

Company Registration Number: 08670599 (England & Wales)

LUMEN LEARNING TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

LUMEN LEARNING TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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LUMEN LEARNING TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	R Vango D Prendergast W Sedgwick C Murray
Trustees	J Roberts, Chair (appointed 1 September 2024) M E McCarthy, Executive Principal and Accounting Officer R Vango, Vice Chair E Bennett L Ellis-Philip I Ingham J Orbell (appointed 1 September 2024) A Osmond K Patel (resigned 31 August 2024) M Reid P Rodin T Salotera A Stark (appointed 1 September 2024) L Sunderland A Williams (resigned 31 August 2024)

Throughout this annual report the terms "Trustee" and "Director" are used. These terms refer to the same group of people, as listed above.

Company registered number	08670599
Company name	Lumen Learning Trust
Principal and registered office	Saxon Primary School Briar Road Shepperton Surrey TW17 0JB
Company secretary	S Muir
Senior management team	M E McCarthy, Executive Principal N Morris, Saxon Headteacher S Kober, Deputy Executive Principal & Darley Dene Headteacher K Oakley, Echelford Co-Headteacher P Grimwood, Riverbridge Headteacher J Bugembe, Echelford Co-Headteacher S McCarthy, Walton Oak Headteacher
Independent auditor	James Cowper Kreston Audit Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor Reading Bridge House George Street Reading Berkshire RG1 8LS

LUMEN LEARNING TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Bankers

Lloyds Bank
73-75 High Street
Staines
Middlesex
TW18 4PP

Solicitors

Browne Jacobson
Mowbray House
Castle Meadow Road
Nottingham
NG2 1BJ

LUMEN LEARNING TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

TRUSTEES' (DIRECTORS') REPORT

The Directors present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the Lumen Learning Trust (the charitable company) for the period 31 August 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report and strategic report under company law.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. The trustees of the Lumen Learning Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as the Lumen Learning Trust.

The Trust, which was incorporated on 30 August 2013 and opened as an academy trust on 30 August 2013, 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 Trust.

The Directors act as the Trustees for the charitable activities of the Trust and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

Details of the Directors who served throughout the period, except as noted, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

The trust operates five primary academies in the Spelthorne, Elmbridge and Runnymede areas of Surrey. Its academies have a combined pupil capacity of 2,447 and had a roll of 2,402 on the Summer 24 census.

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 they are a member, or within one year after they cease to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10, for the debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a member.

Trustees' Indemnities

The Trustees benefit from indemnity insurance purchased by the Trust to cover the liability of the Trustees arising from negligent acts, errors or commissions occurring whilst on Trust business. The limit of this indemnity is £10,000,000.

Principal Activities

The principal activity of the Multi-Academy Trust is to advance for the public benefit by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing primary schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum and diverse opportunities to enable children to achieve their potential in all areas. As a sponsoring Trust, Lumen Learning Trust has particular expertise in school improvement – especially in schools where the levels of disadvantage are greater than the Surrey average.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

On 30 August 2013, the Trustees appointed Trustees based on the skills that they will bring to the board of the newly formed Academy Trust. These Trustees were appointed on a term of office that would end when their original term at the predecessor school would have ended, thus ensuring a staggered re-election or replacement process.

The Trust shall have the following Trustees as set out in its Articles of Association and Funding Agreement:

- up to 9 Trustees who are appointed by the Members;
- The Executive Principal is treated for all purposes as being an ex-officio Trustee;
- up to 2 Parent Trustees who are elected by the parents of registered pupils to the Academy Local Governance Board (LGB);
- up to 2 Staff Trustees are elected by the staff body to the Academy Local Governance Board (LGB);
- up to 5 Trust Appointed Trustees are appointed by the Trustees to Academy Local Governance Board (LGB); and
- the Headteacher who is treated for all purposes as being an ex-officio Governor on the Academy Local Governance Board (LGB).

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

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

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend upon their existing experience but would always include a tour of the Academy Schools and a chance to meet staff and pupils. All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents they will need to undertake their role as Trustees. As there are normally only one or two new Trustees a year, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual. Advantage is taken of specific courses offered by various other organisations as appropriate. All Trustees receive a copy of the Charity Commission document - The Essential Trustee on appointment. In addition they receive a copy of the DfE guidance – Academies Governance Role Descriptors.

There is a Trustee/Trustees training day organised each year which includes training sessions to keep the Trustee/Trustees updated on relevant developments impacting on their roles and responsibilities. New Trustees have the opportunity to undertake National College training modules and all Trustees receive updates on national governance.

Organisational Structure

The Trust Board normally meets once each term. The Trust Board establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Trust and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of Committees of the Local Governance Boards and other groups. It receives reports including policies from its Committees for ratification. It monitors the activities of the Committees through the minutes of their meetings. The Trust Board may from time to time establish working groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

There are ten Committees of the Trust Board as follows:

- Business and Management Committee
- Pay Committee
- HR and Strategy Committee
- Education Committee
- Admissions Committee

- Saxon Local Governance Board
- Echelford Local Governance Board
- Riverbridge Local Governance Board
- Walton Oak Local Governance Board
- Darley Dene Local Governance Board

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

The following decisions are reserved to the Board of Trustees:

- to consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Trust and its committee structure;
- to appoint or remove the Chair and / or Vice Chair;
- to appoint and / or consider the performance management of the Executive Principal; and
- to appoint the Company Secretary.

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

The Trustees have devolved the day-to-day management of the Academy Schools to the Executive Principal, Headteachers and the Senior Leadership Team ('SLT'). The SLT comprises the Headteacher, Deputy Headteachers, Assistant Headteachers and the Business Manager. The SLT implement the policies laid down by the Trustees and report back to them on performance.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Trust include the Trustees, the Executive Principal and the Headteachers of each school. The Trustees are all volunteers and receive no remuneration for their role with the exception of the Executive Principal who is an ex-officio Trustee.

The pay and remuneration of the key management personnel are set with reference to the Trust's pay and appraisal policy, which is based on, and does not exceed, national terms and conditions for leadership pay.

The performance and pay appraisals for the Headteachers are set within the context of the national standards of Headteachers, supported by the key priorities of each respective school.

The performance and pay appraisal for the Executive Principal focuses on the performance of all the schools in the Trust as well as the performance of schools being supported. Typical KPIs used include the end of KS attainment and progress, pupil numbers and quality of consistency in leadership. In addition, the Executive Principal's performance is also considered within the context of the strategic direction of the Trust as a whole.

Trade union facility time *(only required if the school has more than 49 FTE employees in any 7 month period within the reporting period)*

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
0	265

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	265
1-50%	
51%-99%	
100%	

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Provide the total cost of facility time	£3,284
Provide the total pay bill	£11,517,399
Provide the percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (total cost of facility time ÷ total pay bill) x 100	0.03%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours calculated as: (total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period ÷ total paid facility time hours) x 100	0
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Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

There are no related parties which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of the Trust. There are no sponsors associated with the individual academy schools.

In her role as a National Leader of Education along with her role as Co-Chair of Primary Phase Council, the Executive Principal works closely with Surrey's School Improvement partner, Schools Alliance for Excellence.

School-to-school support

The Executive Principal, Mary Ellen McCarthy, works closely with Surrey's education partner, Schools Alliance for Excellence, supporting other Surrey schools in a variety of ways, depending on need. From time to time other senior leaders and practitioners across the Trust join her in this work. In this way we are able to offer a bespoke package of support for individual schools.

Locality Partnerships and Roles

The Executive Principal also plays an active role within the Local Authority in borough, quadrant and county-wide capacities. In the Year 2023-2024 Mary Ellen McCarthy was a member of the following groups:

Group	Role
Surrey County Council - Primary Council	Co-Chair
Surrey Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Primary Headteacher representative
Surrey Safeguarding Children's Partnership – Executive Group	Schools & Education Settings representative
Surrey Safeguarding Children's Partnership – Schools & Education Safeguarding Forum	Chair
Schools Alliance for Excellence	Primary Schools Risk Assessment Group
Surrey Safeguarding Children's Partnership – Case Review Group	Schools representative
Surrey Safeguarding Children's Partnership – Encouraging school attendance	Schools representative

National Roles

The Executive Principal has a contract with Ofsted as a lead inspector. This requires her to carry out 16 days on inspections per year.

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

All school staff have formal performance management discussions and, to support this process, the Trust has an appraisal and pay policy, which is reviewed annually. We look to promote from within and to deploy staff across the Trust in areas where they are most needed and can best develop professionally.

The Trust has a trust wide termly newsletter, "Illuminate", which is distributed to all staff, and "spotlight", an online repository of resources available to all staff on professional development, health and wellbeing, and staff benefits.

All schools hold regular staff meetings to ensure that employees are kept up-to-date with, and able to have input into, policies and decisions that may affect them.

Employees and their representatives are consulted on all matters which affect their employment within the Trust. All Trust schools have Accessibility Plans. Where required the school liaises with occupational health support, the local authority and Access to work, to provide the necessary support of individuals

Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the trust

The Trust seeks to build positive relationships with its suppliers, customers and others by ensuring that communication is effective and professional.

Regular meetings are held with our contractors. Continuity of contractors across the Trust enables good communication and awareness centrally of compliance. These regular reviews with contractors establishes a sound working relationship and assessment of service to ensure best value is received from the contracts.

Regular parent surveys take place to ensure that our decisions are based on the needs of the community, recent surveys include:

- Surveys to gain insight into their view of school provision as a whole
- Survey regarding school meal service

Pastoral teams across the Trust have organised parenting workshops and coffee mornings which are then publicised via school newsletters and on school websites for all.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and Aims

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

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

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

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

- Prepare Darley Dene for first Ofsted inspection post conversion
- Relevant activity re possible expansion
- Develop Early Years provision on Saxon site
- Develop Central Services in response to possible expansion
- Support schools' capacity to make relevant adjustments to provision in response to an increase in pupils with complex additional needs

Public Benefit

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

The Trust aims to advance for the public benefit education in Surrey and the surrounding area, offering a broad curriculum.

The Trust also allows use of its facilities for recreational and other leisure time occupation for the community at large in the interests of social welfare and with the interest of improving the life of that community.

Strategic Report

Strategic report

The Trust has continued to work on the priorities set out in 2024 and approved by the Board of Trustees. Notable achievements this year were:

- Darley Dene's very positive Ofsted judgement July 2024
- Building new relationships with schools in Epsom & Ewell to support future expansion
- Opening of Saxon Nursery
- Improvement of outcomes at Riverbridge Primary
- Maintenance of positive outcomes at all key stages for Saxon, Echelford, Darley Dene and Walton Oak
- In-depth review of Central Team services to support future expansion

The Trust faces a number of principal risks as set out in the 'Principal Risks and Uncertainties' section

The Trust uses various financial instruments including cash and items such as trade debtors and trade creditors that arise directly from its operations.

The existence of these financial instruments exposes the Trust to a number of financial risks which are described in more detail below.

The main risks arising from the financial statements are cash flow, interest rate risk and credit risk. The Trust seeks to manage financial risk by ensuring sufficient liquidity is available to meet foreseeable needs and to invest cash assets safely and profitably. The Trust seeks to manage its cash reserves to ensure liabilities are settled as they fall due.

Achievements and Performance

The total number of pupils in the period ended 31 August 2024 was 2,402 which is a drop of 23 pupils compared to the number in the Trust on the Summer 2023 census. Part of this fall is due to a bulge class leaving Walton Oak but a couple of schools are also starting to see the impact of falling birth rates which is resulting in lower intakes in reception.

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

The pupil outcomes for Trust schools during the period ended 31 August 2024 were as follows:

	<i>GLD</i>	<i>Year 1 Phonics All pupils</i>	<i>KS1 Read</i>	<i>KS1 Writing</i>	<i>KS1 Maths</i>	<i>KS1 comb</i>	<i>KS2 Read</i>	<i>KS2 Writing</i>	<i>KS2 Maths</i>	<i>KS2 comb</i>
Saxon	64%	97%	60%	66%	81%	66%	74%	72%	82%	64%
Echelford	81%	91%	82%	71%	79%	65%	83%	77%	79%	68%
Riverbridge	70%	79%	77%	71%	77%	70%	65%	66%	73%	57%
Darley Dene	76%	79%	57%	57%	60%	57%	77%	73%	73%	62%
Walton Oak	71%	76%	70%	66%	82%	63%	78%	70%	72%	60%

Key Performance Indicators

Although the Trust's Funding Agreement is not subject to a specific carry forward limit on the amount of GAG funding, the main financial performance indicator is the level of reserves held at the balance sheet date and, in particular, the amount of GAG funding carried forward at the balance sheet date. At 31 August 2024, the balance of the GAG Restricted Fund was £0 which is after a transfer of £684,053 to the Restricted Fixed Asset Fund to fund capital expenditure during the period.

As the majority of the Trust's funding is based on pupil numbers, pupil numbers is also a key performance indicator. As noted above, pupil numbers at the most recent census were 2,402, which included 154 pupils in nursery. Pupil numbers within the Trust grow throughout the year as the number of pupils attending the nurseries increases and it is therefore useful to look at the average number of pupils across the year. For the year ending 31st August 2024, the average number of pupils in the Trust was 2,378 (2,241 excluding nursery). This is a decrease on the average of 2,417 (2,266 excluding nursery) for the previous year, however, the overall capacity of the Trust also decreased by 30 places due to a bulge class at Walton Oak ending in August 2023.

As a result, the ratio of GAG funding per pupil (excluding nursery) was £4,838 for the period.

Staffing costs are another key performance indicator for the Trust and the percentage of total staff costs to GAG funding for the period was 106%, while the percentage of staff costs to total costs was 78.8%.

Going Concern

The principal source of funding for the Trust is GAG/ESFA funding, which accounted for 84% of the Trust's total income for the period. Other income received by the Trust includes Nursery funding and income generated by the Trust's other activities such as wrap around care and lettings.

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees, including all Committees, 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 can be found in the Accounting Policies note of the financial statements.

Promoting the success of the company

The Trust exists to fulfil its charitable purposes of delivering education and providing opportunities for the hire of facilities by the local community. The Trust believes that these objects are best served by:

- Conducting business in an ethical, appropriate, and caring manner
- Taking a responsible approach to our environmental impact

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Review

The majority of the Trust's income is received from the DfE via the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the period ended 31 August 2024 and the associated expenditure of these grants are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the DfE and other organisations and funders and these are shown as Restricted Fixed Asset Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. The balance of the Restricted Fixed Asset fund is reduced by the depreciation charges on the assets acquired using these funds.

During the period ended 31 August 2024, the total expenditure of £16,323,727 was covered by the recurrent grant funding from the DfE, together with other incoming resources and utilisation of brought forward reserves. The majority of expenditure is on staff costs, enabling the teaching and welfare needs of pupils to be met along with the administration, management and leadership of the Trust and its constituent elements.

The Trust ended with a deficit of £120,226 for the year after pension and depreciation costs but before actuarial gains.

The fixed assets held by the Trust are used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to the pupils of the Trust.

The balance of total funds held at 31 August 2024 were £37,413,305 which comprised of the following:

Restricted Funds (excluding Pension Liability)	£34,655,962
Restricted Pension Liability Fund	£0
Restricted Fixed Asset Fund	£34,655,962
Unrestricted Funds	£2,757,343

The key financial policies reviewed and adopted during the period included the Financial Procedures Policies and Manual, which lays out the framework for the Academy's financial management, including financial responsibilities of the Governing Body, Headteacher, managers, budget holders and other staff, as well as the delegated authorities for spending. The other financial policies reviewed and adopted during the period included the Reserves, Premises Hire and Charge Card policies.

Reserves Policy

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

The Trust has developed its reserves policy in an integrated manner, recognising that strategic and financial planning informs the development of the reserves policy and vice versa. Our reserves are held to:

- Ensure troughs in funding projected from financial forecasts can be met from reserves held,
- Meet the cost of needs that cannot be met from the income of a single year's budget alone, in particular for capital works,
- Provide capacity to expand the Trust, specifically:
 - Funds to meet the costs of legal and professional fees associated with new schools joining the Trust
 - Funds to employ staff to ensure the Trust has capacity for expansion

- Provide a financial cushion and the capacity in which to react to policy, demographic, funding, staffing or legal changes that may have adverse impact on the Trust,
- Manage unforeseen financial difficulties or unexpected calls on Trust's funds, such as increases in energy costs,
- Provide contributions to support successful CIF bids / projects,
- Provide funding for future capital projects and to maintain the Trust estate.

As the Trust matures, reserves will need to be set aside to cover building and maintenance works that cannot be funded out of a single year's income. The revenue budget and forecasts include an amount for maintenance in each year that covers the works described in the condition survey of each site. The need for additional funds to be set aside each year over and above this, needs to be considered.

The level of reserves are monitored throughout the year as part of the budgetary process and the Trust's reserve policy is kept under review to ensure it meets the charity's changing needs and circumstances.

The Trustee's current level of reserves (defined as restricted general funds, excluding pension reserve, plus the balance on unrestricted funds) is £2,757,343, of which £2,757,343 is free reserves (that is, total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds).

The current level of reserves is above with our target level of free cash reserves. The target range of free reserves to be held is £1,390,000. Amounts held over this amount will be spent in the next financial year or designated for a specific purpose.

Investment Policy

The Trust aims to manage its cash balances to provide for the operational working capital requirements of its operations plus any planned use of reserves. The Trust does not consider the investments of funds as a primary activity, rather as a result of good stewardship when circumstances allow.

All funds surplus to immediate requirements are invested to optimal effect by the Academy with the objective of ensuring maximum return on assets invested but with minimal risk.

Where cash flow allows, sums may be invested on deposit for extended periods with the Academy's principal bankers or other reputable financial institutions.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

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

Financial

The Trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA. In the period, approximately 92% of the Trust's incoming resources was ultimately Government funded and whilst this level is expected to continue, there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms.

The number of pupils on roll at each school drives a large part of the GAG funding from the ESFA. The number of pupils across the trust are 76 below capacity as at October 2024. The projected, short term, in-year deficits that this creates are to be funded from the current free reserves.

The number of pupils on roll across Surrey is forecast to reduce over the next five years which will have a negative impact on funding and may require structural changes to staffing across the Trust.

Adverse reports as the result of monitoring visits (e.g. Ofsted) can have a negative impact on the pupils on roll as parents often choose to send their children to other local schools if there are places available

Failures in governance and / or management

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

Reputational

The continuing success of the Trust is dependent on continuing to attract applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk, the Trustees ensure that pupil success and achievement are closely monitored and reviewed.

Estates Management

The risk in this area arises from both the potential failure to effectively manage compliance with the relevant health and safety regulations, together with a lack of funding available to enable the Trust to maintain the estate. The Trustees continue to review and ensure appropriate measures are in place to mitigate the risk of non-compliance and ensure that consideration is made within the reserves policy for capital works.

Safeguarding and child protection

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

Staffing

The success of the Trust is reliant on the quality of its staff so the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning.

Fraud and mismanagement of funds

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

The Trust has continued to strengthen its risk management process throughout the period by improving the process and ensuring staff awareness. A Risk Register is maintained and reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

Risk Management

The Trustees have implemented a system to assess risks that the Trust faces, especially in the operational areas (such as in relation to teaching, health & safety and school trips) and in relation to the control of finances. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures and internal financial controls in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover.

The Trust has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the Statement of Internal Control.

Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The Trust has a Risk Register which has been discussed by the Trustees and includes the financial risks to the Trust. The Risk Register is constantly reviewed in light of any new information and formally reviewed annually.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those relating to its finances, teaching, facilities and other operational areas. The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess and minimise those risks, including internal controls. Where significant financial risk still remains, the Trustees have ensured the Trust has adequate insurance cover.

A number of the Trust schools are starting to see the impact of falling birth rates across Surrey which means the risk to revenue funding from a falling roll is increasing. In addition, the uncertainty around the Governments overall education budget, changes in funding arrangements for special educational needs and the increasing employment and premises costs mean that budgets will be increasingly tight in coming years.

The Trustees examine the financial health of the Trust formally every term, reviewing performance against budgets and overall expenditure by means of regular update reports at all Trust Board and Business and Management Committee meetings.

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

The Trustees recognised that the Local Government Pension Scheme represents a significant potential liability to the Trust. However, as the Trustees consider the Trust is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, the risk from this liability is minimised.

Fundraising

The Trustees act in the best interests of the Trust when deciding to accept or refuse a particular donation. Trustees welcome and encourage fundraising activities in our schools but will not accept voluntary donations and other forms of voluntary support where any of the following criteria apply:

- The support is suspected to be or derives from the proceeds of crime.
- The support derives from a source conflicting with the Trust's objectives or values.
- Acceptance would carry unacceptable reputational risk which may have detrimental effects on the Trust, such as impacting levels of donations and volunteer support.
- Acceptance would involve onerous obligations, the cost of which might outweigh the benefit.
- Support is offered in an attempt to obtain privileged access to the Trust's contracts.
- Acceptance would be in contravention of the Trust's financial and safeguarding policies.

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data	1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024	1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	1,601,661 kWh	1,535,765 kWh
Energy consumption break down (kWh) (optional) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gas, • electricity, • transport fuel 	Gas; 1,062,111 kWh Electricity; 534,991 kWh Transport fuel; 4,558kWh	Gas; 1,018,048 kWh Electricity; 512,741 kWh Transport fuel; 4,976kWh
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u> Gas consumption Owned transport – mini-buses Total scope 1	Gas; 194.26 tCO ₂ e, Owned transport; 1.38 tCO ₂ e Total; 195.64 tCO ₂ e	Gas; 186.23 tCO ₂ e, Owned transport; 1.27 tCO ₂ e Total; 187.5 tCO ₂ e
<u>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u> Purchased electricity	110.77tCO ₂ e	106.18tCO ₂ e
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u> Business travel in employee owned vehicles		
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e	306.41 tCO ₂ e	293.67 tCO ₂ e
Intensity ratio Tonnes CO ₂ e per pupil	0.13 tCO ₂ e	0.12 tCO ₂ e

Quantification and Reporting Methodology:-

We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2024 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

Intensity measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

The heating system at Riverbridge, including boilers, has been upgraded to more efficient models. LED lighting has been installed across the schools and will continue to be installed on a gradual basis as and when lighting needs to be replaced

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The Trust strives to continually improve levels of attainment for all pupils, equipping them with the qualifications, skills and character to follow their chosen pathway, whether it be into further and higher education or employment, as well as promoting the continued professional development of its staff.

- The onboarding of Ewell Grove Primary and Nursery as it joins the Trust from 1st November 2024
- Ongoing other relevant activity with regard to possible expansion of the Trust
- Closure of LAN unit (subject to agreement from RSD), and development of 2 year old Nursery offer at Darley Dene
- Implementation of Central Team restructure to accommodate growth of Trust
- Support schools' capacity to make relevant adjustments to provision in response to an increase in pupils with complex additional needs

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

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

AUDITOR

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees report, incorporating a strategic report has been approved by order of the Board of Trustees on and signed on its behalf by:



J. Roberts 13 Dec 2024 15:30:00 GMT (UTC +0)

13 December 2024

J. Roberts
Chair of Trustees

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of Responsibility

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

As Trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Executive 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 the Lumen Learning Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees, including all Committees, any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that information that is described in the Trustees' Report and in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement. The Trust Board has formally met 3 times during the period ended 31 August 2024. Attendance during the period at meetings of the Trust Board was as follows:

	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Trustee		
Peter Rodin	3	3
Mary Ellen McCarthy	3	3
Ian Ingham	3	3
Ray Vango	3	3
Laura Ellis-Philip – on sabbatical	0	3
Alison Osmond	2	3
Elliott Bennett	2	3
Louise Sunderland	3	3
Keiran Patel	1	3
Alexandra Williams	2	3
Tajinder Salotera	2	3
Marijke Reid	2	3

The Trust board are scheduled to meet 3 times a year with oversight supported by regular updates from the CEO. Whilst this is less than the 6 times outlined within the Academy Trust Handbook, in addition to the full board meetings, the committees also met three time each, to provide scrutiny and challenge in line with their terms of reference. The committee structure enables accountability and assurance for Trustees around the effectiveness of the Trust.

The Business and Management Committee is a Committee of the Trust Board. Its purpose is to provide guidance and assistance to the Trust Board on all matters related to finance, resources, premises, risk management and Health & Safety of the Trust. This includes preparing and recommending annual budgets for approval by the full board, monitoring financial performance against that budget, reviewing delegated authorities, ensuring all transactions are conducted in accordance with good practice as directed by the ESFA, to ensure best value is achieved in all financial transactions and to receive and (where relevant) respond to period audit reports on the Trust and of public funds. This committee also acts as the Trust's Audit Committee.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)

Attendance at meetings of the Business and Management Committee during the period was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mary Ellen McCarthy	0	3
Ian Ingham	3	3
Ray Vango	2	3
Elliot Bennett	3	3
Louise Sunderland	3	3

Conflict of interest

Trustees make their decisions only in the best interests of the Lumen Learning Trust. This means that they consider the issue of the conflict of interest so that any potential effect on decision making is eliminated.

Trustees complete an annual declaration of interest proforma and declaring an interest in a specific agenda item and/or updating the annual declaration is a standing item on all meeting agendas.

Where a Trustee has a conflict, they are asked to declare their interest at an early stage and, in most cases, withdraw from relevant meetings, discussions, decision making and votes. The Governance Professional maintains the register of declarations and will provide advice and guidance on potential conflicts.

Governance reviews

Both the Local Governing Bodies and the Board of Directors carry out an on-going process of self-evaluation, with particular consideration of the skills when appointing new Directors or Local Governors. There is a constant focus on ensuring all members of these groups have the relevant skills set in order to fulfil the Vision for the Trust. Directors and Governors have a standing item on their meeting agendas to consider the strengths and areas for development and the evidence to support this.

Review of Value for Money

As accounting officer the Executive Principal has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The accounting officer considers how the trust use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year as outlined below:

- The Trust continued to work with its IT support company to ensure strategic purchasing of IT hardware and software across the Trust.
- A full tender process was carried out in 2023/24 for the cleaning contract across all five schools in the Trust. The tender was completed with the support of a consultancy firm that specialises in procurement within the Education Sector, to ensure the contract offered value for money whilst meeting the Trust's requirements.
- Drawn on expertise within the Trust subject leadership team to strengthen foundation subject provision across the Trust.
- Drawn on expertise within the Trust leadership team to strengthen subject leadership at all levels
- A number of tasks continue to be carried out in house and save on funds paid to external suppliers. These include;
 - o GDPR training and monitoring
 - o Health and Safety audits
 - o Catering audits
 - o Cleaning contract and caretaking management

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Trust's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in the Lumen Learning Trust for the period ended 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period from 1st September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The Risk and Control Framework

The 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 Trustees;
- regular reviews by the finance and general purposes 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 buy-in an internal assurance service from Bishop Fleming

Bishop Fleming's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Trust's financial and other systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

- Purchase systems, controls and transactions
- Payroll systems, controls and transactions
- Review of bank reconciliations
- Review of Risk Register
- Review of policies and procedures

On an annual basis, Bishop Fleming reports to the Board of Trustees through the Business and Management committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities and annually prepares an annual summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the Executive Principal has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the period ended 31 August 2024 the review has been informed by:

- the results of previous internal reviews;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the work of the executive managers within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Conclusion

Based on the advice of the Business and Management Committee and the Accounting Officer, the board of trustees is of the opinion that the academy trust has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees onand signed on its behalf by:


J. Roberts 13 Dec 2024 15:30:03 GMT (UTC +0) 13 December 2024


May Elin McCarthy 13 Dec 2024 12:04:30 GMT (UTC +0) 13 December 2024

J. Roberts
Chair of Trustees

M. E. McCarthy
Accounting Officer

LUMEN LEARNING TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of Lumen Learning Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust Board of Trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement 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 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the academy trust Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2023.

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.

M McCarthy

May Elin McCarthy 13 Dec 2024 12:04:50 GMT (UTC +0)

.....
M E McCarthy
Accounting Officer
Date: 13 December 2024

LUMEN LEARNING TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

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



J Roberts 13 Dec 2024 15:30:05 GMT (UTC +0)

.....
J Roberts
Chair of Trustees
Date: 13 December 2024

LUMEN LEARNING TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF LUMEN LEARNING TRUST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Lumen Learning Trust (the 'academy') for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the academy's affairs as at 31 August 2024 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; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude

LUMEN LEARNING TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF LUMEN LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)

that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' report including the Strategic report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' report and the Strategic report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the academy and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report including the Strategic report.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- 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 (who are also the directors of the academy for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the academy'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 academy or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance.

LUMEN LEARNING TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF LUMEN LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)

The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation. The specific procedures for this engagement that we designed and performed to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud, were as follows:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance to identify any material instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work to address the risk of irregularities due to management override of controls, including testing of 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 evidence of bias.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the academy'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 academy'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 academy and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Darren O'Connor BSc (Hons) FCCA ACA (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

James Cowper Kreston Audit

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor

Reading Bridge House

George Street

Reading

Berkshire

RG1 8LS

Date: 13 December 2024

LUMEN LEARNING TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 11 September 2024 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Lumen Learning Trust during the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Lumen Learning Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Lumen Learning Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 October 2013 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 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's income and expenditure.

Specific work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:


- reviewing the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Trustees and other evidence made available to us, relevant to our consideration of regularity;
- a review of the objectives and activities of the Academy, with reference to the income streams and other information available to us as auditors of the Academy;
- testing a sample of payroll payments to staff and payments to suppliers and other third parties;
- testing a sample of grants received and other income streams

LUMEN LEARNING TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO LUMEN
LEARNING TRUST AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)**

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.



James Cowper Kreston Audit

Reading Bridge House
George Street
Reading
Berkshire
RG1 8LS

Date: 13 December 2024

LUMEN LEARNING TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	100,880	-	829,071	929,951	657,176
Other trading activities	4	60,642	-	-	60,642	57,062
Investment income	6	115,547	-	-	115,547	35,384
Charitable activities	5	801,384	14,295,977	-	15,097,361	14,327,424
Total income		1,078,453	14,295,977	829,071	16,203,501	15,077,046
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	7	622,513	14,229,236	1,471,978	16,323,727	15,820,722
Total expenditure		622,513	14,229,236	1,471,978	16,323,727	15,820,722
Net income/(expenditure)		455,940	66,741	(642,907)	(120,226)	(743,676)
Transfers between funds	19	(106,265)	(577,788)	684,053	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		349,675	(511,047)	41,146	(120,226)	(743,676)
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	27	-	652,000	-	652,000	2,541,000
Net movement in funds		349,675	140,953	41,146	531,774	1,797,324
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		2,407,668	(140,953)	34,614,816	36,881,531	35,084,207
Net movement in funds		349,675	140,953	41,146	531,774	1,797,324
Total funds carried forward		2,757,343	-	34,655,962	37,413,305	36,881,531

The notes on pages 30 to 57 form part of these financial statements.

LUMEN LEARNING TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 08670599

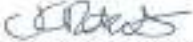
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	34,152,937	34,190,429
		<u>34,152,937</u>	<u>34,190,429</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	15	30,717	18,010
Debtors	16	1,066,083	752,963
Cash at bank and in hand		4,039,773	4,082,886
		<u>5,136,573</u>	<u>4,853,859</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(1,876,205)	(1,585,570)
Net current assets		<u>3,260,368</u>	<u>3,268,289</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>37,413,305</u>	<u>37,458,718</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	18	-	(5,187)
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	27	-	(672,000)
Total net assets		<u>37,413,305</u>	<u>36,881,531</u>
Funds of the academy			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	19	34,655,962	34,614,816
Restricted income funds	19	-	431,047
Restricted funds excluding pension liability	19	<u>34,655,962</u>	<u>35,045,863</u>
Pension reserve	19	-	(572,000)
Total restricted funds	19	<u>34,655,962</u>	<u>34,473,863</u>
Unrestricted income funds	19	<u>2,757,343</u>	<u>2,407,668</u>
Total funds		<u>37,413,305</u>	<u>36,881,531</u>

LUMEN LEARNING TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 08670599

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

The financial statements on pages 26 to 57 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:



J Roberts 13 Dec 2024 15:30:06 GMT (UTC +0)

.....
J Roberts
(Chair of Trustees)
Date: 13 December 2024

The notes on pages 30 to 57 form part of these financial statements.

LUMEN LEARNING TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	21	469,262	630,959
Cash flows from investing activities			
Cash flows from investing activities	23	(489,868)	46,857
Cash flows from financing activities			
Cash flows from financing activities	22	(22,507)	(22,508)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(43,113)	655,308
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		4,082,886	3,427,578
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	24, 25	<u>4,039,773</u>	<u>4,082,886</u>

The notes on pages 30 to 57 form part of these financial statements

LUMEN LEARNING TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

1.2 Company status

The academy is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 1. In the event of the academy being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the academy.

1.3 Fund accounting

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

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

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

1.4 Income

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

• **Grants**

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of financial activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the year 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.

LUMEN LEARNING TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Income (continued)

• **Other income**

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

• **Transfer on conversion**

Where assets and liabilities are received by the academy on conversion to an academy, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the Balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the academy. An equal amount of income is recognised as a transfer on conversion within 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' to the net assets received.

1.5 Expenditure

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

• **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.6 Going concern

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

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £2,500 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Buildings	- 2% - 20% Straight line
Fixtures & fittings	- 5% - 33% Straight line
Computer equipment	- 33% 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.

1.8 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

1.9 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks.

1.10 Taxation

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

1.11 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.12 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.13 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities and provisions 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 anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligations. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

1.14 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 16. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the academy's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment. 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 as detailed in notes 17 and 18. 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. Amounts due to the academy's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.15 Pensions

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

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

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the academy in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each Balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/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.

Where an actuarial valuation of the LGPS at the balance sheet date shows that the pension scheme is in a net asset position, the Trustees make an assessment of whether it is likely that the academy will be able to recover its share of the net assets in the scheme whether by reductions in confirmed future contribution levels or by refunds of assets from the plan. Where it is considered virtually certain that the academy will be able to realise its share of the net assets in the scheme, the academy's share of those net assets is recognised as an asset on the balance sheet. Where the ability of the academy to recover its share of any plan asset will only be confirmed by one or more future events this is regarded as a contingent asset; in these circumstances no asset is recognised and the LGPS is included in the balance sheet at £nil, with any corresponding reduction in the calculated value of the asset passing through 'Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes' within the Statement of Financial Activities. The existence and amount of a contingent pension asset is included within the notes to the accounts.

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

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

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The academy 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 27, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Where an actuarial valuation of the LGPS at the balance sheet date shows that the pension scheme is in a net asset position, the Trustees make an assessment of whether it is likely that the academy will be able to recover its share of the net assets in the scheme whether by reductions in confirmed future contribution levels or by refunds of assets from the plan. Where it is considered virtually certain that the academy will be able to realise its share of the net assets in the scheme, the academy's share of those net assets is recognised as an asset on the balance sheet. Where the ability of the academy to recover its share of any plan asset will only be confirmed by one or more future events this is regarded as a contingent asset: in these circumstances no asset is recognised and the LGPS is included in the balance sheet at £nil, with any corresponding reduction in the calculated value of the asset passing through 'Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes' within the Statement of Financial Activities. The existence and amount of a contingent pension asset is included within the notes to the accounts.

Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values, where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. Residual value assessments consider issues such as the remaining life of the asset and projected disposal values.

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

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	100,880	-	100,880	58,945
Capital grants	-	829,071	829,071	598,231
	<u>100,880</u>	<u>829,071</u>	<u>929,951</u>	<u>657,176</u>
Total 2023	<u>58,945</u>	<u>598,231</u>	<u>657,176</u>	

4. Trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Lettings income	60,642	60,642	57,062
	<u>60,642</u>	<u>60,642</u>	<u>57,062</u>
Total 2023	<u>57,062</u>	<u>57,062</u>	

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

5. Funding for the academy's direct costs educational operations

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
DfE/ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	10,842,198	10,842,198	10,364,656
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
Pupil Premium	-	766,037	766,037	741,163
UFSM	-	334,810	334,810	312,977
Other DfE Group grants	-	900,082	900,082	791,890
	-	<u>12,843,127</u>	<u>12,843,127</u>	<u>12,210,686</u>
Other Government grants				
Local authority grants	-	1,196,152	1,196,152	1,129,111
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	801,384	256,898	1,058,082	987,627
	<u>801,384</u>	<u>1,452,850</u>	<u>2,254,234</u>	<u>2,116,738</u>
	<u>801,384</u>	<u>14,295,977</u>	<u>15,097,361</u>	<u>14,327,424</u>
Total 2023	<u>750,349</u>	<u>13,577,075</u>	<u>14,327,424</u>	

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Investment income	115,547	115,547	35,384
Total 2023	<u>35,384</u>	<u>35,384</u>	

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

7. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2024 £	Premises 2024 £	Other 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Academy's educational operations:					
Direct costs	9,312,255	-	2,273,223	11,585,478	11,080,550
Support costs	2,469,621	876,190	1,392,438	4,738,249	4,740,172
	<u>11,781,876</u>	<u>876,190</u>	<u>3,665,661</u>	<u>16,323,727</u>	<u>15,820,722</u>
Total 2023	<u>11,270,685</u>	<u>888,300</u>	<u>3,661,737</u>	<u>15,820,722</u>	

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Direct costs 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Academy's Educational Operations	11,585,478	4,738,249	16,323,727	15,820,722
	<u>11,080,550</u>	<u>4,740,172</u>	<u>15,820,722</u>	
Total 2023	<u>11,080,550</u>	<u>4,740,172</u>	<u>15,820,722</u>	

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

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Staff costs	2,469,626	2,545,318
Recruitment and support	51,456	10,809
Maintenance of premises	173,971	272,684
Maintenance of equipment	91,142	86,876
Cleaning	259,858	246,327
Rates	51,879	48,690
Water rates	25,648	5,514
Energy	257,733	312,940
Insurance	53,625	48,311
Security	1,913	2,145
Transport	6,463	8,108
Catering	626,030	617,596
Technology costs	148,468	130,342
Bank interest and charges	37,130	34,825
Travel and subsistence	65	192
Other support costs	459,442	350,380
Governance costs	23,800	19,115
	<u>4,738,249</u>	<u>4,740,172</u>

9. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2024 £	2023 £
Operating lease rentals	26,054	21,034
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,471,978	1,447,085
Fees paid to auditor for:		
- audit	15,125	14,070
- other services	3,100	2,945
	<u>1,515,257</u>	<u>1,525,134</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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10. Staff

a. Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	8,851,540	8,264,288
Social security costs	761,902	722,724
Pension costs	1,983,961	2,160,025
	<u>11,597,403</u>	<u>11,147,037</u>
Agency staff costs	155,161	97,325
Apprenticeship levy	29,312	26,323
	<u>11,781,876</u>	<u>11,270,685</u>

b. Staff numbers

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

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Teachers	106	101
Administration and support	237	228
Management	19	22
	<u>362</u>	<u>351</u>

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

10. Staff (continued)

c. Higher paid staff

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

	2024 No.	2023 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	3	4
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	5	1
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	-	1
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	-
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	-	1
In the band £120,001 - £130,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

The above employees all participated in the Teachers' Pension Scheme. During the year ended 31 August 2024, pension contributions for staff members amounted to £134,510 (2023: £77,983).

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy comprise the Executive Principal and the Deputy Executive Principal. 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 was £296,622 (2023: £265,626).

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

11. Central services

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

- Executive Principal (Accounting Officer)
- Deputy Executive Principal
- Head of Finance & Operations
- Operations Manager
- Estates Manager
- Finance Officer
- Finance Assistant
- School Business Leaders
- HR Assistants
- Governance Professional (Clerk)
- Pastoral Co-ordinator
- Communications Officer
- Accounting software, budgeting software, asset management software, audit, health & safety, education consultancy, non education consultancy i.e HR, legal, DPO, IT support and licences, Surrey County Council buy backs, subscriptions

The academy charges for these services on the following basis:

Each school in the trust makes a partnership contribution each month which is a set charge per pupil - this is to cover central staff and services that are provided to all schools.

Where central staff have been deployed to undertake substantive roles in schools the cost of employment of those staff members is recharge directly to the school.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Echelford Primary School	249,249	240,202
Saxon Primary School	161,558	157,548
Riverbridge Primary School	272,159	266,201
Walton Oak Primary School	174,593	173,069
Darley Dene Primary School	90,456	82,654
Total	948,015	919,674

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

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy. The principal and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2024	2023
		£	£
M E McCarthy, Executive Principal and Accounting Officer	Remuneration	120,000 -	110,000 -
		125,000	115,000
	Pension contributions paid	30,000 -	25,000 -
		35,000	30,000

During the year ended 31 August 2024, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2023 - £NIL).

13. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

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

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

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Furniture and fixtures £	Plant and equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
At 1 September 2023	38,932,214	1,880,694	948,777	42,563	41,804,248
Additions	1,067,388	229,991	137,107	-	1,434,486
Disposals	-	(1,268)	(11,429)	-	(12,697)
At 31 August 2024	<u>39,999,602</u>	<u>2,109,417</u>	<u>1,074,455</u>	<u>42,563</u>	<u>43,226,037</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2023	5,859,317	967,225	780,080	7,197	7,613,819
Charge for the year	1,091,219	283,362	88,867	8,530	1,471,978
On disposals	-	(1,268)	(11,429)	-	(12,697)
At 31 August 2024	<u>6,950,536</u>	<u>1,249,319</u>	<u>857,518</u>	<u>15,727</u>	<u>9,073,100</u>
Net book value					
At 31 August 2024	<u>33,049,066</u>	<u>860,098</u>	<u>216,937</u>	<u>26,836</u>	<u>34,152,937</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>33,072,897</u>	<u>913,469</u>	<u>168,697</u>	<u>35,366</u>	<u>34,190,429</u>

15. Stocks

	2024 £	2023 £
School equipment	<u>30,717</u>	<u>18,010</u>

16. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	21,946	15,255
Other debtors	192,444	125,934
Prepayments and accrued income	851,693	611,774
	<u>1,066,083</u>	<u>752,963</u>

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

17. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Salix and CIF loans	6,857	24,177
Trade creditors	627,381	549,899
Other taxation and social security	188,200	213,137
Other creditors	262,201	247,477
Accruals and deferred income	791,566	550,880
	<u>1,876,205</u>	<u>1,585,570</u>

	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	326,314	339,075
Resources deferred during the year	517,661	326,314
Amounts released from previous periods	(326,314)	(339,075)
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	<u>517,661</u>	<u>326,314</u>

At the balance sheet date the Trust was holding funds received in advance from the ESFA and the Local Authority.

18. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Salix loans and CIF loans	-	5,187
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,187</u>

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

19. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	2,407,668	1,078,453	(622,513)	(106,265)	-	2,757,343
Restricted general funds						
GAG	431,047	10,842,198	(10,695,457)	(577,788)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	766,037	(766,037)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	334,810	(334,810)	-	-	-
Other DfE Group grants	-	900,082	(900,082)	-	-	-
Local Authority grants	-	1,196,152	(1,196,152)	-	-	-
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	-	256,698	(256,698)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(572,000)	-	(80,000)	-	652,000	-
	<u>(140,953)</u>	<u>14,295,977</u>	<u>(14,229,236)</u>	<u>(577,788)</u>	<u>652,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Fixed assets	34,614,816	829,071	(1,471,978)	684,053	-	34,655,962
Total Restricted funds	<u>34,473,863</u>	<u>15,125,048</u>	<u>(15,701,214)</u>	<u>106,265</u>	<u>652,000</u>	<u>34,655,962</u>
Total funds	<u><u>36,881,531</u></u>	<u><u>16,203,501</u></u>	<u><u>(16,323,727)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>652,000</u></u>	<u><u>37,413,305</u></u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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19. Statement of funds (continued)

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

Restricted funds

The General Annual Grant (GAG) represents funding received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency during the period in order to fund the continuing activities of the school. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2024.

Local Authority grants represent money given to the Academy through grants. This year the grants included funding for: Children's Centre based at Saxon Primary School; Growing Schools; and pupils with a statement of special educational needs.

Educational activities represents monies given for activities carried out as part of the academies operations. These funds are to be spent on educational needs.

The pension reserve represents the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit. In the event of academy closure the outstanding LGPS liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The trust is able to meet its current obligation to the pension fund, the employer contributions.

Fixed asset funds

Fixed assets purchases from GAG represents amounts spent on fixed assets from the GAG funding received from the ESFA.

DfE/ESFA Capital grants include devolved formula capital funding and amounts received from the Capital Improvement Fund.

Transfers in/out from GAG to the fixed asset fund relate to a variety of capital projects across the 5 schools

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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19. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	2,091,806	901,740	(585,878)	-	-	2,407,668
Restricted general funds						
GAG	650,525	10,364,656	(10,151,340)	(432,794)	-	431,047
Pupil Premium	-	741,163	(741,163)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	312,977	(312,977)	-	-	-
Other DfE Group grants	-	791,890	(791,890)	-	-	-
Local Authority grants	-	1,129,111	(1,129,111)	-	-	-
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	-	237,278	(237,278)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(2,689,000)	-	(424,000)	-	2,541,000	(572,000)
	<u>(2,038,475)</u>	<u>13,577,075</u>	<u>(13,787,759)</u>	<u>(432,794)</u>	<u>2,541,000</u>	<u>(140,953)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Fixed assets	35,030,876	598,231	(1,447,085)	432,794	-	34,614,816
Total Restricted funds	<u>32,992,401</u>	<u>14,175,306</u>	<u>(15,234,844)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,541,000</u>	<u>34,473,863</u>
Total funds	<u><u>35,084,207</u></u>	<u><u>15,077,046</u></u>	<u><u>(15,820,722)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>2,541,000</u></u>	<u><u>36,881,531</u></u>

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

19. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by school

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 were allocated as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Saxon Primary School	258,490	376,206
Echelford Primary School	712,233	672,057
Riverbridge Primary School	793,551	933,780
Walton Oak Primary School	715,747	603,344
Darley Dene Primary School	115,353	84,332
Central services	161,969	168,996
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	2,757,343	2,838,715
Restricted fixed asset fund	34,655,962	34,614,816
Pension reserve	-	(572,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	37,413,305	36,881,531
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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

19. Statement of funds (continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Echelford Primary School	2,176,908	318,487	125,260	737,094	3,357,749	3,231,326
Saxon Primary School	1,576,713	250,571	86,466	554,088	2,467,838	2,279,233
Riverbridge Primary School	2,407,858	561,196	147,731	855,744	3,972,529	3,719,347
Walton Oak Primary School	1,509,371	468,437	88,756	724,040	2,790,604	2,760,896
Central services	272,585	543,394	50,976	(584,349)	282,606	137,776
Darley Dene Primary School	1,135,346	296,536	57,697	410,844	1,900,423	1,821,059
LGPS pension finance costs	49,000	31,000	-	-	80,000	424,000
Academy	9,127,781	2,469,621	556,886	2,697,461	14,851,749	14,373,637

The negative costs of £584,349 (2023: £649,733) relates to staff recharged to specific schools within the Trust, less other central services costs.

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestrict ed funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	34,152,937	34,152,937
Current assets	2,757,343	1,876,205	503,025	5,136,573
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,876,205)	-	(1,876,205)
Total	2,757,343	-	34,655,962	37,413,305

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

20. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	34,190,429	34,190,429
Current assets	2,407,668	2,021,804	424,387	4,853,859
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,585,570)	-	(1,585,570)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(5,187)	-	(5,187)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(572,000)	-	(572,000)
Total	2,407,668	(140,953)	34,614,816	36,881,531

21. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net expenditure for the period (as per Statement of financial activities)	(120,226)	(743,676)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	1,471,978	1,447,085
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(829,071)	(598,231)
Disposal of fixed assets	-	17,953
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	(12,707)	3,160
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(313,120)	91,223
Increase in creditors	307,955	24,829
Investment income	(115,547)	(35,384)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost	80,000	424,000
Net cash provided by operating activities	469,262	630,959

22. Cash flows from financing activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Salix loan repayments	(22,507)	(22,508)
Net cash used in financing activities	(22,507)	(22,508)

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

23. Cash flows from investing activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,434,486)	(586,758)
Capital grants from DfE Group	829,071	598,231
Interest income	115,547	35,384
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities	(489,868)	46,857

24. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand and at bank	4,039,773	4,082,886
Total cash and cash equivalents	4,039,773	4,082,886

25. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	4,082,886	(43,113)	4,039,773
Debt due within 1 year	(24,177)	17,320	(6,857)
Debt due after 1 year	(5,187)	5,187	-
	4,053,522	(20,606)	4,032,916

26. Capital commitments

At 31 August 2024 the academy had capital commitments as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements	577,975	601,149

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

27. Pension commitments

The academy'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 Surrey County Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £234,148 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 (2023 - £219,047) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies the level of future contributions.

Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 27 October 2023, with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation outcome are:

- employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy). This is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control result is such that no change in member benefits is needed.
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million

The result of this valuation was implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2028.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,156,652 (2023 - £1,009,866).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2019/04/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx>).

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The academy trust is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan. Accordingly, the academy trust has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The academy has set out above the information available on the scheme.

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

27. Pension commitments (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £971,000 (2023 - £1,002,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £736,000 (2023 - £772,000) and employees' contributions totalled £235,000 (2023 - £230,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 18.7-27.5 per cent for employers and 5.5-12.5 per cent for employees.

As described in note the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the academy, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the academy at the balance sheet date.

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.

A contingent asset in respect of the LGPS of £192,000 (2023: £nil) has not been recognised as its recovery is not regarded as virtually certain.

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2024	2023
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.65	3.95
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.65	2.95
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.00	5.20

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

	2024	2023
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
Males	21.8	21.9
Females	23.7	23.7
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	21.4	21.5
Females	25.7	25.7

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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27. Pension commitments (continued)

Share of scheme assets

The academy's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	At 31 August 2024 £	At 31 August 2023 £
Equities	9,087,940	7,717,800
Bonds	1,719,340	1,218,600
Property	982,480	812,400
Cash	491,240	406,200
Total market value of assets	12,281,000	10,155,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £1,449,000 (2023 - £941,000).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of financial activities are as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Current service cost	(785,000)	(1,076,000)

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Opening defined benefit obligation	10,727,000	11,040,000
Current service cost	785,000	1,076,000
Interest cost	581,000	493,000
Employee contributions	235,000	230,000
Actuarial losses/(gains)	55,000	(1,973,000)
Benefits paid	(102,000)	(139,000)
At 31 August	12,281,000	10,727,000

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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27. Pension commitments (continued)

Changes in the fair value of the academy's share of scheme assets were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Opening fair value of scheme assets	10,155,000	8,351,000
Interest income	550,000	373,000
Actuarial gains (including asset ceiling adjustment)	707,000	568,000
Employer contributions	736,000	772,000
Employee contributions	235,000	230,000
Benefits paid	(102,000)	(139,000)
At 31 August	12,281,000	10,155,000

28. Operating lease commitments

At 31 August 2024 the academy had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Within 1 year	13,021	23,130
Between 1 and 5 years	9,581	7,683
	22,602	30,813

29. Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and 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 12.

30. Contingent liabilities

There are no contingent liabilities that require disclosure in the financial statements.

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31. Members' liability

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