Company registration number 07318714 (England and Wales)

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

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ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees	Father C Atkinson (Resigned 31 August 2023) Mrs A Eggleston Reverend N Griffiths (Resigned 16 May 2023) Mr S Haigh (Chair of Trustees) Mrs S J Moore (Accounting Officer) Mr C R Bates Dr F H P Brierley Mr P E Gandy Mr S Farnaby (Appointed 29 June 2023)
Members	Mrs J Derrick (until 15/02/2023) Mr D Pickering Mr P Thompson Mr D N Page Mr S Haigh

Senior management team during the financial year

- Executive Headteacher	Mrs S J Moore
- Head of School - BAPA	Mr P Bellamy
- Head of School - BEPPA	Mrs R Skidmore (until 16/04/23)
- Head of School - Colsterworth	Mrs S Croxall (until 28/02/23)
- Acting Head of School - Colsterworth	Mrs L Jordan (from 01/03/23)
- Director of Curriculum & Standards	Mrs M Shears
- Deputy Head	Mr P Houghton
- Deputy Head	Mr A Whiteway
- Deputy Head	Mrs R Skidmore (from 17/04/23)
- Assistant Head	Miss H Bergmann
- Assistant Head/SENCO/DSL	Miss R Bradley
- Assistant Head	Mrs S Croxall (from 01/03/23)
- Assistant Head	Miss L Ockwell
- Assistant Head	Mr L Revell
- Assistant Head	Mr J Shore
- Assistant Head	Mrs L Abbey
- Assistant Head	Mrs K Swanson-Ross
- Assistant Head/SENCO	Mrs D Gould
- Assistant Head	Miss C Waddington-Seymour
- Assistant Head	Miss A Worrall
- Assistant Head/SENCO	Mrs L Jordan (until 28/02/23)
- Chief Operating Officer	Mrs S J Bates
- Chief Financial Officer	Mrs J E Parsons
- Accounting Officer	Mrs S J Moore

Company secretary	Mrs S J Bates
Company registration number	07318714 (England and Wales)
Registered office	Abbey Road Bourne Lincolnshire PE10 9EP United Kingdom

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Academies operated	Location	Executive Headteacher
Colsterworth Church of England Primary School	Colsterworth	Mrs S J Moore
Bourne Abbey Church of England Primary Academy (BAPA)	Bourne	Mrs S J Moore
Bourne Elsea Park Church of England Primary Academy (BEPPA)	Bourne	Mrs S J Moore

Independent auditor

Azets Audit Services
Ruthlyn House
90 Lincoln Road
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire
PE1 2SP
United Kingdom

Bankers

National Westminster PLC
Market Place
Spalding
Lincolnshire
PE11 1ST
United Kingdom

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

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

The trustees of Abbey Academies Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

From the articles to provide indemnity insurance to cover the liability of governors which by virtue of any rule of law should otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the academy trust. Provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission, which the trustees knew to be in breach of trust or breach of duty, and provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution against the trustees in their capacity as trustees.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

Subject to Articles 48 - 49 and 64, the academy trust shall have the following trustees:

a. Not less than 9 trustees, appointed under Article 50
b. Up to 2 Staff Governors, if appointed under Article 50A
c. 2 Parent Governors appointed under Articles 53-58. A Parent Governor must be a parent of the pupil at the Academy at the time when he is elected;
d. The Principal;
e. Any Additional Governors, if appointed under Article 62, 62A or 68A; and
f. Any Further Governors, if appointed under Article 63 or Article 68A.

The Academy Trust may also have any Co-opted Governor appointed under Article 59.

The term of office for any Governor (other than Co-opted Governors under Article 59) shall be 4 years, save that this time limit shall not apply to the Principal, the Diocesan Bishop, the Incumbent, the Area Dean. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Governor, any Governor may be re-appointed or re-elected.

A Local Governing Board (LGB) for each individual school is in place to undertake the day to day running of each school in line with the agreed Scheme of Delegation.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

The training and induction provided for new trustees depends on their existing experience. Where necessary induction provides training on charity and educational legal and financial matters. All trustees and governors are provided with copies of terms of reference, policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as trustees and governors.

Organisational structure

The organisational structure of the trust consists of four levels: The members, trustees, governors and the senior leadership team. The aim of the organisational structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The trust is governed by the board of trustees which delegates functions as appropriate to the local governing body of each academy.

The trustees are responsible for all areas covered under the funding agreements and all areas of statutory responsibility appertaining to the trust which include setting general policy, adopting an annual improvement plan for both academies and budget for the trust, monitoring the academies by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the academy trust, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The governors of each academy are responsible for monitoring the performance of their academy, focusing on academic standards and leadership. This includes regular scrutiny and challenge of the Executive Headteacher and senior leadership team. The Chief Financial Officer is the lead officer responsible for finance and reports to the local governing body on financial performance against delegated budget levels.

The Executive Headteacher and senior leadership team at each academy are responsible at an executive level for implementing the policies as agreed by the trustees and any local operating procedures as approved by the local governing bodies. As a group the senior leaders are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The policy for teacher's pay sets out the framework for making decisions on teachers' pay. It has been developed to comply with current legislation and the requirements of the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD) and has been consulted on with staff.

The policy for support staff pay sets out the framework for making decisions on support staff pay. It has been developed to comply with current legislation and has been consulted on with staff.

In adopting these pay policies the aim is to:

- maintain the quality of teaching and learning at each academy.
- support the academy improvement plans.
- underpin the trust's appraisal policy.
- ensure that all staff are valued and appropriately rewarded for their work contribution in the trust.
- ensure staff are well motivated, supported by positive recruitment and retention policies and staff development.
- demonstrate that decisions on pay are fair and equitable and recognise the principle of equal pay for like work and work of equal value.
- provide flexibility to recognise individual staff performance linked to pay decisions.

Pay decisions at the trust are made by the Finance, Pay & Audit Committee in consultation with the Executive Headteacher.

Trade union facility time

There has been no time spent on trade union facility time during the year.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Transactions with related parties are detailed in note 26.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The principal objective and activity of Abbey Academies Trust is to provide education for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 2 and 11 years and to further support the national and local school improvement agenda.

Abbey Academies Trust is a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) which includes Bourne Abbey Church of England Primary Academy, Bourne Elsea Park Church of England Primary Academy and Colsterworth Church of England Primary School.

The Executive Headteacher of Abbey Academies Trust leads the partnership of the three schools. Each academy has its own Head of School to oversee its day-to-day running. There has successfully been created a sense of shared identity and common purpose which also promotes and preserves each academy's individual character and ethos.

As Church of England academies, pupils at Bourne Abbey, Bourne Elsea Park and Colsterworth are encouraged to strive for excellence in the core subjects, but to broaden their education, to embrace and develop the concepts of faith and spirituality, of hope and charity and to enable them to make informed decisions later in life as broad-minded and knowledgeable British and world citizens.

The Executive Headteacher is a National Leader (NLE) and Bourne Abbey is deemed a National Support School (NSS). Bourne Abbey as NLE/NSS works on an improvement agenda with other named schools which are often identified by the Local Authority, Diocese and DfE as being in need of support.

The main objectives of Abbey Academies Trust during the year ended 31 August 2023 are summarised below.

- to ensure every pupil enjoys consistently high quality education and that resourcing, tuition and care meets their individual needs to achieve this.
- to continue to raise the standard of educational achievement and attainment for all pupils.
- to improve the effectiveness of both academies by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review.
- to provide value for money for the funds expended.
- to comply with all appropriate statutory safeguarding and curriculum requirements.
- to maintain close links with the local community including other local schools.
- to have a role in sharing and developing good practice and training new teachers.
- to conduct Abbey Academies Trust's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The main strategy across Abbey Academies Trust, which includes both academies, is encompassed in our mission statement which is 'Striving for Excellence – Caring for All within a loving and caring Christian environment'. To this end the activities provided include:

- being proactive in trying to ensure that all pupils' abilities and preferred learning styles are identified with appropriate learning and teaching strategies employed across all areas of the curriculum.
- quality learning opportunities for all pupils to ensure high levels of attainment and achievement in the core subjects and across a broad curriculum, including day/residential visits and many after school sporting, creative, environmental, scientific and leisure opportunities.
- a programme of Personal, Social and Health Education which includes Behaviour and Discipline procedures.
- ensuring all appropriate Safeguarding Procedures are in place and regularly monitored to ensure maximum effectiveness.

Public benefit

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

Abbey Academies Trust (previously Bourne Abbey Church of England Primary Academy) is in its eleventh year of operation as an academy and continues to set strategic goals related to achievement, attainment, engagement and provision. These goals are monitored closely by the trust body.

Key performance indicators

This has been a stunningly successful year for all three schools in Abbey Academies Trust.

We have a data picture for 2022-23, which includes careful monitoring of those in receipt of Pupil Premium. Rigorous analysis of the data from key assessment points throughout the year has been undertaken. From this, clear provision maps were written, identifying vulnerable groups, in preparation for the children's return in September 2023. Our results at EYFS, Y1/Y2 phonics, Y4 MTC and KS1/ KS2 SATs results are at least in line with local and National. Indeed, in many cases our outcomes significantly exceed local and National, especially at Colsterworth. External LA moderation of Year 2 at Bourne Abbey in May 2023, agreed with all teacher judgements and moderator comments included that we should keep up our 'excellent practice'. Outcomes in writing are well above National and local for pupils reaching the expected standard and those reaching higher standard. These successful outcomes are in part due to the impact of our broad, balanced and engaging curriculum, as well as impactful provision mapping/intervention for all those pupils not on target throughout the year, highly praised in our Ofsted inspection at Bourne Elsea Park in November/December 2022 and Colsterworth in January 2023, as well as in our 'excellent' SIAMS inspection in May 2023 at Bourne Abbey.

Provision continues to be in place for children to 'Catch-Up' and diminish any difference. Regular Pupil Progress Meetings will continue to be held for any pupils not making expected progress. A key focus will be all PP pupils, including those who are more able. Please see our Pupil Premium Strategy Statement for 2023-2024 which will be on our school website after it has been agreed by the Local Governing Body in November 2023. Attendance of PP pupils will again also be closely monitored, and pastoral support put in place for those who are vulnerable.

Successful academic year at all three academies in AAT including two Ofsted inspections and SIAMs inspection:

- Bourne Abbey - a SIAMS inspection carried out in May 2023 judged the school to be 'excellent'. Chris Allen, Lead Inspector stated in his report 'Empowered by the inspirational and dedicated leadership, the school provides a stimulating, engaging and challenging education for all. This promotes curiosity and the pursuit of excellence.'
- Bourne Elsea Park CofE Primary Academy- in November and December 2022 it had an ungraded Ofsted inspection, which judged that Bourne Elsea Park Academy continues to be a 'good' school
- Colsterworth - in January 2023, Colsterworth school had a graded section 5 Ofsted inspection where it was judged as 'good with outstanding features'. This inspection outcome is a very notable achievement for the school in such a short space of time since joining our Trust, including Covid-19 school closures.

There are very few key issues from the three inspections and these will be included in Academy Improvement Plans 2023-24.

Regional Director, Carol Gray formally congratulated CEO and Chair of Trustees for the Colsterworth Ofsted inspection. In her letter, Mrs Gray states 'This is a fantastic achievement particularly in the context of the school's previous inadequate judgement prior to joining the trust.'

Due to the successful Colsterworth Ofsted Inspection, pupil numbers have rapidly increased from 108 (September 2022) to 132 (September 2023). This will have a significantly positive impact on Colsterworth and AAT budgets in 2024-2025, in the region of an additional £130K.

Embedding new leadership structure in the Trust - adds high quality capacity for school improvement, succession planning and is part of our MAT 'Growth Strategy'. These 'specialist' senior members of staff focus on key areas of work and also enable our MAT to grow in the future.

A further new role created for AAT Central Leadership Team – Director of Phonics and Early Reading, bespoke to our Trust and illustrative of our key focus to refine and enhance practice across our MAT and in our S2S improvement work.

Director of Church Distinctiveness and Director of Curriculum and Standards were highly praised during all three inspections and absolutely impacted on successful outcomes.

Strategic Development Three Year Plan 2022-2025 produced and shared with DBE and DfE.

AAT website refined and due to be launched October 2023 to support future growth of our Trust.

- Danielle Gould became SENCo for Bourne Abbey as part of our action following Ofsted in 2021 and this role is full time and non-teaching. This has had a transformational impact on our SEND provision.
- Diocesan Annual Review for Abbey Academies Trust in March 2023 praised work of AAT and senior leaders. June Richardson, School Effectiveness Advisor commented in her report 'All three recent Ofsted reports are positive about the support and guidance leaders provide and reflect a culture which supports staff wellbeing and workload. There are strong systems in place to support wellbeing through the personal development curriculum (All Ofsted reports highlight these aspects). Consideration of protected characteristics is particularly high profile and was seen in action today. This ensures pupils and staff value everyone as uniquely made. June also stated that 'Leaders explained the comprehensive training which enables staff to develop their skills in supporting mental health and wellbeing. The SENDCO leads on wellbeing supported by the DSLs. Other staff have accessed the DFE accredited Mental health leaders programme. This year, leaders are investing in the ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) programme for the pastoral leads. Senior leaders are also taking a diploma in mental health. It is expected that this will particularly helpful when supporting parents and staff.'
- Continued development of mental health and well-being – further training for Mental Health and Well Being First Aiders and a member of staff from each school have undertaken DfE accredited MHWB training to support further this important work. MHWB action plans in place at each school.
- Staff workload at the fore and a change in the way staff give feedback to pupils has greatly reduced 'marking' workload for staff, without negatively affecting the quality and impact of feedback (See Ofsted reports, SIAMS report and Diocesan Annual review report).
- British Values are fully embedded throughout BAPA, BEPPA and at Colsterworth school. Pupils can articulate these, they are interwoven into the curriculum and linked with our Christian Values. Plans made for further development in 2023-2024. Highly praised in all three inspections.
- Character Education policy statement created. Supporting our children 'to be the best they can' (UNICEF Article 29) is an integral part life at our schools and embedded in all aspects from our Collective Worships to extra-curricular clubs. It is through the vast array of opportunities on offer in our curriculum that we support our pupils to not only develop academically but also personally; this is also described as 'Character Education'. To directly support our pupils to understand the importance of 'character' and how it can be developed we will focus on three traits across the academic year - again commented on in all three inspection reports and highly praised.
- Introduction of Spanish across the Trust – launched September 2022 and will become further embedded during 2023-24 and beyond. The Director of Languages role was also expanded to enhance our provision for EAL pupils, which has included production of staff EAL handbooks, resources, CPD and a robust assessment and tracking system.
- Effective CPD continued throughout the academic year, having a positive impact on improving outcomes and recognised as a strength in all three inspections.
- Read, Write, Inc training, observations and monitoring carried out by Read, Write Inc (external provider) and AAT leaders, including our newly appointed Director of Phonics and Early Reading. Impacted on successful Ofsted inspections this academic year.
- Throughout this academic year, following successful English Hub audits at all three schools in April 2022, there has been continued commitment to resourcing this reading programme and staff COD. Reading was deemed a strength at Bourne Elsea Park and Colsterworth – see Ofsted reports (Colsterworth and Bourne Abbey).
- Successful Safeguarding judgements at Bourne Elsea Park (Ofsted November/December 2022) and Colsterworth (Ofsted January 2023).
- Local Authority, Diocese and DfE continue to broker our NLE S2S support. Partnership with Heckington St Andrews CE Primary School, autumn 2022 and spring 2023.
- BAPA and BEPPA took part in Early Careers Framework pilot 2021. We continue to receive hugely positive feedback from Keystone (Lincolnshire HUB Partner), regarding the quality of our ECT and SCITT Mentors. Alex Worrall and Gabi Rocchio, continue to lead CPD for ECTs in the area.
- Assessment and tracking of core subjects and non-core subjects introduced throughout the Trust continue to be refined and enhanced. Adaptions have been made throughout the year, as a work in progress and in light of exciting developments to our already dynamic and creative curriculum.
- Maths Mastery has had a huge impact on maths throughout the school. Megan Shears, Danielle Gould, Jessica Schaffer, Sarah Croxall and Luke Revell (AAT maths leaders) have worked with the Maths Hub and through effective dissemination and WAGOLL have provided support and guidance for learning and teaching across the Trust. Danielle Gould is maths a SLE and Christopher Derbyshire joined AAT as a Maths KLE from September 2022. Exceptional maths results, significantly above National and Local outcomes, especially KS2 SATs results at all three schools.

- Positive reinforcement of our vision, Christian Values, Christian narrative throughout key policies and a drive and commitment from all stakeholders to ensure the distinctiveness and effectiveness of our schools as Church of England schools are excellent. Trust wide Christian Narrative document created for September 2022. Excellent SIAMs inspection at Bourne Abbey in May 2023 clearly illustrates the success of this work.
- Outcomes in Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar closely monitored throughout the year. Embedding use of Active English has continued to have a very positive effect on outcomes in Grammar. Embedding Active Spelling across AAT will be ongoing into 2023-24 following monitoring impact of outcomes.
- UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools – Colsterworth were accredited with the Gold award in July 2023. The assessor was particularly impressed with how embedded this work is, especially having only been part of AAT for five years, including Covid-19 school closures. Bourne Abbey were reaccredited with the UNICEF Gold award in autumn 2022. They played a huge role in sharing excellent practice with Colsterworth. This also illustrates how we are able to share strong practice across our Trust.
- All schools have applied for the Arts Mark award and Colsterworth achieved PSQM in Summer 2023.
- Bourne Abbey, Colsterworth and Bourne Elsea Park all achieved their Eco School's Green Flag awards in Summer 2023. This is an amazing achievement and has empowered our pupils to be 'Agents of Change'.
- All three schools achieved the Primary Languages Award in 2022-23, led by our newly appointed Director of Languages.
- AAT governance is effective and praised during all three inspections this academic year.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the statement of accounting policies.

Financial review

The academy trust held fund balances at 31 August 2023 of £8,179,237 comprising £7,749,133 of restricted funds and £430,104 of unrestricted funds. Of the restricted funds, £7,792,368 is represented by tangible fixed assets.

Whilst an element of education funding is ring-fenced, in real terms per pupil funding is reducing year on year. Increases in staff salaries and pension contributions are not reflected in GAG income.

Key performance Indicators:

- The trust is on a sound financial footing and follows strict guidelines outlined in its best value statement. All financial decisions are based on providing 'quality provision' and prioritising this to levels of funding available and expected over a three year forecast.
- The trust keeps a regular overview of its finances and details reports to trustees and governors..
- The trustees and governors regularly monitor, review and approve budget statements and plans. Trustees' and governors' advice and approval is always sought for major financial commitments.
- Key budget allocations and spending decisions are all linked to the Academy Improvement Plan. However, if a new initiative that will improve the academy becomes available, it will be reviewed by all members of the school community, including the financial implications and either approved or not. The trustees have the final approval. The unrestricted funds can be used to offset the financial implications of an initiative and funds raised by the PTFA can also be allocated. There are mini budgets within the main budget, i.e. Professional Development, Phase allocations.

The trustees fully understand what Abbey Academies Trust does well and where it could improve. They have achieved this understanding by receiving clear information from the Executive Headteacher/Senior Leaders/Local authority and national sources in the form of documentation, training, discussions at meetings, and by their own visits to the academies. As a result, they are informed about what happens in school, how this can be compared and benchmarked locally and nationally and are able to provide the necessary support and challenge in making strategically important decisions.

Reserves policy

The trustees review the reserves level of the trust annually. The review takes into account the nature of the income and expenditure streams. The trustees have determined that the appropriate level of reserves is £200,000 at trust level and the equivalent of one month's operating expenditure for each academy. Last year the trustees believed that they were on target to achieve this level of reserves, however, due to increased costs and unfunded salary increases a deficit has arisen in the year reducing the overall level of available funds. The trustees are reviewing how they can get back on target to meet the policy.

The academy is also confident that it will meet the required pension contributions from its projected income without significantly impacting on its planned level of charitable activity. It continues to calculate its 'free' or general unrestricted reserves without setting aside designated reserves to cover the pension liability.

Investment policy

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the trust has the power to invest funds not immediately required for its own purposes, in any way the trustees see fit. The organisation has a positive cash balance to cover eventualities and unforeseen expenses. The banking facilities are reviewed on a regular basis.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The trustees are responsible for identifying risks faced by the trust, establishing procedures to mitigate these risks, and ensuring that employees are aware of the procedures and of the implications of failing to implement them. They are satisfied that these procedures are consistent with the guidelines issued by the Charity Commission.

Comprehensive knowledge of buildings and their conditions enables the trust to plan and prioritise maintenance and construction work. Government guidance in relation to Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) has been followed and none has been identified in any of our buildings.

Fundraising

The Student Council vote on and organise fundraising events during the year. The trust does not use professional fundraisers or involve commercial participants. There have been no complaints about fundraising activity this year.

Plans for future periods

Abbey Academies Trust will continue to strive and improve levels of achievement and attainment for all its pupils whilst providing a high quality caring and nurturing educational environment for all and working in pursuit of community cohesion. The trust also deems its work in pursuit of sharing and developing good practice and training new teachers through the work of Bourne Abbey as NLE/NSS to be a core part of its activity.

The trust aims to provide opportunity to enhance the educational environment in the academic year 2023/24 by:

Early Years Foundation Stage

- To ensure the children's mental health and wellbeing needs are met.
- Throughout EYFS provision, ensure vulnerable groups and those exceeding their age/stage of development are identified and supported in their next steps and develop their vocabulary and cultural capital.
- To continue to regularly monitor the EYFS provision to ensure progression of knowledge, understanding and skills across the whole setting.
- Further enhance outdoor learning provision across the EYFS setting.
- Further enhance and develop early reading and phonics including CPD and monitoring impact on raising standards.
- Continue to implement the Early Years Framework in September 2023 and undertake the statutory Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA).

Quality of Education

- Ensure intervention and provision continues to be in place for the core areas of the curriculum, enabling our children can 'be the best they can'.
- To focus on raising standards in oracy so that it positively impacts on all learning.
- To continue to ensure that our curriculum supports the acquisition of core skills in English, maths and IT, and is relevant to all our learners.
- To further enrich our curriculum; through delivering a broad range of subjects within a curriculum demonstrating cultural capital; developing our whole school vision; curriculum model and implementation strategies with a specific focus upon art and D.T.
- Continue to enhance our curriculum to support children in 'knowing more and remembering more'.
- To continue to refine and enhance our writing curriculum.
- Further enhance and develop early reading and phonics including CPD and monitoring impact on raising standards.
- Ensure our SEND pupils' needs are well met and regularly monitor the impact of provision and canvas pupils' and parent/carer views.
- To review Year 6 SATs preparation in order that all children reach their aspirational targets and full potential.
- To continue to raise standards in all curriculum areas through the development of 21st Century ICT provision, teaching and learning.
- To further raise the profile of sustainability and international work by making them an integral part of school life and in doing so, work towards Eco Schools Green Flag and the Primary Languages Award.
- Embed Spanish across the Trust and ensure language and culture are inextricably linked, and language learning is a key part of the children's SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) development.

Personal Development, Behaviour and Attitudes

- Ensure the children's mental health and wellbeing needs are met and develop further the role of Mental Health and Wellbeing First Aiders.
  Ensure that children at all stages have opportunities to ask and discuss 'big questions' in order to develop an understanding that there are not always definite answers to spiritually challenging questions.
  Within the Religious Education curriculum ensure that children:
  - Further embed their knowledge of Understanding Christianity;
  - Continue to develop their understanding of wider faiths.
- Ensure that our PSHE curriculum enables all children to understand and articulate diversity within society and Protected Characteristics;Ensure our charity work, which extends globally and nationally, also has a focus on our locality so that children can see the impact that their efforts are having as 'Agents of Change'.
- To continue to develop the work of UNICEF in the Trust and to maintain 'The Rights Respecting School Award' - GOLD expectations.
- Continue to reinforce Fundamental British Values alongside our Christian Values, Christian ethos and Character Education.

Leadership and Management

- To continue to provide leadership that is strong, of high quality, having high expectations, motivating all and communicating a vision and direction to everyone with a commitment to raising standards. This shared vision is then understood and articulated by 'all', for 'all'.
- Ensure we have clear Intent, Implementation and Impact for our curriculum and that our children are able to know more and remember more.
- Continuing to develop skills of subject leaders so that they have the maximum impact on the quality of learning and teaching in order to secure aspirational progress for all groups of learners.
- To ensure understanding and compliance with regard to the Prevent Duty, including local issues, in order to further develop effective systems to keep pupils safe from the dangers of abuse, sexual exploitation, radicalisation and extremism.
- Further empower subject leaders to evaluate and lead subject development, ensuring that their subject has clear knowledge and skills progression embedded, allowing children to achieve their personal best with consistently high quality work.
- Leaders to ensure consideration of staff work-life balance and wellbeing and provide opportunities to canvas staff views.
- Leaders to ensure communication with all parents and carers, especially those who have SEND pupils, is effective.

These plans have been presented to the trustees and will be monitored throughout the year.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

The trust and its trustees do not act as the custodian trustees of any 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.

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 29/11/23 and signed on its behalf by:

.....

Mr S Haigh

Chair of Trustees

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Scope of responsibility

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

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

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 6 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Father C Atkinson (Resigned 31 August 2023)	4	6
Mrs A Eggleston	3	6
Reverend N Griffiths (Resigned 16 May 2023)	4	5
Mr S Haigh (Chair of Trustees)	6	6
Mrs S J Moore (Accounting Officer)	5	6
Mr C R Bates	6	6
Dr F H P Brierley	4	6
Mr P E Gandy	6	6
Mr S Farnaby (Appointed 29 June 2023)	0	0

Conflicts of interest

All Members, Trustees, Governors and staff with purchasing authority are required to declare their interests annually by completing the Register of Business Interests pro forma. The original is held by the Clerk on behalf of the Trust.

To be effective, the declaration of interests form needs to be updated at least annually, and also when any changes occur.

Members, Trustees, Governors and staff of Abbey Academies Trust are advised that if they are not sure what to declare, or whether/when any declaration needs to be updated, they should err on the side of caution. The Chair of the Board of Trustees will provide advice and it is their responsibility to ensure that professional advice (i.e. from the auditors) is sought where necessary.

At each meeting, the Clerk will ask for any conflicts of interest to be declared. Interested board members may not vote on matters affecting their own interests and they must absent themselves from the discussion and the decision-making process.

Governance reviews

The Finance, Pay and Audit committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to provide guidance and assistance to the Executive Headteacher and the board of trustees in all matters relating to budgeting and finance.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mrs A Eggleston	2	4
Mr S Haigh (Chair of Trustees)	3	4
Mrs S J Moore (Accounting Officer)	4	4
Mr C R Bates	4	4

Review of value for money

As accounting officer the Executive Headteacher has responsibility for ensuring that the 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 achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The accounting officer considers how the trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during 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 trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

Improving educational results

Ensuring that resources are directed where they are most needed and most effective in meeting educational requirements, for example by:

- targeting resources in key subjects such as english and maths;
- monitoring the needs of particular pupils including those in receipt of Pupil Premium Grant and Looked After Children PPG, and ensuring that the support they receive is relevant to them.

Staffing

- the academy is proud of operating on a very carefully structured staffing establishment. The staffing structure is considered very closely and any opportunities to minimise excess staffing are explored and frequently implemented. It is acknowledged that staffing is the most costly area of expenditure and savings in this area are the most valuable;
- Monitoring the performance of staff and ensuring the relevant action is taken to address weakness;
- An extensive CPD programme is in place with the objective of enhancing teaching and learning across the curriculum.

Financial Governance and Oversight

- the trust carries out regular monthly financial monitoring and the local governing bodies and board of trustees meet regularly. They receive regular reports, and ask relevant questions as recorded in the minutes;
- regular financial monitoring is supported further by regular internal auditor reports from Bulley Davey.

Better purchasing:

- exploring alternative purchasing options both on-line and direct through suppliers to find the best value;
- implementing a tender process for significant purchases and/or contracts;
- all contracts are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they are fit for purpose and best value.

Estates management:

- Estate funding is made up of many different pots and it is important to plan and allocate spending carefully.
- Knowing the condition of the estate at each school helps the trust to plan and spend their allocated funding more effectively and help to draft better funding bids for programmes such as Condition Improvement Fund (CIF).
- When procuring works to the estate the trust procurement policy is always used to achieve value for money.

The purpose of the system of internal control

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

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 ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;
- regular reviews by the Finance, Pay and Audit 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;
- identification and management of risks.

The board of trustees has decided:

- to buy in an internal audit service from Bulley Davey.

The RO's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the trust's financial systems. In particular the checks carried out in the current period included:

- testing of purchase systems
- testing of bank reconciliations
- testing of fixed assets
- testing of income

The auditor reports to the board of trustees through the audit committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the financial responsibilities of the board of trustees, 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 Headteacher has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the work of the executive managers within the trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance, Pay and Audit committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 29/11/23 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr S Haigh
Chair of Trustees

Mrs S J Moore
Accounting Officer

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

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

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

Mrs S J Moore
Accounting Officer
29/11/23

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

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

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 29/11/23 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr S Haigh
Chair of Trustees



ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinion

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

In our opinion the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

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

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 trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

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

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud
Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of senior leadership, Governors/Trustees and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations including compliance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency;
- Performing audit work over the recognition of grant income and the allocation of expenditure to funds;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

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. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

Use of our report

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



Mr Mark Jackson FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Azets Audit Services

7.12.2023

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Ruthlyn House
90 Lincoln Road
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire
United Kingdom
PE1 2SP

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 9 August 2023 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Abbey Academies Trust during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Abbey Academies Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Abbey Academies Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 30 November 2010 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- a review of the activities of the academy, by reference to sources of income and other information available to us;
- sample testing of expenditure, including payroll;
- a review of minutes of Trustees' meetings.

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Conclusion

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



Reporting Accountant
Azets Audit Services
Ruthlyn House
90 Lincoln Road
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire
PE1 2SP
United Kingdom

Dated: 7-12-2023

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Restricted funds: Fixed asset £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	8,704	-	108,619	117,323	504,482
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	135,619	5,749,940	-	5,885,559	5,502,620
- Provision of childcare	29	532,674	-	-	532,674	506,138
Other trading activities	5	17,010	-	-	17,010	12,585
Investments	6	6,374	-	-	6,374	392
Total		700,381	5,749,940	108,619	6,558,940	6,526,217
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	140,862	6,135,068	303,412	6,579,342	6,749,450
- Provision of childcare	29	450,897	-	-	450,897	380,803
Total	7	591,759	6,135,068	303,412	7,030,239	7,130,253
Net income/(expenditure)		108,622	(385,128)	(194,793)	(471,299)	(604,036)
Transfers between funds	20	(126,777)	153,468	(26,691)	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	27	-	34,000	-	34,000	3,379,000
Net movement in funds		(18,155)	(197,660)	(221,484)	(437,299)	2,774,964
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		448,259	197,660	7,970,617	8,616,536	5,841,572
Total funds carried forward		430,104	-	7,749,133	8,179,237	8,616,536

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2022	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds: General	Restricted funds: Fixed asset	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	1,132	500	502,850	504,482
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	131,289	5,371,331	-	5,502,620
- Provision of childcare	29	506,138	-	-	506,138
Other trading activities	5	12,585	-	-	12,585
Investments	6	392	-	-	392
Total		651,536	5,371,831	502,850	6,526,217
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	133,891	5,923,490	692,069	6,749,450
- Provision of childcare	29	380,803	-	-	380,803
Total	7	514,694	5,923,490	692,069	7,130,253
Net income/(expenditure)		136,842	(551,659)	(189,219)	(604,036)
Transfers between funds	20	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	27	-	3,379,000	-	3,379,000
Net movement in funds		136,842	2,830,341	(192,219)	2,774,964
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		311,417	(2,632,681)	8,162,836	5,841,572
Total funds carried forward		448,259	197,660	7,970,617	8,616,536

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		7,792,368		7,948,664
Current assets					
Stock	15	271		388	
Debtors	16	320,286		357,858	
Cash at bank and in hand		559,765		773,308	
		880,322		1,131,554	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(442,433)		(437,446)	
Net current assets			437,889		694,108
Total assets less current liabilities			8,230,257		8,642,772
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	19		(51,020)		(20,236)
Net assets excluding pension asset/ liability			8,179,237		8,622,536
Defined benefit pension scheme asset/ liability	27		-		(6,000)
Total net assets			8,179,237		8,616,536
Funds of the trust:					
Restricted funds	20				
- Fixed asset funds			7,749,133		7,970,617
- Restricted income funds			-		203,660
- Pension reserve			-		(6,000)
Total restricted funds			7,749,133		8,168,277
Unrestricted income funds	20		430,104		448,259
Total funds			8,179,237		8,616,536

The accounts on pages 25 to 51 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 29/11/23 and are signed on their behalf by:

.....
Mr S Haigh
Chair of Trustees

Company registration number 07318714 (England and Wales)

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash used in operating activities	**24**		(313,914)		(404,974)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		6,374		392	
Capital grants from DfE Group		108,619		502,850	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(49,915)		(49,070)	
Net cash provided by investing activities			65,078		454,172
Cash flows from financing activities					
Repayment of long term bank loan		35,293		22,696	
Net cash provided by financing activities			35,293		22,696
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(213,543)		71,894
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			773,308		701,414
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			559,765		773,308

1 Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

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

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

Donations

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

Other income

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

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Donated goods, facilities and services

The value of donated services and gifts in kind provided to the trust are recognised at their open market value in the period in which they are receivable as income, where the benefit to the trust can be reliably measured. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure under the relevant heading in the statement of financial activities, except where the gift in kind was a fixed asset in which case the amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the trust's policies. The value of donated time from volunteers has not been included in these accounts.

Donated fixed assets

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

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the trust's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management, trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £10,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. The related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the trust's depreciation policy. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

Furniture and equipment transferred into the academy from the previous local authority school has not been valued and introduced into these accounts.

Leasehold property inherited from the Local Authority on conversion to an academy was professionally valued on a depreciated replacement cost basis at 31 August 2012, commissioned by the ESFA.

Leasehold property provided to the trust immediately on completion of the building being constructed is included at a value equivalent to the cost of the building.

Leasehold property inherited from the Local Authority on conversion to an academy during the year has been valued by the trustees using an average square footage calculation.

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

Leasehold property	2% straight line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	3 years straight line

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

1.6 Liabilities

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

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

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

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

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Financial liabilities

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

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

1.9 Stock

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

1.10 Taxation

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

1.11 Pensions benefits

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

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

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

1.12 Fund accounting

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

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

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received and include grants from the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

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

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Capital grants	-	108,619	108,619	502,850
Other donations	8,704	-	8,704	1,632
	8,704	108,619	117,323	504,482

4 Funding for the trust's charitable activities

Educational operations	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	4,479,815	4,479,815	4,223,967
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- UIFSM	-	116,995	116,995	100,835
- Pupil premium	-	325,910	325,910	304,267
- PE and sports premium	-	56,640	56,640	56,390
- Teachers pension grant	-	5,890	5,890	9,865
- Teachers pay grant	-	2,085	2,085	3,491
- Others	-	240,895	240,895	120,956
	-	5,228,230	5,228,230	4,819,771
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	472,875	472,875	451,352
Other incoming resources	135,619	48,835	184,454	231,497
Total funding for educational operations	135,619	5,749,940	5,885,559	5,502,620
Provision of childcare	532,674	-	532,674	506,138
Total funding	668,293	5,749,940	6,418,233	6,008,758

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Hire of facilities	17,010	-	17,010	12,585

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Short term deposits	6,374	-	6,374	392

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs	Non-pay expenditure Premises	Non-pay expenditure Other	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	2,928,646	-	438,736	3,367,382	3,034,736
- Allocated support costs	2,143,521	621,414	447,025	3,211,960	3,660,393
Provision of childcare					
- Direct costs	-	-	20,641	20,641	74,732
- Allocated support costs	430,256	-	-	430,256	360,392
	5,502,423	621,414	906,402	7,030,239	7,130,253

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:	2023	2022
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	12,445	8,186
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	206,211	213,128
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	8,530	8,000
- Other services	1,400	1,350
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(8,000)	45,000

8 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Direct costs				
Educational operations	101,225	3,266,157	3,367,382	3,034,736
Provision of childcare	20,641	-	20,641	74,732
Support costs				
Educational operations	39,637	3,172,323	3,211,960	3,660,393
Provision of childcare	430,256	-	430,256	360,392
	591,759	6,438,480	7,030,239	7,130,253

8 **Charitable activities** **(Continued)**

Analysis of costs	**Provision of childcare**	**Educational operations**	**Total 2023**	**Total 2022**
	£	£	£	£
Direct costs				
Teaching and educational support staff costs	-	2,928,646	2,928,646	2,686,792
Staff development	-	49,595	49,595	27,186
Technology costs	-	90,673	90,673	95,591
Educational supplies and services	20,641	185,956	206,597	191,073
Other direct costs	-	112,512	112,512	108,826
	20,641	3,367,382	3,388,023	3,109,468
Support costs				
Support staff costs	430,256	2,143,521	2,573,777	2,478,246
Depreciation	-	206,211	206,211	213,128
Maintenance of premises and equipment	-	98,391	98,391	547,355
Cleaning	-	67,238	67,238	68,421
Energy costs	-	140,514	140,514	73,436
Rent, rates and other occupancy costs	-	83,140	83,140	82,053
Insurance	-	25,920	25,920	23,410
Catering	-	245,477	245,477	239,294
Finance costs	-	(8,000)	(8,000)	45,000
Legal costs	-	7,908	7,908	52,991
Other support costs	-	191,710	191,710	188,101
Governance costs	-	9,930	9,930	9,350
	430,256	3,211,960	3,642,216	4,020,785

9 **Governance costs**

All from restricted funds:	**Total 2023**	**Total 2022**
	£	£
Amounts included in support costs		
Legal costs	7,908	52,991
Auditor's remuneration		
- Audit of financial statements	8,530	8,000
- Other audit costs	1,400	1,350
	17,838	62,341

10 Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	4,208,494	3,553,993
Social security costs	372,393	303,421
Pension costs	921,536	1,233,248
Staff costs - employees	5,502,423	5,090,662
Agency staff costs	-	74,376
	5,502,423	5,165,038
Staff development and other staff costs	49,595	27,186
Total staff expenditure	5,552,018	5,192,224

Staff numbers

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Teachers	52	49
Administration and support	131	129
Management	3	3
	186	181

Higher paid staff

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	3	-
£120,001 - £130,000	1	-
£130,001 - £140,000	-	1

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the trust comprise the senior management team as listed on page 1. This year this represents 20 employees (2022 - 19 employees). The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the trust was £1,386,032 (2022 - £1,172,428).

11 Central services

No central services were provided by the trust to its academies during the year and no central charges arose.

12 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the trust. The Executive Headteacher and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Executive Headteacher and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as trustees. Other trustees did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the trust in respect of their role as trustees.

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

Mrs S J Moore (Executive Head Teacher)

Remuneration £125,000 - £130,000 (2022 - £130,000 - £135,000)

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

During the year, expenses totalling £3,796 (2022: £nil) were reimbursed or paid directly to one trustee (2022: none).

13 Trustees' and officers' insurance

The trust has opted into the Department for Education's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on trust 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.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold property	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 September 2022	9,284,732	377,812	9,662,544
Additions	-	49,915	49,915
At 31 August 2023	9,284,732	427,727	9,712,459
Depreciation			
At 1 September 2022	1,379,685	334,195	1,713,880
Charge for the year	185,694	20,517	206,211
At 31 August 2023	1,565,379	354,712	1,920,091
Net book value			
At 31 August 2023	7,719,353	73,015	7,792,368
At 31 August 2022	7,905,047	43,617	7,948,664

Leasehold property comprises three properties, two of which are held on licence to use and the other on a 125 year lease, two with Lincolnshire County Council and one with Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education.

15 Stock

	2023 £	2022 £
Uniform	271	388

16 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	6,375	-
VAT recoverable	6,144	23,560
Other debtors	31,456	51,490
Prepayments and accrued income	276,311	282,808
	320,286	357,858

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Government loans	6,969	2,460
Trade creditors	41,777	153,740
Other taxation and social security	88,617	71,265
Other creditors	136,685	93,700
Accruals and deferred income	168,385	116,281
	442,433	437,446

18 Deferred income

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	145,137	97,152
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	97,152	145,459
Released from previous years	(97,152)	(145,459)
Resources deferred in the year	145,137	97,152
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	145,137	97,152

Deferred income relates to amounts paid in advance for the 2023/24 school year for kindergarten places, kids club places, school trip deposits and universal infant free school meals.

19 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Government loans	51,020	20,236

Analysis of loans	2023 £	2022 £
Wholly repayable within five years	57,989	22,696
Less: included in current liabilities	(6,969)	(2,460)
Amounts included above	51,020	20,236

20 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	203,660	4,479,815	(4,836,943)	153,468	-
UIFSM	-	116,995	(116,995)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	325,910	(325,910)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	305,510	(305,510)	-	-
Other government grants	-	472,875	(472,875)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	48,835	(48,835)	-	-
Pension reserve	(6,000)	-	(28,000)	34,000	-
	197,660	5,749,940	(6,135,068)	187,468	-
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	7,926,934	-	(184,481)	49,915	7,792,368
DfE group capital grants	44,649	108,619	(97,201)	(41,313)	14,754
Salix loan	(22,696)	-	-	2,837	(19,859)
CIF loans	-	-	-	(38,130)	(38,130)
Private sector capital sponsorship	21,730	-	(21,730)	-	-
	7,970,617	108,619	(303,412)	(26,691)	7,749,133
Total restricted funds	8,168,277	5,858,559	(6,438,480)	160,777	7,749,133
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	32,128	63,021	(39,637)	-	55,512
School fund	45,339	104,686	(101,225)	-	48,800
Provision of childcare	370,792	532,674	(450,897)	(126,777)	325,792
	448,259	700,381	(591,759)	(126,777)	430,104
Total funds	8,616,536	6,558,940	(7,030,239)	34,000	8,179,237

20 Funds **(Continued)**

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

Restricted fixed asset funds
The devolved capital formula grant has to be spent on capital expenditure within 3 years of allocation.

The capital expenditure fund represents the net book value of fixed assets purchased.

The leasehold property represents the net book value of the leasehold property.

Restricted general funds
The restricted grant income in the year all relates to the provision of education for the children of the academy.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023.

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.

Designated funds
The school fund balances are designated by the trustees for use in a variety of different areas.

20 Funds **(Continued)**

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	164,923	4,223,967	(4,188,230)	3,000	203,660
UIFSM	-	100,835	(100,835)	-	-
Pupil premium	49,396	304,267	(353,663)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	190,702	(190,702)	-	-
Other government grants	-	451,352	(451,352)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	100,708	(100,708)	-	-
Pension reserve	(2,847,000)	-	(538,000)	3,379,000	(6,000)
	(2,632,681)	5,371,831	(5,923,490)	3,382,000	197,660
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	8,090,992	-	(213,128)	49,070	7,926,934
DfE group capital grants	50,114	502,850	(478,941)	(29,374)	44,649
Salix loan	-	-	-	(22,696)	(22,696)
Private sector capital sponsorship	21,730	-	-	-	21,730
	8,162,836	502,850	(692,069)	(3,000)	7,970,617
Total restricted funds	5,530,155	5,874,681	(6,615,559)	3,379,000	8,168,277
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	19,151	53,805	(40,828)	-	32,128
School fund	46,809	91,593	(93,063)	-	45,339
Provision of childcare	245,457	506,138	(380,803)	-	370,792
	311,417	651,536	(514,694)	-	448,259
Total funds	5,841,572	6,526,217	(7,130,253)	3,379,000	8,616,536

20 Funds (Continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:	2023 £	2022 £
Colsterworth Church of England Primary School	(297,147)	(306,508)
Bourne Abbey Church of England Primary Academy (BAPA)	428,778	754,643
Bourne Elsea Park Church of England Primary Academy (BEPPA)	298,473	203,784
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	430,104	651,919
Restricted fixed asset fund	7,749,133	7,970,617
Pension reserve	-	(6,000)
Total funds	8,179,237	8,616,536

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Colsterworth Church of England Primary School	658,946	89,047	32,361	159,414	939,768	823,656
Bourne Abbey Church of England Primary Academy (BAPA)	2,988,481	420,421	114,441	728,608	4,251,951	4,084,553
Bourne Elsea Park Church of England Primary Academy (BEPPA)	1,212,320	125,208	59,795	234,986	1,632,309	1,470,916
	4,859,747	634,676	206,597	1,123,008	6,824,028	6,379,125

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds: General	Restricted funds: Fixed asset	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	7,792,368	7,792,368
Current assets	493,171	372,397	14,754	880,322
Current liabilities	(63,067)	(372,397)	(6,969)	(442,433)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(51,020)	(51,020)
Total net assets	430,104	-	7,749,133	8,179,237

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds: General	Restricted funds: Fixed asset	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	7,948,664	7,948,664
Current assets	478,225	608,680	44,649	1,131,554
Current liabilities	(29,966)	(405,020)	(2,460)	(437,446)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(20,236)	(20,236)
Pension scheme liability	-	(6,000)	-	(6,000)
Total net assets	448,259	197,660	7,970,617	8,616,536

22 Capital commitments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	443,055	-

23 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

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

	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	12,943	12,445
Amounts due in two and five years	42,666	20,707
	55,609	33,152

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

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(471,299)	(604,036)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(108,619)	(502,850)
Investment income receivable	6	(6,374)	(392)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	27	36,000	493,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance (income)/cost	27	(8,000)	45,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		206,211	213,128
Decrease in stocks		117	198
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		37,572	(91,953)
Increase in creditors		478	42,931
Net cash used in operating activities		(313,914)	(404,974)

25 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	31 August 2023 £
Cash	773,308	(213,543)	559,765
Loans falling due within one year	(2,460)	(4,509)	(6,969)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(20,236)	(30,784)	(51,020)
	750,612	(248,836)	501,776

26 Members' liability

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

27 Pension and similar obligations

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016, and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £99,696 (2022 - £82,989) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 and are included within creditors.

27 Pension and similar obligations **(Continued)**

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £491,406 (2022: £436,784).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 24.1% for employers and 5.5 to 8.5% for employees.

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

27 Pension and similar obligations **(Continued)**

Total contributions made	**2023**	**2022**
	£	**£**
Employer's contributions	394,000	304,000
Employees' contributions	277,000	83,000
Total contributions	671,000	387,000

Principal actuarial assumptions	**2023**	**2022**
	%	**%**
Rate of increase in salaries	3.85	3.20
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.9	2.90
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.3	4.25

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

	2023	**2022**
	Years	**Years**
Retiring today		
- Males	19.5	21.2
- Females	22.6	23.7
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	20.8	22.1
- Females	24.0	25.1

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

	2023	**2022**
	£	**£**
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	522,000	525,000
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	33,000	510,000
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	501,000	460,000

Defined benefit pension scheme net asset/(liability)	**2023**	**2022**
	£	**£**
Scheme assets	3,741,000	3,860,000
Scheme obligations	(3,741,000)	(3,866,000)
Net asset/(liability)	-	(6,000)

27 Pension and similar obligations **(Continued)**

The trust's share of the assets in the scheme	**2023 Fair value £**	**2022 Fair value £**
Equities	2,704,000	2,823,000
Bonds	576,000	457,000
Impact of asset ceiling	(638,000)	-
Property	325,000	489,000
Other assets	774,000	91,000
Total market value of assets	3,741,000	3,860,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £(763,000) (2022: £7,000).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	**2023 £**	**2022 £**
Current service cost	430,000	797,000
Interest income	(174,000)	(60,000)
Interest cost	166,000	105,000
Total operating charge	422,000	842,000

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	**2023 £**	**2022 £**
At 1 September 2022	3,866,000	6,327,000
Current service cost	430,000	797,000
Interest cost	166,000	105,000
Employee contributions	103,000	83,000
Actuarial gain	(797,000)	(3,432,000)
Benefits paid	(27,000)	(14,000)
At 31 August 2023	3,741,000	3,866,000

27 Pension and similar obligations **(Continued)**

Changes in the fair value of the trust's share of scheme assets

	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 September 2022	3,860,000	3,480,000
Interest income	-	60,000
Actuarial loss	(125,000)	(53,000)
Employer contributions	394,000	304,000
Employee contributions	277,000	83,000
Benefits paid	(27,000)	(14,000)
Impact of asset ceiling	(638,000)	-
At 31 August 2023	3,741,000	3,860,000

The actuarial valuation prepared under FRS102 in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme indicated that the Trust's share of the scheme was in surplus as at the year end to the value of £638,000. The actuaries have undertaken an asset ceiling calculation which, on the basis that a minimum funding requirement does exist, indicates that none of that surplus is likely to result in either a refund of contributions or a reduction in future contributions in the future.

28 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the trust's operations and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trust has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

Some of the trustees have children who are pupils at the academy, consequently there will be transactions between those trustees and the academy in respect of their children's education. These are on the same basis as other pupils at the academy.

29 Provision of childcare trading account

	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Direct income				
Other direct income		532,674		506,138
Direct costs				
Educational supplies and services	20,641		20,411	
Other costs				
Support staff costs	430,256		360,392	
Total expenditure		(450,897)		(380,803)
Transfers between funds excluding depreciation		(126,777)		-
(Deficit)/surplus from all sources		(45,000)		125,335
Provision of childcare balances at 1 September 2022		370,792		245,457
Provision of childcare balances at 31 August 2023		325,792		370,792