185	-	7,815,977	7,080,359
Other trading activities	5	143,356	8,574	-	151,930	213,409
Total		<u>623,339</u>	<u>7,543,759</u>	<u>74,891</u>	<u>8,241,989</u>	<u>7,436,535</u>
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	7	256,536	7,907,369	372,273	8,536,178	8,004,061
Total	6	<u>256,536</u>	<u>7,907,369</u>	<u>372,273</u>	<u>8,536,178</u>	<u>8,004,061</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		366,803	(363,610)	(297,382)	(294,189)	(567,526)
Transfers between funds	17	(649,759)	685,826	(36,067)	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	143,000	-	143,000	3,453,000
Net movement in funds		<u>(282,956)</u>	<u>465,216</u>	<u>(333,449)</u>	<u>(151,189)</u>	<u>2,885,474</u>
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		394,467	(465,216)	13,687,914	13,617,165	10,731,691
Total funds carried forward		<u>111,511</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,354,465</u>	<u>13,465,976</u>	<u>13,617,165</u>

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2022	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
		funds	General	Fixed asset	2022
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	117,046	-	25,721	142,767
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	236,804	6,843,555	-	7,080,359
Other trading activities	5	184,509	28,900	-	213,409
Total		<u>538,359</u>	<u>6,872,455</u>	<u>25,721</u>	<u>7,436,535</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	7	397,892	7,234,362	371,807	8,004,061
Total	6	<u>397,892</u>	<u>7,234,362</u>	<u>371,807</u>	<u>8,004,061</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		140,467	(361,907)	(346,086)	(567,526)
Transfers between funds	17	-	(22,000)	22,000	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	3,453,000	-	3,453,000
Net movement in funds		140,467	3,069,093	(324,086)	2,885,474
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		254,000	(3,534,309)	14,012,000	10,731,691
Total funds carried forward		<u>394,467</u>	<u>(465,216)</u>	<u>13,687,914</u>	<u>13,617,165</u>

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

BALANCE SHEET

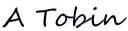
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		13,347,844		13,713,112
Current assets					
Stock	12	1,900		1,900	
Debtors	13	306,374		190,572	
Cash at bank and in hand		384,931		368,667	
			693,205		561,139
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(562,196)		(563,771)	
Net current assets/(liabilities)			131,009		(2,632)
Total assets less current liabilities			13,478,853		13,710,480
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15		(12,877)		(19,315)
Net assets excluding pension liability			13,465,976		13,691,165
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19		-		(74,000)
Total net assets			13,465,976		13,617,165
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds	17				
- Fixed asset funds			13,354,465		13,687,914
- Restricted income funds			-		(391,216)
- Pension reserve			-		(74,000)
Total restricted funds			13,354,465		13,222,698
Unrestricted income funds	17		111,511		394,467
Total funds			13,465,976		13,617,165

The accounts on pages 24 to 48 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 19/12/2023..... and are signed on their behalf by:


 John Crowe 19 Dec 2023 17:12:29 GMT (UTC +0)

 J Crowe
 Principal


 Andrea Tobin 19 Dec 2023 16:50:46 GMT (UTC +0)

 A L Tobin
 Chair

Company registration number 07465520 (England and Wales)

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	20		(19,803)		100,999
Cash flows from investing activities					
Capital grants from DfE Group		74,891		25,721	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(7,005)		(41,068)	
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities			67,886		(15,347)
Cash flows from financing activities					
Repayment of long term bank loan		(31,819)		(6,438)	
Net cash used in financing activities			(31,819)		(6,438)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			16,264		79,214
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			368,667		289,453
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			384,931		368,667

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts 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.

1.2 Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, ie whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the accounts 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 accounts.

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

Donations

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

Other income

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

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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 accounts until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'.

Donated fixed assets

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

Investment income

Interest receivable is included in the statement of financial activities on an accrual basis.

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

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

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

Long leasehold property	2% straight line
Computer equipment	33% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line
Motor vehicles	25% straight line

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

1.6 Liabilities

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

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

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

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

Financial liabilities

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

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

1.9 Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is based on estimated selling price less further costs to completion and disposal. Provision is made for obsolete and slow moving stock.

1.10 Taxation

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

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.11 Pensions benefits

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

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

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

1.12 Fund accounting

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

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

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

1.13 Agency accounting

The academy trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The trust can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the statement of financial activities. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 26.

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

(Continued)

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 19, will impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 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 UK corporate bond yields at 31 August 2023 are at their highest levels for many years resulting in higher accounting discount rates at the year end. This places a significantly lower value on the pension obligations compared to last year and will be one of the main reasons a net asset has been reported. We have ensured that our assumptions are appropriate for the Trust and the valuation has been based on the following estimates:

- There is a minimum funding requirement in relation to LGPS
- There is the ability to recover a surplus through the ability to reduce future contributions (not refund)
- In calculating the surplus, the present value of current and past service costs is offset against the future contributions over the future period
- The present values in the above calculations are calculated using an annuity representing participation into perpetuity.

There is no known intention to exit the LGPS and therefore the economic benefit of a refund would be highly unlikely and on that basis recognition of an asset is considered inappropriate. We have however considered the economic benefit available to the Trust as a future contribution reduction and whether it is appropriate to recognise the net asset in full. Under FRS 102, a net asset restriction may apply as the prevailing view is that a minimum funding requirement for future service exists in the LGPS. We requested our actuaries consider the impact of the minimum funding requirement on the asset ceiling and as a result we have restricted the asset based upon an asset restriction calculation. We consider this to be appropriate and a more accurate reflection of the pension positions as at the 31 August 2023.

Critical areas of judgement

Accounting estimates and assumptions are made concerning the future and, by their nature, will rarely equal the related actual outcome. The key assumptions and other sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are as follows:

Assessing indicator of impairment.

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

Recognition of land and buildings

With respect to the buildings from which the academy operates, these are legally owned by the Durham Diocesan Board of Finance. Whitburn Church of England Academy is able to use the buildings under the terms of a supplemental lease agreement. A judgement is required as to whether to recognise the asset or treat it as an operating lease as an absence of a formal agreement. The assessment has been based on the substance of the arrangements including historical arrangements and understanding of legal owners intentions. As the risk and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the academy the assets have been recognised within tangible fixed assets. The initial acquisition was recognised at depreciated replacement cost by DTZ, on behalf of the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Capital grants	-	74,891	74,891	25,721
Other donations	199,191	-	199,191	117,046
	<u>199,191</u>	<u>74,891</u>	<u>274,082</u>	<u>142,767</u>

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	6,742,803	6,742,803	6,427,760
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- Pupil premium	-	205,117	205,117	177,197
- Supplementary Grant	-	177,014	177,014	73,000
- Teachers' Pay Grant	-	46,330	46,330	53,575
- Rates reclaim	-	23,328	23,328	34,472
- Others	-	281,419	281,419	49,285
	<u>-</u>	<u>7,476,011</u>	<u>7,476,011</u>	<u>6,815,289</u>
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	13,151	13,151	12,497
	<u>-</u>	<u>13,151</u>	<u>13,151</u>	<u>12,497</u>
COVID-19 additional funding				
DfE/ESFA				
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	46,023	46,023	15,769
	<u>-</u>	<u>46,023</u>	<u>46,023</u>	<u>15,769</u>
Other incoming resources	280,792	-	280,792	236,804
	<u>280,792</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>280,792</u>	<u>236,804</u>
Total funding	<u>280,792</u>	<u>7,535,185</u>	<u>7,815,977</u>	<u>7,080,359</u>

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Uniform income	-	8,574	8,574	28,900
Other income	143,356	-	143,356	184,509
	<u>143,356</u>	<u>8,574</u>	<u>151,930</u>	<u>213,409</u>

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

6 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure Premises £	Other £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	5,385,191	372,273	549,510	6,306,974	5,967,755
- Allocated support costs	1,142,742	426,775	659,687	2,229,204	2,035,307
	<u>6,527,933</u>	<u>799,048</u>	<u>1,209,197</u>	<u>8,536,178</u>	<u>8,003,062</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Operating lease rentals	26,416	27,036
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	372,273	370,808
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	11,000	9,000
- Other services	2,675	2,300
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(1,000)	53,000
	<u>26,416</u>	<u>27,036</u>

7 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Direct costs				
Educational operations	256,536	6,050,438	6,306,974	5,967,755
Support costs				
Educational operations	-	2,229,204	2,229,204	2,035,307
	<u>256,536</u>	<u>8,279,642</u>	<u>8,536,178</u>	<u>8,003,062</u>

Analysis of support costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Support staff costs	1,142,742	1,040,273
Technology costs	81,633	72,487
Premises costs	426,775	342,192
Legal costs	129,344	107,503
Other support costs	448,710	461,852
Governance costs	-	11,000
	<u>2,229,204</u>	<u>2,035,307</u>

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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

8 Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	4,835,316	4,466,350
Social security costs	491,909	456,678
Pension costs	1,101,398	1,283,281
	<u>6,428,623</u>	<u>6,206,309</u>
Staff costs - employees	6,428,623	6,206,309
Agency staff costs	72,889	51,964
Staff restructuring costs	26,421	-
	<u>6,527,933</u>	<u>6,258,273</u>
Staff development and other staff costs	9,263	8,658
	<u>6,537,196</u>	<u>6,266,931</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Severance payments	15,500	-
Other restructuring costs	10,921	-
	<u>26,421</u>	<u>-</u>

Severance payments

The academy trust paid 1 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

£0 - £25,000	1
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Staff numbers

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

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Teachers	75	75
Administration and support	69	71
Management	6	6
	<u>150</u>	<u>152</u>

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

8 Staff (Continued)

Higher paid staff

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	3	2
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1
£90,001 - £100,000	-	1
£100,001 - £110,000	1	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £796,583 (2022: £725,640).

9 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more of the trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The 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, and not in respect of their services as trustees.

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

J Crowe (Headteacher and Accounting Officer):

Remuneration: £105,000 - £110,000 (2022 - £95,000 - £100,000)

Employer's pension contributions: £25,000 - £30,000 (2022 - £20,000 - £25,000)

N J Clougher (Director):

Remuneration: £65,000 - £70,000 (2022 - £60,000 - £65,000)

Employer's pension contributions: £15,000 - £20,000 (2022 - £15,000 - £20,000)

T Mulford (Director):

Remuneration: £50,000 - £55,000 (2022 - £45,000 - £50,000)

Employer's pension contributions: £10,000 - £15,000 (2022 - £10,000 - £15,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2023, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £nil (2022 - £178) were reimbursed or paid directly to 0 governors (2022 - 2).

10 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £25,486 (2022: £25,000). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Long leasehold property	Computer equipment	Fixtures and fittings	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 September 2022	17,292,533	225,802	483,104	9,747	18,011,186
Additions	-	-	7,005	-	7,005
At 31 August 2023	17,292,533	225,802	490,109	9,747	18,018,191
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	3,646,899	225,802	416,981	8,392	4,298,074
Charge for the year	344,851	-	26,067	1,355	372,273
At 31 August 2023	3,991,750	225,802	443,048	9,747	4,670,347
Net book value					
At 31 August 2023	13,300,783	-	47,061	-	13,347,844
At 31 August 2022	13,645,634	-	66,123	1,355	13,713,112

12 Stock

	2023 £	2022 £
Clothing, catering supplies and stationery	1,900	1,900

13 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	515	1,145
VAT recoverable	7,465	9,516
Prepayments and accrued income	298,394	179,911
	306,374	190,572

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Government loans	8,558	33,939
Trade creditors	104,921	146,475
Other taxation and social security	144,511	113,466
Other creditors	95,624	111,737
Accruals and deferred income	208,582	158,154
	<u>562,196</u>	<u>563,771</u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Government loans	12,877	19,315
	<u>12,877</u>	<u>19,315</u>

Analysis of loans	2023 £	2022 £
Wholly repayable within five years	21,435	53,254
Less: included in current liabilities	(8,558)	(33,939)
	<u>12,877</u>	<u>19,315</u>

Loan maturity

Debt due in one year or less	8,558	33,939
Due in more than one year but not more than two years	12,877	12,877
Due in more than two years but not more than five years	-	6,438
	<u>21,435</u>	<u>53,254</u>

Included in creditors; loans of £19,315, from The Education & Skills Funding Agency which is provided on the following terms: The Education & Skills Funding Agency Loan - Interest free loan repayable in monthly instalments of £2,115 from September 2022.

Loans of £2,120, from The Education & Skills Funding Agency which is provided on the following terms: The Education & Skills Funding Agency Loan - 2.01% interest per annum repayable in monthly instalments of £569 from August 2021.

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

16 Deferred income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	161,459	130,702
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	130,702	114,870
Released from previous years	(130,702)	(13,000)
Resources deferred in the year	161,459	28,832
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	161,459	130,702
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

At the reporting date the academy was holding funds received in advance for school trips.

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	(467,116)	6,742,803	(7,037,413)	761,726	-
Pupil premium	-	205,117	(205,117)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	46,023	(46,023)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	528,091	(528,091)	-	-
Other government grants	-	13,151	(13,151)	-	-
Teaching school	47,000	-	-	(47,000)	-
Other income	28,900	-	-	(28,900)	-
Other restricted funds	-	8,574	(8,574)	-	-
Pension reserve	(74,000)	-	(69,000)	143,000	-
	<u>(465,216)</u>	<u>7,543,759</u>	<u>(7,907,369)</u>	<u>828,826</u>	<u>-</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	12,002,141	-	(306,580)	-	11,695,561
DfE group capital grants	53,672	74,891	(18,910)	(36,067)	73,586
Capital expenditure from GAG	30,260	-	(2,623)	-	27,637
Capital Maintenance Fund	1,620,279	-	(6,438)	-	1,613,841
ESFA Loan	(18,438)	-	(37,722)	-	(56,160)
	<u>13,687,914</u>	<u>74,891</u>	<u>(372,273)</u>	<u>(36,067)</u>	<u>13,354,465</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>13,222,698</u>	<u>7,618,650</u>	<u>(8,279,642)</u>	<u>792,759</u>	<u>13,354,465</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	306,467	623,339	(256,536)	(561,759)	111,511
Teaching school	88,000	-	-	(88,000)	-
	<u>394,467</u>	<u>623,339</u>	<u>(256,536)</u>	<u>(649,759)</u>	<u>111,511</u>
Total funds	<u>13,617,165</u>	<u>8,241,989</u>	<u>(8,536,178)</u>	<u>143,000</u>	<u>13,465,976</u>

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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

17 Funds

(Continued)

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

General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running costs of the academy, including salaries and related costs, overheads, repairs and maintenance and insurance. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of the State, the academy was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023.

Other DfE/ESFA grants includes:

- Pupil Premium funding which is to be spent as the academy sees fit to support deprived students;
- Rates relief funding which is to be used against the costs of rates
- Teachers' pay grant which is to be used against the costs of teachers pay rises

Other government grants relates to Special Education Needs funding and Looked After Children funding which is to provide cover for the costs of supporting students with additional learning requirements.

Other restricted funds include funding given for a specific purpose.

Teaching School grants include Department for Education funding to assist in gaining teaching school status.

The restricted fixed asset funds represents monies received to purchase fixed assets. Depreciation is charged against the fund over the useful life of the associated assets.

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

17 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	(433,309)	6,427,760	(6,439,567)	(22,000)	(467,116)
Pupil premium	-	177,197	(177,197)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	15,769	(15,769)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	210,332	(210,332)	-	-
Other government grants	-	12,497	(12,497)	-	-
Teaching school	-	28,900	-	-	28,900
Other income	47,000	-	-	-	47,000
Pension reserve	(3,148,000)	-	(379,000)	3,453,000	(74,000)
	<u>(3,534,309)</u>	<u>6,872,455</u>	<u>(7,234,362)</u>	<u>3,431,000</u>	<u>(465,216)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	12,261,000	-	(306,580)	22,000	11,976,420
DfE group capital grants	73,000	25,721	(19,328)	-	79,393
Capital expenditure from GAG	32,000	-	(1,740)	-	30,260
Capital Maintenance Fund	1,658,000	-	(37,721)	-	1,620,279
ESFA Loan	(12,000)	-	(6,438)	-	(18,438)
	<u>14,012,000</u>	<u>25,721</u>	<u>(371,807)</u>	<u>22,000</u>	<u>13,687,914</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>10,477,691</u>	<u>6,898,176</u>	<u>(7,606,169)</u>	<u>3,453,000</u>	<u>13,222,698</u>
Unrestricted funds					
	166,000	538,359	(397,892)	-	306,467
	88,000	-	-	-	88,000
	<u>254,000</u>	<u>538,359</u>	<u>(397,892)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>394,467</u>
Total funds	<u>10,731,691</u>	<u>7,436,535</u>	<u>(8,004,061)</u>	<u>3,453,000</u>	<u>13,617,165</u>

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General Fixed asset £ £		Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	13,347,844	13,347,844
Current assets	111,511	553,638	28,056	693,205
Current liabilities	-	(553,638)	(8,558)	(562,196)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(12,877)	(12,877)
	<u>111,511</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,354,465</u>	<u>13,465,976</u>
Total net assets	<u>111,511</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,354,465</u>	<u>13,465,976</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General Fixed asset £ £		Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	13,713,112	13,713,112
Current assets	506,467	54,672	-	561,139
Current liabilities	(112,000)	(445,888)	(5,883)	(563,771)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(19,315)	(19,315)
Pension scheme liability	-	(74,000)	-	(74,000)
	<u>394,467</u>	<u>(465,216)</u>	<u>13,687,914</u>	<u>13,617,165</u>
Total net assets	<u>394,467</u>	<u>(465,216)</u>	<u>13,687,914</u>	<u>13,617,165</u>

19 Pension and similar obligations

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

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

Contributions amounting to £118,047 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022: £111,737) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 30 October 2023.

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer administration charge)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million
- the SCAPE discount rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 1.7% above the rate of CPI and is based on the Office for Budget Responsibility's forecast for long-term GDP growth.

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £812,145 (2022: £778,628).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 18.40% for employers and 5.50 - 12.50% for employees.

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

Total contributions made	2023	2022
	£	£
Employer's contributions	218,000	171,000
Employees' contributions	70,000	53,000
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total contributions	<u>288,000</u>	<u>224,000</u>

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions	2023 %	2022 %
Rate of increase in salaries	4.10	4.20
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.60	2.70
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.00	4.10
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.60	2.70

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

	2023 Years	2022 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.00	21.80
- Females	24.10	25.00
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.20	23.50
- Females	25.50	26.70

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Discount rate + 0.1%	(102,000)	(136,000)
Discount rate - 0.1%	102,000	136,000
Mortality assumption + 1 year	(121,000)	(147,000)
Mortality assumption - 1 year	121,000	147,000
CPI rate + 0.1%	87,000	110,000
CPI rate - 0.1%	(87,000)	(110,000)

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

	2023 Fair value £	2022 Fair value £
Equities	2,875,000	2,781,000
Government bonds	73,000	962,000
Corporate bonds	1,056,000	83,000
Multi Asset Credit	257,000	228,000
Property	575,000	574,000
Other assets	751,000	545,000
Asset restriction	(733,000)	-
Total market value of assets	4,854,000	5,173,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £205,000 (2022: £(6,000)).

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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

19 Pension and similar obligations	(Continued)	
Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2023	2022
	£	£
Current service cost	288,000	497,000
Interest income	(216,000)	(86,000)
Interest cost	215,000	139,000
	<u>287,000</u>	<u>550,000</u>
Total operating charge	<u>287,000</u>	<u>550,000</u>
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations		2023
		£
At 1 September 2022		5,247,000
Current service cost		288,000
Interest cost		215,000
Employee contributions		70,000
Actuarial gain		(887,000)
Benefits paid		(79,000)
		<u>4,854,000</u>
At 31 August 2023		<u>4,854,000</u>
Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets		2023
		£
At 1 September 2022		5,173,000
Interest income		216,000
Actuarial loss		(11,000)
Employer contributions		218,000
Employee contributions		70,000
Benefits paid		(79,000)
Asset restriction		(733,000)
		<u>4,854,000</u>
At 31 August 2023		<u>4,854,000</u>

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(294,189)	(567,526)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(74,891)	(25,721)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	19	70,000	326,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance (income)/cost	19	(1,000)	53,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		372,273	370,808
Decrease in stocks		-	100
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(115,802)	73,995
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		23,806	(129,657)
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		<u>(19,803)</u>	<u>100,999</u>

21 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	31 August 2023 £
Cash	368,667	16,264	384,931
Loans falling due within one year	(33,939)	25,381	(8,558)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(19,315)	6,438	(12,877)
	<u>315,413</u>	<u>48,083</u>	<u>363,496</u>

22 Contingent liabilities

During 2021 a building survey and 'opening up works' was performed to assess the extent of works necessary (and associated costs) to address some water ingress issues in respect of the sea facing exterior of the school building. During 2022 a CIF bid application was made in order to fund the recommended programme of works but in May 2022 we were informed we had been unsuccessful on this occasion. Further CIF bid applications will be considered going forward.

23 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts due within one year	19,991	13,381
Amounts due in two and five years	34,992	18,480
	<u>54,983</u>	<u>31,861</u>

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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

24 Related party transactions

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

25 Members' liability

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

26 Agency arrangements

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2023 the academy trust received £11,059 and disbursed £11,059 from the fund. An amount of £Nil is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that is repayable to ESFA.

Comparatives for the accounting period ending 31 August 2022 are £11,059 received, £11,059 disbursed and £Nil included in other creditors.