

# Stramongate School

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

## Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 August 2024

Company Registration Number: 07992440  
(England & Wales)

# Stramongate School

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**Reference and Administrative Details**

The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the company for the period ended 31 August 2024.

	<b>Appointed</b>	<b>Resigned</b>
<b>Members</b>	Gary Tully The Reverend Jean Radley Michael Donnelly	
<b>Directors / Trustees</b>	Paul Atherton, Parent David Avis, Parent Stephen Lester, Community Clive Natrass, Community Victoria Pimblett, Parent and Chair Robert Timms, Parent Helen Watson, Community Matthew Beresford, Headteacher and Accounting Officer Sharron Butler, Staff governor Jenny Mason, Staff governor Gary Tully The Reverend Jean Radley	30/10/2023          23/03/2024 23/03/2024 06/09/2023 06/09/2023
<b>Senior Management Team</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Headteacher/Chief Executive Officer Matthew Beresford</li> <li>• Head of Key Stage 2 Chris Chew</li> <li>• Head of Key Stage 1 Emma Anderson</li> <li>• Inclusion Manager Karen Alston-Hewitt</li> <li>• Chief Financial Officer Debra-Marie Irving</li> </ul>	
<b>Company Name</b>	Stramongate School	
<b>Principal and Registered Office</b>	Stramongate School Blackhall Road Kendal Cumbria LA9 4BT	
<b>Company Registration Number</b>	07992440	

**Reference and Administrative Details (continued)**

<b>Independent Auditor</b>	Saint and Co The Old Police Station Church Street Ambleside Cumbria LA22 0BT
<b>Internal Auditor</b>	Stephen Lester MBE ACMA
<b>Bankers</b>	Lloyds Bank PLC 5-6 King Street Penrith Cumbria CA11 7AP
<b>Solicitors</b>	Thomson Hayton Winkley 114-116 Stricklandgate Kendal Cumbria LA9 4QA

**Trustees' Report**

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The academy trust operates an academy for pupils aged 4 to 11 serving a catchment area in central Kendal. It has a pupil capacity of 420 and had a roll of 278 in the school census on 16 May 2024.

**Structure, Governance and Management****Constitution**

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

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.

**Trustee's Indemnities**

The academy trust, through its Articles, has indemnified its trustees to the fullest extent permissible by law. During the period the academy trust also purchased and maintained liability insurance for its trustees (referred to as Governors' Liability Cover under the DfE Risk Protection Arrangement).

**Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees**

The Trustees are Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 1985 and Trustees for the purpose of charity legislation. The management of the academy trust is the responsibility of the Trustee Board under the terms of the Articles of Association.

Contrary to the Articles of Association, The Academy Trust Handbook states that any newly appointed senior executive leader can only be a trustee if the members decide to appoint them as such, the senior executive leader agrees and the trust's articles permit it. The Handbook also states that it was the Department for Education's strong preference for no other employees to serve as trustees, nor for trustees to occupy staff establishment roles on an unpaid voluntary basis, in order to retain clear lines of accountability. The Trust Board, considering this change in guidance, decided to restructure the Trust's governance structure. Employees of Stramongate School no longer serve as trustees, although up to four staff representatives are appointed as governors and invited to contribute to meetings of the Board of Trustees. This is reflected in the structure outlined on page 1.

Trustees are recruited by the Board of Trustees, with regard to skill set needed by the Board.

The Trust was requested by the DfE to adopt a new funding agreement as a condition of the appointment of an Interim Chief Financial Officer in May 2023. The new Funding Agreement, using the latest DfE format, was completed in February 2024.

## Trustees' Report (continued)

### **Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees.**

All new trustees have an induction meeting, usually with the Chair of Trustees, Clerk to the Governors and Headteacher, with the full training and induction process depending on their existing experience.

Details of trustee training courses are made available to all trustees; the academy trust subscribes to the National Governance Association and additional training courses are available locally, through both the Local Authority and third-party providers. In-house training occurs annually; the content of such training is determined by any areas of weakness identified by an annual skills audit.

Trustees have access to policies, improvement plans, minutes and other relevant documentation that they need to undertake their role. For a minimum of their first twelve months, new trustees are also encouraged to attend all meetings, of all committees, to allow them to develop a full understanding of the Board of Trustees' working practices. The Chair of Trustees and the Chairs of committees are responsible for supporting new Trustees on the work of each separate committee.

### **Organisational Structure**

The academy trust's management structure consists of three levels: Members, Board of Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team.

The Members ensure that the academy trust meets with its stated aims and expected standards, appoint the external auditors and ensure that the audited accounts are lodged with Companies House annually.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for setting general policy, reviewing and adopting an annual School Development Plan and budget, monitoring the performance of the academy trust by use of budgets and key performance data and making major, strategic decisions about the direction of the academy trust, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The Senior Leadership Team manages the day-to-day running of the business of the academy trust, implementing the policies laid down by the Board of Trustees and reporting back to them.

The Headteacher is appointed as the Accounting Officer.

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

The Headteacher's pay scale has been set by reference to the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions and the salary paid is set in line with the pay scales published by the School Teachers' Review Body. Headteacher pay and performance is reviewed annually by an external consultant who, in turn, advises and makes recommendations to the Governing Board Pay and Performance Management Committee regarding performance targets and pay progression.

Senior Leadership pay and performance is managed by the Headteacher, under advice from specialist advisors, Capita HR, using Single Status Pay and Performance guidelines and School Teachers Pay and Conditions guidelines, as appropriate. Pay and progression is recommended by the Headteacher and approved by the Board Pay and Performance Committee.

The Board of Trustees benchmark spend on management personnel to comparable schools using the DfE's benchmarking tools.

### **Trade union facility time**

The Academy has no relevant union officials.

**Trustees' Report (continued)****Related parties and other connected charities and organisations**

No related parties control nor hold significant influence over the decisions or operations of the academy trust. The academy trust has no sponsors.

The Headteacher and one trustee of Stramongate School act as two out of three trustees of Stramongate Nursery, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, which leases premises from Stramongate School.

The lease between Stramongate School and Stramongate Nursery has received approval from the Secretary of State for Education and been reported as a related party transaction to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

Stramongate Nursery provides nursery education to children aged between 2 and 4 years old. Until 31 May 2023, it also provided wrap-around care, in the form of an afterschool club, for pupils of Stramongate School. From 1 June 2023, the operation of the afterschool club was transferred to Stramongate School and three members of staff were transferred under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) regulations.

The Nursery pays rent and donates its profits to Stramongate School. During the year to 31 August 2024, it also purchased meals and other supplies and services from the School. Income received from Stramongate Nursery during the year to 31 August 2024 comprised £6,784 in rental payments, £4,628 in meals purchases and a small amount for the provision of other services. The profit share transferred to the academy in the year to 31 August 2024 was £20,000.

**Objectives and Activities****Objects and Aims**

The principle object and activity of the charitable company is the operation of Stramongate School, to provide education for pupils aged 4 to 11.

**Objectives, Strategies and Activities**

The Stramongate School motto of "be kind, work hard and discover" is underlined by the core values of respect, perseverance, self-belief, pride and achievement.

The main objectives of the academy trust are to:

- Ensure well-being is at our core, enabling children and staff to thrive;
- Provide a safe, balanced and purposeful curriculum with opportunities for all;
- Embrace diversity and be an inclusive community;
- Celebrate our position in the heart of Kendal;
- Continue to develop the school, providing an excellent learning environment;
- Provide value for money; and
- Operate adhering to the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness.

The strategies and activities implemented to enable the academy trust to achieve these objectives, are:

- The use of high-quality teaching processes, which are transparent and inform all subsequent actions;
- The secure use of data and tracking, to measure progress and inform actions and interventions;
- Monitoring and management of school attendance;
- Offering a variety of inclusive extra-curricular opportunities;
- Use of external, independent third-party experts to validate/challenge the trust's own assessment of key performance indicators; and
- Use of benchmarking the trust's performance against those nationally and against 'similar' schools in terms of a range of key areas including Standards, Structure and Finance.

**Trustees' Report (continued)**

The academy trust applies the following criteria to measure its success. Ensuring that:

- Pupils are well cared for and know how to manage risks and make good decisions for their own and others' well-being;
- Pupil cohort attainment in the Early Years, Year 1 Phonics, Year 4 Multiplication Check and KS1 & KS2 assessments are at least in line with national averages;
- Pupil progress is at least in line with Analyse School Performance (ASP) averages and Fischer Family Trust (FFT) estimates;
- Positive outcomes from Ofsted inspections are gained; and
- Feedback on the Trust's effectiveness is sought from stakeholders, both informally and through bi-annual attitudinal surveys generated, collated and benchmarked against nation datasets via an independent third party.

The school's 5-year vision is to:

- Have strong academic outcomes, further closing the attainment gap;
- Have a well-balanced, rich and evolving curriculum where children's voices and opinions are heard;
- Have happy, healthy, ambitious children;
- Further involve parents and carers in their child's education;
- Support our staff and provide development opportunities;
- Increase our school roll;
- Have invested in outdoor and indoor learning spaces.

The strategies and activities implemented to enable the academy trust to achieve this vision, were to:

*Have strong academic outcomes, further closing the attainment gap*

- Termly data is accurate and leads to improving outcomes.
- Raise attainment and accelerate progress of disadvantaged and lower attaining pupils by holding termly pupil progress meetings, attended by the Inclusion manager and Headteacher, to ensure the effectiveness of intervention
- Raise attainment and accelerate progress of disadvantaged and lower attaining pupils by holding termly pupil progress meetings, attended by the Inclusion manager and Headteacher, to ensure the effectiveness of intervention groups;
- Embed Little Wandle Phonics across the school and catch up provision is effective
- Introduce and embed oracy across subjects to raise writing standards across the school.

*Have a well-balanced, rich and evolving curriculum where children's voices and opinions are heard*

- Self evaluation across the school is honest and shared.
- Maximum use is made of teaching time.
- Further embed high quality handwriting and presentation across the school.
- Support and develop subject leaders to lead effectively.
- Further develop the Pupils' Voice.
- Engage with Kendal Education and Conservation Partnership initiative.

*Have happy, healthy, ambitious children*

- Ensure that pupils feel secure and where they may present poor behaviour they experience consistent support and consequences from all staff;
- Ensure that PHSE and social and emotional aspects of learning are woven into lessons;
- New class organisation in Rec +KS1 works effectively.

*Further involve parents and carers in their child's education*

- Hold curriculum information evenings;
- Parental communications improved using MS SWAY
- Embed parental access to school services
- Improve school attendance with a target of 96% attendance



**Trustees' Report (continued)***Support our staff and provide development opportunities*

- Ensure that performance management aligns with the School Development Plan, evaluated in the School Evaluation Form;
- Offer relevant staff meetings closely aligned with staff development needs, the School Development Plan and School Evaluation Form;
- Ensure that staff training satisfies Health and Safety requirements and is responsive to the needs of staff including those looking to develop their career.

*Increase our school roll*

- Continue to work with Stramongate Nursery to offer opportunities for joint collaboration;
- Make full use of social media, newsletters and face to face look arounds to promote the school positively.

*Explore future school organisation by looking into the pro's/cons of joining a multi academy trust*

- Move forward with full investigation of potential Multi Academy Trusts to join
- Work with Trustees to look in depth at which would be the best MAT for the School to join.
- Meet MAT reps from different MATS
- Consult with staff/parents to include planned benefits.

*To ensure that:*

- Children make the Speaking and Listening and Phonics Phase milestones, with at least 86% of Year 1 pupils meeting the Phonics Screening Score target in June 2023, in line with national averages;
- An increased number of children are working at Age Related Expectations, with at least 75% of pupils in Key Stage 1 and 85% of children in Key Stage 2 meeting expectations with an aim of 90% of Key Stage 2 children meeting age related expectations by 2030;
- A reduction in the gap in terms of rate of progress or achievement between non-SEND disadvantaged groups and others, with at least 65% of Year 2 pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding and 75% of Year 6 pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding working at Age Related Expectations;
- Improvements in the outcome of the Year 4 Multiplication Check, with at least 75% achieving the target grade;
- Children demonstrate, through their social interactions, attitudes to learning and actions, that they can confidently take on new challenges; exploring boundaries, understanding and ideas to progressively build leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication skills;
- Attendance levels exceed 96% for all children and School persistent absence levels are below the national average;
- Increased Reception intake numbers, with 100% of Stramongate Nursery pre-schoolers moving into Stramongate Reception in Sept 2023.

Details as to the academy trust's performance against these objectives is outlined later in the trustees report.

**Public Benefit**

The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duties under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit provided by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties. In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The academy trust provides educational services to children in the local area.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

The academy trust's main strategic objective is to raise standards of achievement and progress through an unrelenting focus on continuous improvement in all aspects of the organisation. The core purpose of the academy trust is teaching and learning and therefore its key focus is on the progress made and standards achieved by its pupils.

Key Performance Indicators

Ofsted inspections

The Academy trusts last inspection was 28th and 29th January 2020. The outcome was that Stramongate continues to be a good school. Since that date, school and the senior team have been working on the improvement areas and now focusing on readiness for the next Ofsted inspection.

Examination results

Results for the 2023-24 academic year were pleasing, showing an improving trend on a number of measures, as indicated below. To note, this is internal data as we await official DfE performance data.

Data from July 2024	Y1 Phonics Screening June 2024	OPTIONAL End of KS1 Teacher Assessment Data			
		Reading	Writing	Maths	
<b>EYFSD Data</b> Good level of development (first 12 ELG) – 69% Reading – 81% Writing – 69% Maths – 81%  W + F =64.8% National=67.7%	84% at pass mark of 32 or above. W+F= 79.6% National 80.2%  Y2 re-takers 87.5% (1 child not passed – EHCP)	Expected standard or above	76%	65%	76%
		Greater Depth Standard	19% (%)	11% (%)	19%

The Governing Board, Senior Leadership Team and class teachers are aware of the significant continuing impact COVID and the associated school closures and disruption to formal education had on pupil's wellbeing, development and education, the outcomes of which are still being seen, particularly in KS1 and now moving into KS2. The school is working hard with parents and carers to sensitively support children and has developed strategies to address identified gaps in learning, including additional investment in small-group support using the Recovery Premium and National Tutoring grants as well as the purchase of a new Little Wandle phonics scheme, funded from the trust's reserves. However, it is expected that the impact on the results achieved by some pupils will be seen for several years.

Year 4 Multiplication Check June 2024 results

Stramongate % with full marks (25/25): 2023 - 17% 2024 - 20% |

Mean average scores (2024):

National (estimated) - 21 Stramongate - 21

**Trustees' Report (continued)**

**KS2 Test Data June 2024**

**End of KS2 Test Data July 2024**

<u>Subject</u>	<b>Percentage of pupils achieving at least the expected standard: <u>Stramongate (2024)</u></b>	<b>Percentage of pupils achieving at least the expected standard: nationally (2024)</b>
SPAG	81%+35%GD	72%
English reading	77%+29% GD	74%
English writing	79% + 10%GD	72%
Mathematics	90%+29% GD	73%
Science	88%	81%

GD is Greater Depth

To ensure that standards are continually raised, the academy trust, Governing Board and Senior Leadership Team operate a robust quality assurance calendar which monitors the quality of teaching and learning and undertake rigorous reviews of attainment. Utilising Analyse School Performance (ASP) and Fischer Family Trust (FFT) data, rates of pupil progress are analysed, paying particular regard to achievement on-entry and levels of progress secured against those achieved nationally and locally.

***Pupil Attendance Data***

Pupil attendance for the year to 31 August 2024 was 94.6%, which is below the academy trust’s target of 96% but equals the national primary attendance figure of 94.3% (Source FFT Aspire 10 000+ schools. Persistent absence rates (less than 90%) was 12.5%

The Governing Board review attendance at least half termly and the Trust’s Inclusion Manager works closely with the families of pupils with low attendance to help them overcome any obstacles to attending school regularly. We are engaging with the Local Authority attendance officer.

***Intake Data***

33 children joined Stramongate’s Reception class in September 2023. Governing Board and Senior Management investigations suggest that all families who visit Stramongate are impressed and apply for a place, however, the Office for National Statistics birth rate in the school catchment area is low with just 42 children eligible for a Reception 2023 start born within the school catchment area.

90% of children leaving Stramongate Nursery to attend primary school joined Stramongate School in September 2023; One child at Nursery has gone to Sandgate School.

**Trustees' Report (continued)*****Financial Performance***

The Governing Board are committed to achieving financial sustainability and offering value for money. Key financial performance indicators are set annually, based on guidance received from the ESFA and financial advisors, and performance against these is reviewed termly. Areas of focus include:

- Teaching staff costs as a percentage of total expenditure
- Average teacher cost
- Teacher contact ratio
- Pupil to teacher ratio
- Educational support staff costs as a percentage of total expenditure
- Agency staff costs as a percentage of expenditure
- Administrative and clerical staff costs as a percentage of total expenditure
- Other staff costs as a percentage of total expenditure
- Premises costs as a percentage of total expenditure
- Energy and utilities costs as a percentage of total expenditure
- ICT costs as a percentage of total expenditure and per pupil
- Catering staff costs and catering supply costs as a percentage of total expenditure and per pupil
- Cash inflow/outflow

**Going Concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Governing Board has a reasonable expectation that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

However, the academy trust is transferring the business and school to Cumbria Education Trust with an expectation that this may be in Easter 2025, so within the next 12 months and therefore the academy trust will no longer be a going concern. Trustees feel that this move will strengthen finances by providing cost savings through shared services, leadership capacity and access to larger reserves if needed.

**Trustees' Report (continued)****Financial Review****Financial Review**

The Academy Trust's accounting period is 01 September 2023 to 31 August 2024.

The majority of the academy trust's income is obtained from the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the year to 31 August 2024 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. During the year ended 31 August 2024, expenditure exceeded income on the restricted fund by £68,146, before transfers and actuarial gains.

The academy trust generates additional income through the hire of facilities, sale of meals and other items and running wrap-around care services as well as receiving donations. This income is shown as unrestricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities and is used to support the trust's core educational provision as well as provide pupils with additional educational opportunities and experiences. During the year ended 31 August 2024, unrestricted income exceeded expenditure by £38,788, before transfers.

During the year, the school received total revenue funding of £1,818,593 of which £1,301,015 was from the DfE in the form of GAG funding (72%). Other significant revenue funding includes £109,184 from the Local Authority for educational statements.

Revenue expenditure was £1,711,659, of which staffing is the main area of cost at £1,347,982. (79%)

At 31 August 2024, the net book value of fixed assets was £1,938,583. The fixed assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the academy trust.

**Reserves Policy**

As at 31 August 2024, the Academy Trust had reserves of £2,114,085, this comprised of:

- The Restricted Income Fund of 58,415. This figure represents the amount of restricted funding received, including the General Annual Grant, less the amount spent;
- The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund of £1,945,801. This related to capitalised fixed assets, which is the cost of the tangible and intangible assets held by the academy, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. These funds could only be realised for use by the Academy through the sale of such assets;
- The Restricted Pension Fund of £Nil. This is the pension surplus / deficit relating to the academy trust recognised at the year end. The academy trust will continue to make pension contributions, as advised by the scheme actuary.
- The Unrestricted Income Fund of £109,869. This is the excess of unrestricted income generated by the Academy over expenditure relating to unrestricted activities.

The Governing Board review the current and projected level of reserves on an annual basis, ensuring that it is adequate for the continued operation of the academy trust, based on current and projected funding levels and educational policies. The current level of reserves is considered adequate by the Governing Board to meet short-term emergencies; and for cash-flow management, to ensure employees and suppliers can be paid.

The objective of the Governing Board in recent periods has been to achieve a total level of restricted and unrestricted reserves sufficient to enable the Academy Trust to meet one month's salaries and services costs.

**Trustees' Report (continued)*****Funds in Deficit***

There were no funds in deficit at the year end.

**Investment Policy**

The Governing Board ensures all monies are in the appropriate investment accounts at the bank. These are used to maintain good cash flow over the year. The Board have a formal investment policy.

**Principal Risks and Uncertainties*****Coronavirus (COVID-19)***

The longer-term impact of COVID are being felt through the lower outcomes achieved by pupils in formal assessments, compared to results prior to the pandemic. National Tutoring and Recovery Premium grants, which continued in the 2023/24 academic year, contribute towards some of the costs incurred in relation to closing attainment gaps, however, these do not cover the full cost of provision and will not be sufficient to address all increased need.

***Fluctuations in Pupil Numbers***

The majority of the academy trust's income is obtained from the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants calculated on the basis of pupil numbers. The key risk to the trust is, therefore, fluctuation in pupil numbers.

The Governing Board are monitoring pupil numbers, and budgets, closely and have taken early actions to ensure that the trust is able to achieve a balanced budget in future periods. To address and minimise the risks posed from fluctuating pupil numbers, the Board have agreed to reduce the School's Primary Admission Number (PAN) from September 2025 following a full consultation with parents and the local admissions authority.

**Trust estate management**

A Health and Safety audit has been carried out and the School are working through the actions. RAAC survey completed and none found. Maintenance continues on the site with new lighting in different areas of the school, replacement of external windows and continuing asbestos removal. Annual tree works continue to ensure external site remains safe and ongoing redecoration projects.

**Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies**

The academy's exposure to credit, cash flow and liquidity risks are minimised by the very nature of the trust activities. Grant funding is received at the beginning of each month, which ensures a positive cash flow throughout the financial year, due to student lagged funding this has been closely watched over the year. Income from other sources, are not a large part of the trusts income and therefore do not form a significant credit risk. Bank balances are positive and the academy holds cash reserves.

It is the Trustees objective to maintain suitable cash reserves whilst expending the grant funding received in that year on the education of the students. The level of reserves is discussed annually.

**Principal Funding Sources**

The majority of the academy's income is obtained from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and the Local Authority in the form of grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes.

**Fundraising**

Friends of Stramongate School (FOSS), a registered charity which comprises staff, parents and carers of pupils at Stramongate School, undertake fundraising activities on behalf of the academy trust; these include the sale of tea-towels, cake sales, pupil discos and a summer fair. These activities are run in conjunction with and overseen by the trustees who, following Charities Commission guidance, ensure compliance with relevant data protection and licensing legislation as well as the protection of the public and vulnerable people from unreasonably intrusive or persistent fundraising approaches or undue pressure to donate.

The Academy Trust does not, nor have any current plans to, work with any commercial partners or professional fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the Trustees.

**Trustees' Report (continued)**

**Plans for Future Periods**

The academy trust's key objectives continue into the forthcoming year. The key areas being focussed on for development will be:

- Increase the reception Good Level of Development to 75%. Increase the number of children working at Age Related Expectations to 75% in KS1 and 85% in KS2, with the expectation of 90% of KS2 children achieving Age Related Expectations by 2030;
- Ensure all identified K support children (SEN with no EHCP) and disadvantaged learners are fully supported to make good progress.
- Subject Leaders lead effectively and can articulate subject strengths and developments.
- To further raise reading and writing standards across all ages.
- Improve overall school attendance to 97% attendance and persistence absent rates to less than 10%.
- Develop an in-school mental health leader.
- Staff have access to prioritised range of CPD and development time built into 1265 hours and other school procedures.
- Stramongate will begin a longer-term integration into Cumbria Education Trust (CET) across all areas of school.

The School Development Plan outlines our plans to achieve these objectives (available from the School Office).

The academy trust is currently exploring the possibility of installing an Outdoor Classroom to improve its outdoor learning provision. Longer-term plans are also to develop a dance and drama studio in the Hub building and reinvestigate the potential of a multi use games area on the field

The Trustees are satisfied with the school's objectives and plans for the current year and were involved in setting the 5-year vision. Trustees are aware of the commitment of the school in responding to the developing needs of its pupils and staff and the need to be flexible in this ever-changing educational landscape.

**Auditor**

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by the Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs Victoria Pimblett  
Chair of Trustees

25/11/24 Date

**Governance Statement**

**Scope of Responsibility**

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

As trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE’s Academy Trust Governance Guide and this is included as part of our induction for all new trustees.

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the 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 Stramongate School and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control. The Board of Trustees has also appointed a Chief Financial Officer to support the Headteacher in financial management, financial monitoring and reporting and ensuring all required statutory and DfE returns are prepared and submitted on time.

**Governance**

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees’ Report and in the Statement of Trustees’ Responsibilities.

**Full Governing Board**

The board of trustees has formally met 3 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024	Summer 2024	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Paul Atherton	DNA			0	1
David Avis	Y	Y	A	2	3
Matt Beresford	Y	Y	Y	3	3
Sharon Butler	A			0	1
Stephen Lester	DNA	A	Y	1	3
Jenny Mason	Y			1	1
Clive Natrass	Y	A	Y	2	3
Victoria Pimblett	A	Y	Y	2	3
Robert Timms	Y	Y	Y	3	3
Helen Watson	Y	Y	Y	3	3

**Board of Trustees work, performance and changes in composition**

Work of the Board of Trustees included:

- Review and approval of statutory policies;
- Agreement on all constitutional and compliance matters;
- Determining committee structures; appointing trustees to committees and special functions; review and approval of the academy trust’s accounts and budgets;
- Performance management of the Headteacher and staff structure and performance overview;
- Ensuring actions required following Ofsted inspections are taken;
- Input into, approve and monitor progress of the School Development Plan; and
- Monitor overall standards in terms of outcomes for children’s learning and wider experiences across the school.

The Board of Trustees uses a wide range of third-party data to validate the information supplied by the Headteacher, e.g. Analyse School Performance (ASP), Fischer Family Trust, independent auditors, health and safety consultants and a Headteacher consultant as well as the DfE Schools Financial Benchmarking Tool, Integrated Curriculum & Financial Planning using the ISBL Advanced Strategic Optimisation Tool and the DfE School Resource Management Self-Assessment Checklist. The Governing Board has found information to be timely and accurate, and has questioned as relevant.



**Governance Statement (continued)**

**Conflicts of interest**

The Board of Trustees is aware of its duty to avoid and manage conflicts of interest.

Members and trustees avoid both real and perceived conflicts of interest by adhering to the Code of Conduct, managing their personal relationships with related parties carefully, not accepting benefits from third parties and conducting themselves with integrity and openness, declaring any interests in proposed transactions or arrangements.

The Clerk to the Governing Board maintains an up-to-date register of business and pecuniary interests, which is shared with all members and trustees as well as on the Stramongate School website; trustees are asked to complete a declaration prior to being appointed and re-complete this on an annual basis. Conflicts of interest is also a standing item on each agenda.

Where a trustee has a real or perceived conflict of interest, they are asked to withdraw from any discussions or decision making relating to the proposed transaction or arrangement with which they are conflicted.

**Meetings**

The Board of Trustees are satisfied that, despite meeting less than 6 times in the year to 31 August 2024, it has met regularly enough to discharge its responsibility to ensure robust governance and effective management arrangements.

The 4 meetings of the Board of Trustees were supplemented by meetings of the Planning, Monitoring, Finance Audit and Risk and Health and Safety Committees, as well as on-site visits conducted by trustees throughout the year.

Regular financial oversight is maintained through these meetings as well as through the sharing of monthly management accounts, termly internal scrutiny visits and regular discussions between the Chief Financial Officer and key trustees. The Board includes members with experience of financial oversight, including a qualified accountant who is also a DfE School Resource Management Advisor.

**Governance Review**

The Board of Trustees performed a self-evaluation of its effectiveness in September 2023, using the National Governance Association template. The outcomes of this review were positive, with the Board of Trustees considering itself as operating effectively in all areas, but with some individual governors identifying opportunities for further development. In conjunction with the annual skills audit, also completed September 2023, this was used to direct further trustee training and recruitment. These reviews will be repeated annually.

**Planning Sub-Committee**

The Planning Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees, its purpose is to:

- In conjunction with the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team, identify key issues and needs and to ensure their incorporation in the School Development Plan;
- Oversee and approve the School Development Plan beyond the present financial and academic years;
- Agree any Ofsted Actions at the appropriate time, for approval by the Full Governing Board;
- Identify and consider external issues affecting the school’s long-term strategic development and to take appropriate action. This may include demographic/staffing issues, local development and initiatives from the LA and DfE; and
- Consider the strategic issues concerning budgetary matters beyond the current financial year and to ensure that the school upholds best value principles.

Attendance at meetings during the year was as follows:

Trustee	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024	Summer 2024	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Paul Atherton	A			0	1
David Avis	Y	Y	Y	3	3
Matt Beresford	Y	Y	Y	3	3
Sharon Butler					
Stephen Lester	Y	Y	Y	3	3
Jenny Mason	A	Y		1	2
Clive Natrass	Y	Y	Y	3	3
Victoria Pimblett	Y	Y	Y	3	3
Robert Timms					
Helen Watson	Y	Y	Y	3	3

**Governance Statement (continued)**

**Monitoring Sub-Committee**

The Monitoring Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees, its purpose is to review, monitor, evaluate and take appropriate action to deliver effective implementation of the School’s aims in the current financial and academic year.

Attendance at meetings during the year was as follows:

Trustee	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024	Summer 2024	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Paul Atherton	Resigned 30/10/23				
David Avis	Y	Y	Y	3	3
Matt Beresford	Y	Y	Y	3	3
Sharon Butler	Y			1	1
Stephen Lester	Y	A	A	1	3
Jenny Mason	DNA	Y		1	2
Clive Natrass	Y	Y	Y	3	3
Victoria Pimblett	Y	Y	A	2	3
Robert Timms					
Helen Watson	Y	A	Y	2	3

**Audit and Risk Sub-Committee**

The Finance Audit and Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees, its purpose is to assist the Governing Board in meeting its obligations under the Academy Trust Handbook, directing the trust’s programme of internal scrutiny and ensuring that risks are being addressed appropriately through internal scrutiny, and reporting to the Board of Trustees on the adequacy of the trust’s internal control framework, including financial and non-financial controls and management of risks.

Attendance at meetings during the year was as follows:

Trustee	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024	Summer 2024	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Paul Atherton	A			0	1
David Avis	Y	Y	Y	3	3
Matt Beresford	Y	Y	Y	3	3
Sharon Butler					
Stephen Lester	Y	A	Y	2	3
Jenny Mason					
Clive Natrass	Y	Y	Y	3	3
Victoria Pimblett	Y	Y	Y	3	3
Robert Timms					
Helen Watson	Y	A	Y	2	3

**Health and Safety Sub-Committee**

Visits and meetings take place between Operations Manager Simone Redhead, the Headteacher and the appointed Health & Safety Trustee, Stephen Lester, throughout the year. Visit and meeting outcomes were then reported to the board by the Health & Safety Trustee.

**Governance Statement (continued)****Review of Value for Money**

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

The accounting officer considers how the academy 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 or by using a framework where appropriate. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

Generating additional income through:

- The sale of school meals to pupils by continuing to work with the School Council and responding to feedback from parents and carers to develop a varied menu of popular, healthy meals options. We have a 3 weekly rotating menu and work with an external consultant to ensure meals are healthy and balanced. We encourage the KS1 children to try a school meal by holding Eat With Teacher Day in October. This supports our uptake of Universal Infant Free School Meals.
- The sale of meals to the families of children attending Stramongate Nursery, satisfying a demand for good quality meals and benefitting from the associated economies of scale;
- Lettings of the school site. The School House is rented to a private individual and further opportunities are being sought for the letting of the Hub. We have encouraged external lettings which has resulted in increased lettings and therefore income.
- Using online systems to collect income from parents, including by Direct Debit, to improve cash flow by allowing bills to be settled outside of the school day and during holidays. Wrap around care processes has now been digitised to enable greater efficiencies.
- School continues to actively promote its work on Facebook and our reputation remains strong in the community. This continues to support our pupil numbers throughout the year.

Robustly challenging spending, to ensure the reduction of duplication and waste and the realisation of any cost savings available. During the year under review, to this effect, the Trust has:

- Developed a robust system of financial oversight and governance through the continued development of the trust's internal scrutiny procedures, including working with an internal audit function;
- Utilised government procurement frameworks and nationally negotiated deals, including the Energy for Schools framework operated by Crown Commercial Services and the CPC;
- Used public sector procurement organisations (i.e. YPO) for the purchasing of classroom supplies;
- Undertaken a number of restricted tender processes in relation to the academy trust's:
  - absence insurance;
  - maintenance projects, including external window replacement;
- Undertaken a detailed review of cost areas such as curriculum subscriptions, paper supplies, janitorial supplies and professional services.
- Continued using benchmarking tools to review performance and identify further efficiency opportunities; and
- Sought opportunities to work collaboratively with other local schools, CASBAM, and also shared business manager arrangements with Appleby School;

**Governance Statement (continued)****The Purpose of the System of Internal Control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Stramongate School for the period 01 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

**Capacity to Handle Risk**

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

**The Risk and Control Framework**

The academy trust's system of internal 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 governing board 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 and reviewing performance against these on a regular (termly) basis;
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines; and
- Identification and management of risks.

In line with the Academy Trust Handbook, management accounts including income and expenditure account, variation to budget report, cash flow and balance sheet are produced and shared with all members and governors on a monthly basis. Updated forecasts of performance to the end of the period, with explanations of variances, and spend on ring-fenced items, including pupil premium and sports premium, are reviewed and reported on the trustees at least termly as is performance against key financial performance indicators.

**Governance Statement (continued)****Internal Scrutiny**

The board of trustees has appointed Stephen Lester, a trustee, to carry out a programme of internal checks. This option has been chosen because Stephen is suitably qualified (ACMA), has direct experience of managing school finances (as a School Resource Management Advisor) and has a good working knowledge of the school. Stephen provides internal audit services to a number of schools, through SK Consulting Ltd, and is able to advise not only on compliance matters but share best practise by drawing on their experience from other establishments.

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

- Review of Finance Manual and Financial Scheme of Delegation.
- Review Management accounts and year end projections
- Review BFR Budget development - review budget assumptions and budget preparation
- Undertake ICFP analysis on BFR
- Review Reserves Policy
- Review Investment Policy

On a termly basis, the internal auditor reports to the board of trustees, through the audit and risk committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities, making recommendations for the committee to consider.

Annually, the internal auditor working in conjunction with the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee prepares a summary report to the Governing Board outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

For the year ending 31 August 2024, the internal auditor has delivered the agreed schedule of work; no material control issues have been identified as a result of this work. The Governing Board have taken into consideration all other recommendations and will ensure that these are implemented going forward, as appropriate.

This option has been chosen because it provides the Trust with clear assurance that its financial and non financial controls operate effectively and provide the board with clear direction on any areas of weakness detected.

**Governance Statement (continued)**

**Review of Effectiveness**

As accounting officer, the 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 financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework; and
- correspondence from the ESFA such as the SRMA visit and report and follow up action plan.

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


**Conclusion**

Based on the advice of the finance, audit and risk committee and the accounting officer, the board of governors is of the opinion that the academy trust has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:



**Mrs Victoria Pimblett**  
Chair of Trustees



**Mr Matthew Beresford**  
Headteacher & Accounting Officer

27/11/24

Date

**Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance**

As accounting officer of Stramongate School, I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

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

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



**Mr Matthew Beresford**  
**Headteacher & Accounting Officer**

25.11.2024

Date

**Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:



**Mrs Victoria Pimblett**  
Chair of Trustees

25/11/24

Date



**Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Stramongate School****Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of the Stramongate School for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024.

**Basis for opinion**

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

**Emphasis of Matter – financial statements prepared on a basis other than going concern**

We draw attention to Note 25 to the financial statements which explains that the trustees intend to transfer the school into a MAT within 12 months and therefore do not consider it to be appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements. Accordingly the financial statements have been prepared on a basis other than going concern as described in Note 25. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

**Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report including the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. It includes the Reference and Administrative Details, the Report of the Directors and Strategic Report and the Governance Statement. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Stramongate School  
(continued)**

**Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

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

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

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

**Responsibilities of trustees**

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

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

**Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Stramongate School  
(continued)****Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

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

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

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and other management;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

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

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:
  - performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
  - tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
  - assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in the accounting policies were indicative of potential bias; and
  - investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

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

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and

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

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

**Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Stramongate School  
(continued)**

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



\_\_\_\_\_  
Darren Little (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of

Saint & Co  
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors  
The Old Police Station  
Church Street  
Ambleside  
Cumbria  
LA22 0BT

25 November 2024 Date

**Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Stramongate School and the Education and Skills Funding Agency**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 27/03/2024 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Stramongate School during the period 01 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

**Respective Responsibilities of the Stramongate School's Accounting Officer and the Reporting Accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Stramongate School Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 01 April 2012 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 01 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

**Approach**

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- the Financial Management & Governance Evaluation (FMGE) was obtained and considered;
- having a general awareness of regularity and propriety whilst conducting the statutory audit function;
- reviewing if extra-contractual severance payments have been made in accordance with the Handbook;
- reviewing if borrowing agreements, including leases to ensure they have been made in accordance with the Handbook;
- reviewing the minutes of the meeting of the main committees during the year;
- reviewing expenditure to check that it was not ultra vires to the charitable objectives;
- obtaining trustee / governors declaration of interests;
- where present obtaining the accounting officer's file.

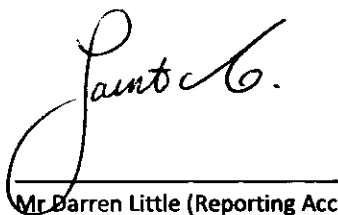
**Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Stramongate School and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (continued)**

**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 01 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

**Use of our report**

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



Mr Darren Little (Reporting Accountant)

For and on behalf of

Saint & Co  
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors  
The Old Police Station  
Church Street  
Ambleside  
Cumbria  
LA22 0BT

25 November 2024 Date

## Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

(Including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	2	21,006	3,000	7,218	31,224	29,921
<b>Charitable activities</b>						
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	26,095	1,689,371	-	1,715,466	1,642,962
Other trading activities	4	79,091	-	-	79,091	48,517
Investments	5	30	-	-	30	26
<b>Total</b>		<b>126,222</b>	<b>1,692,371</b>	<b>7,218</b>	<b>1,825,811</b>	<b>1,721,426</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
<b>Charitable activities</b>						
Academy trust educational operations	8	28,756	1,624,225	87,574	1,740,555	1,889,363
Other trading activities	7	58,678	-	-	58,678	36,871
<b>Total</b>	6	<b>87,434</b>	<b>1,624,225</b>	<b>87,574</b>	<b>1,799,233</b>	<b>1,926,234</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		<b>38,788</b>	<b>68,146</b>	<b>(80,356)</b>	<b>26,578</b>	<b>(204,808)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	10	<b>(8,034)</b>	<b>8,034</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Other recognised gains and (losses)</b>						
Actuarial (losses) / gains on defined benefit pension schemes	23	-	(24,000)	-	(24,000)	272,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>30,754</b>	<b>52,180</b>	<b>(80,356)</b>	<b>2,578</b>	<b>67,192</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward	18	79,115	6,235	2,026,157	2,111,507	2,044,315
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	18	<b>109,869</b>	<b>58,415</b>	<b>1,945,801</b>	<b>2,114,085</b>	<b>2,111,507</b>


All of the academy's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

## Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

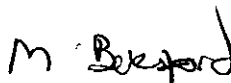
Company Number: 07992440

	Note	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Intangible assets	13		-		-
Tangible assets	14		1,938,583		2,009,537
			<u>1,938,583</u>		<u>2,009,537</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stock	15	6,153		-	
Debtors	16	66,337		65,735	
Cash at bank and in hand		197,962		222,755	
		<u>270,452</u>		<u>288,490</u>	
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	17	(94,950)		(186,520)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>175,502</u>		<u>101,970</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			2,114,085		2,111,507
Creditors: Amount falling due greater than one year			-		-
<b>Provision for liabilities</b>					
Defined benefit pension scheme asset / (liability)	23		-		-
<b>Total net assets</b>			<u>2,114,085</u>		<u>2,111,507</u>
<b>Funds of the academy trust:</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Fixed asset funds	18	1,945,801		2,026,157	
Restricted income funds	18	58,415		6,235	
Pension reserve	18,23	-		-	
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	18		<u>2,004,216</u>	<u>2,032,392</u>	
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>					
General fund	18	109,869		79,115	
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>			<u>109,869</u>	<u>79,115</u>	
<b>Total funds</b>			<u>2,114,085</u>	<u>2,111,507</u>	

The financial statements were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 25 November 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Mrs Victoria Pimblett  
Chair of Trustees



Mr Matthew Beresford  
Headteacher & Accounting Officer



## Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

	2024	2023			
	£	£			
<b>Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities</b>					
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	26,578	(204,808)			
<i>Adjusted for:</i>					
Depreciation	73,864	85,126			
Amortisation	-	668			
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA and other capital income	(7,218)	(17,463)			
Other government capital grants	-	-			
Capital donations	-	-			
Interest receivable	(30)	(26)			
Defined benefit pension scheme costs less contributions payable	(22,000)	13,000			
Defined benefit pension scheme net pension finance costs	(2,000)	(15,000)			
Decrease/(Increase)increase in stocks	(6,153)	-			
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	(602)	221,376			
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	(91,570)	(50,444)			
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) Operating Activities</b>	<b>(29,131)</b>	<b>32,429</b>			
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>					
Repayments of borrowing	-	-			
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	-			
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>			
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>					
Interest receivable	30	26			
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets	-	-			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(2,910)	(11,930)			
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA and other capital income	7,218	17,463			
Other government capital grants	-	-			
Capital donations	-	-			
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities</b>	<b>4,338</b>	<b>5,559</b>			
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>	<b>(24,793)</b>	<b>37,988</b>			
<b>Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds</b>					
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2023</b>	<b>222,755</b>	<b>184,767</b>			
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>	<b>(24,793)</b>	<b>37,988</b>			
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2024</b>	<b>197,962</b>	<b>222,755</b>			
<b>Analysis of cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>1 Sept 23</b>	<b>Cash flows</b>	<b>31 Aug 24</b>		
	£	£	£		
Cash in hand and at bank	222,755	(24,793)	197,962		
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>222,755</b>	<b>(24,793)</b>	<b>197,962</b>		
<b>Analysis of changes in net debt</b>	<b>1 Sept 23</b>	<b>Cash flows</b>	<b>New agreements</b>	<b>Other non-cash changes</b>	<b>31 Aug 24</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash	222,755	(24,793)	-	-	197,962
Loans falling due within one year	-	-	-	-	-
Loans falling due after more than a year	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>222,755</b>	<b>(24,793)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>197,962</b>

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024****1. Statement of Accounting Policies**

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

**General Information**

The academy trust is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and is an exempt charity. The address of the registered office is Stramongate School, Blackhall Road, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 4BT.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

**Basis of Preparation**

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

The trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

**Going Concern**

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

The trustees have concluded that the academy trust is not a going concern, therefore the accounts have not been prepared on the going concern basis. However the values of assets and liabilities have not been altered as it is believed assets will be transferred into a MAT at their book value as shown in the financial statements

**Incoming Resources**

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

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

- General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.
- Other government grants are also recognised on a receivable basis. For all grants the balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the balance sheet.
- 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 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, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the academy trust has provided the goods or services.

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)****1. Statement of Accounting Policies (Continued)**

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

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

**Deferred Income**

Grants and other funding received for the academy's educational activities for a period spanning the year end are deferred pro-rata to the relevant periods in order to match the funding to the period in which the costs of charitable activities are incurred.

**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.

- Charitable Activities - These are costs incurred on the academy trust's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the academy trust apportioned to charitable activities.
- Expenditure on Raising Funds - This includes all expenditure incurred by the academy trust to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

**Intangible fixed assets**

Intangible assets costing £750 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably. Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost net of amortisation and any provision for impairment.

Amortisation is provided on intangible 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:

- Purchased computer software - straight line over 5 years

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

### 1. Statement of Accounting Policies (Continued)

#### Tangible Fixed Assets

Assets are carried at valuation/cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

The capitalisation policy of items as tangible fixed assets is as follows:

- Assets costing £750 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

#### Depreciation

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

- |                                    |                               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Leasehold land and buildings     | Straight line - 0.8% - 2.0%   |
| • Building improvements            | Straight line - 6.6% - 20.0%  |
| • Fixtures, fittings and equipment | Straight line - 10.0% - 20.0% |
| • Computer equipment               | Straight line - 10.0% - 20.0% |

Assets are depreciated in full in the year of purchase.

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use and reclassified to freehold or leasehold land and buildings.

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

#### Liabilities

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

#### Provisions

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

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

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)****1. Statement of Accounting Policies (Continued)****Leased Assets**

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged against profits on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

**Financial Instruments**

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

*Financial assets* – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in the notes. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

*Financial liabilities* – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in the notes. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

**Stocks**

Stock are measured at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell.

**Taxation**

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

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

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)****1. Statement of Accounting Policies (Continued)****Pension Benefits**

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

**Teachers' Pension Scheme**

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

**Local Government Pension Scheme**

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

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

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)****1. Statement of Accounting Policies (Continued)****Fund Accounting**

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

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

Restricted general funds comprise grants, including the General Annual Grant (GAG), and other funding for educational purposes and any voluntary income to be used for specific purposes.

The Local Government Pension Scheme deficit is recognised against restricted general funds in order to match it against the GAG, in accordance with Education and Skills Funding Agency guidance.

Details of restricted and unrestricted funds are shown in the notes to the financial statements.

**Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement**

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

***Critical accounting estimates, assumptions and judgements***

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

- The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in the notes, will impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.
- Furthermore this year the pension asset has been restricted to any surplus of scheme assets over 110% of the scheme liabilities, in line with the schemes funding strategy.
- The annual depreciation charge is sensitive to the estimated useful economic lives of property. The useful economic lives of property, plant and equipment is initially based on the professional valuers report using their judgement and experience. The useful economic lives are assessed annually and changed when necessary to reflect current thinking on their remaining lives.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

2. Donations and Capital Grants

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
ESFA - Capital Grant	-	-	7,218	7,218	17,463
Other Government - Capital grants	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous donations	21,006	3,000	-	24,006	12,458
	<u>21,006</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>7,218</u>	<u>31,224</u>	<u>29,921</u>
<b>2023 total</b>	<u>12,458</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,463</u>	<u>29,921</u>	

3. Funding for Academy's educational operations

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>DfE/ESFA Grants</b>				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	1,301,015	1,301,015	1,240,487
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
Pupil premium	-	90,097	90,097	79,865
UIFSM	-	40,620	40,620	39,609
Sports Premium	-	18,550	18,550	18,590
Teachers Pension Grant	-	11,398	11,398	78
Teachers Pay Grant	-	22,938	22,938	27
Schools supplementary grant	-	-	-	35,744
Mainstream schools additional grant	-	44,903	44,903	18,710
Recovery premium grant	-	8,845	8,845	7,576
National tutoring programme	-	1,445	1,445	7,938
Other ESFA Grants	-	6,994	6,994	11,444
Other DfE Group grants	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,546,805</u>	<u>1,546,805</u>	<u>1,460,068</u>
<b>Other Government Grants</b>				
LA funded statements	-	109,184	109,184	128,548
Homes for Ukraine	-	5,370	5,370	6,235
Other government grants	-	-	-	500
	<u>-</u>	<u>114,554</u>	<u>114,554</u>	<u>135,283</u>
<b>Catering - pupil meal sales</b>	21,772	-	21,772	23,748
<b>School trips income</b>	-	26,764	26,764	18,573
<b>School fund income</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Other educational institutions</b>	-	1,248	1,248	-
<b>Other educational income</b>	4,323	-	4,323	5,290
	<u>26,095</u>	<u>1,689,371</u>	<u>1,715,466</u>	<u>1,642,962</u>
<b>2023 total</b>	<u>29,038</u>	<u>1,613,924</u>	<u>1,642,962</u>	



## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

<b>4. Other Trading Activities</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Hire of facilities - lettings	13,715	-	13,715	14,584
Third party catering sales	4,628	-	4,628	5,581
Staff absence insurance claims	4,866	-	4,866	1,926
Wraparound care income	55,882	-	55,882	21,367
Other trading activities	-	-	-	5,059
	<u>79,091</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>79,091</u>	<u>48,517</u>
<b>2023 total</b>	<u>48,517</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,517</u>	
<b>5. Investment Income</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Bank interest receivable	30	-	30	26
Other interest receivable	-	-	-	-
	<u>30</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>26</u>
<b>2023 total</b>	<u>26</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26</u>	

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

6. Expenditure	Staff	Non Pay Expenditure		Total	Total
	Costs	Premises	Other Costs	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost of other trading activities	48,404	3,566	6,708	58,678	36,871
Academy's educational operations					
Direct costs	1,051,862	-	136,596	1,188,458	1,133,620
Allocated support costs	247,716	199,707	104,674	552,097	755,743
	<u>1,299,578</u>	<u>199,707</u>	<u>241,270</u>	<u>1,740,555</u>	<u>1,889,363</u>
	<u>1,347,982</u>	<u>203,273</u>	<u>247,978</u>	<u>1,799,233</u>	<u>1,926,234</u>
<b>2023 total</b>	<u>1,290,249</u>	<u>367,082</u>	<u>268,903</u>	<u>1,926,234</u>	

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes:</b>		
Depreciation	73,864	85,126
Amortisation	-	668
(Gain)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	-
Operating leases	6,978	7,170
Fees payable to current auditor		
- audit of the financial statements	6,275	5,000
- other assurance services	1,850	1,150
- other services	3,750	-
	<u>3,750</u>	<u>-</u>

7. Cost of Other Trading activities	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Other lettings				
Support staff costs	-	-	-	-
Rates and water	1,159	-	1,159	2,107
Heat and light	2,407	-	2,407	3,441
	<u>3,566</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,566</u>	<u>5,548</u>
Wraparound and outreach costs				
Support staff costs	48,404	-	48,404	25,123
Other	1,082	-	1,082	2,289
Catering	5,626	-	5,626	3,911
	<u>55,112</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55,112</u>	<u>31,323</u>
	<u>58,678</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,678</u>	<u>36,871</u>
<b>2023 total</b>	<u>36,871</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,871</u>	

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

8. Charitable Activities	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
<b>Direct Costs - educational operations</b>				
Teaching and educational support staff costs	-	1,051,862	1,051,862	1,000,664
Depreciation	-	9,904	9,904	10,056
Educational supplies	-	45,075	45,075	50,065
Staff development	-	6,445	6,445	4,998
Examination fees	-	-	-	-
Technology costs	-	33,366	33,366	38,278
School trips and residentials	-	39,525	39,525	27,408
Other direct costs	-	2,281	2,281	2,151
	-	<u>1,188,458</u>	<u>1,188,458</u>	<u>1,133,620</u>
<b>Support Costs - educational operations</b>				
Support staff costs	11,071	236,645	247,716	264,462
Depreciation	-	63,960	63,960	75,070
Amortisation	-	-	-	668
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Maintenance of premises and equipment	-	40,197	40,197	68,579
Maintenance of premises and equipment - CIF	-	-	-	132,405
Cleaning	-	8,849	8,849	6,485
Rates and water	-	28,430	28,430	24,209
Heat and light	-	45,211	45,211	41,463
Refuse, hygiene and security	-	5,795	5,795	5,464
Insurance	-	7,265	7,265	7,859
Staff Insurance	-	9,584	9,584	9,878
Telephone	-	6,704	6,704	5,652
Admin photocopying and stationery	-	2,433	2,433	4,242
Educational consultancy	-	4,192	4,192	6,467
School uniform	5,260	-	5,260	8,230
Catering expenses	11,931	28,166	40,097	41,035
Professional fees	-	12,897	12,897	22,671
Other support costs	494	3,300	3,794	8,078
	<u>28,756</u>	<u>503,628</u>	<u>532,384</u>	<u>732,917</u>
<b>Support Costs - governance</b>				
Audit fees	-	6,275	6,275	5,000
Accountancy and assurance fees	-	7,334	7,334	4,750
Trustees' training and expenses	-	-	-	-
Legal fees	-	3,000	3,000	76
Professional fees	-	5,104	5,104	-
Net finance costs in respect of defined benefit pension schemes	-	(2,000)	(2,000)	13,000
	-	<u>19,713</u>	<u>19,713</u>	<u>22,826</u>
<b>Total direct and support costs</b>	<u>28,756</u>	<u>1,711,799</u>	<u>1,740,555</u>	<u>1,889,363</u>
<b>2023 total</b>	<u>40,559</u>	<u>1,848,804</u>	<u>1,889,363</u>	

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

9. Staff

a. Staff costs and employee benefits

	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff costs during the period were:		
Wages and salaries	1,020,609	988,645
Social security costs	86,953	80,226
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	215,451	206,763
Other employee benefits	-	-
Other staff costs	-	325
	<u>1,323,013</u>	<u>1,275,959</u>
Supply staff costs	24,969	14,290
Staff restructuring costs	-	-
Staff seconded in / out of the organisation	-	-
	<u>1,347,982</u>	<u>1,290,249</u>
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Redundancy payments	-	-
Severance payments	-	-
Other restructuring costs	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

b. Severance payments

The academy trust paid no severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

	2024
	No
0 - £25,000	-
£25,001 - £50,000	-
£50,001 - £100,000	-
£100,001 - £150,000	-
£150,000+	-
	<u>-</u>

c. Special staff severance payments - Non statutory/non-contractual staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £Nil (2023: £Nil). Individually, the payments were £Nil. (2023: £Nil)

d. Staff numbers

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

	2024	2023
	No	No
<b>Charitable Activities</b>		
Management	5	5
Teachers	11	11
Administration and support	32	35
	<u>48</u>	<u>51</u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)**

**e. Higher paid staff**

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

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
£60,000 to £69,999	1	1
£70,000 to £79,999	-	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

**f. Key management personnel**

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Senior leadership team	295,712	278,004
Staff trustees	-	25,414
	<u>295,712</u>	<u>303,418</u>

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

## 10. Transfers Between Funds

2024  
£**Restricted general funds**

## General Annual Grant (GAG)

Music tuition fees transferred to the restricted GAG fund to cover costs incurred in providing this service

Uniform fund overspend funded by GAG

UISFM surplus moved to GAG to cover overheads

Wraparound care fund surplus moved to GAG to cover overheads

Overspend on unrestricted catering fund covered by GAG fund

Staff absence insurance income moved to allocated against GAG staff costs

(1,427)

8,532

5,826

(1,230)

4,865

16,566

## Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)

UIFSM surplus moved to GAG to cover overheads

(8,532)

**8,034****Restricted fixed asset funds**

## Fixed assets used for charitable purposes

Purchases from ESFA formula grant

Purchases from General Annual Grant (GAG)

2,910

-

2,910

## ESFA formula grant to Fixed assets fund

Fixed asset purchases from ESFA formula grant

(2,910)

**-****Unrestricted Funds**

## Unrestricted general funds

Uniform fund overspend funded by GAG

Staff absence insurance income moved to allocated against GAG staff costs

Facilities hire fund surplus for the year moved to unrestricted general funds

1,427

(4,865)

10,149

-

6,711

## Wraparound care fund

Wraparound care fund surplus moved to GAG to cover overheads

(5,826)

## Unrestricted catering fund

Overspend on unrestricted catering fund covered by GAG fund

1,230

## Unrestricted facilities hire funds

Facilities hire fund surplus for the year moved to unrestricted general funds

(10,149)

**(8,034)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)**

**11. Related Party Transactions – Trustees’ remuneration and expenses**

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

Other trustees did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the academy in respect of their role as trustees.

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

<b>Mr Matthew Beresford</b>		
Remuneration	£65,000 to £69,999	(2023: £60,000 to £64,999)
Employer's pension contributions	£15,000 to £19,999	(2023: £15,000 to £19,999)
<b>Mrs Sharron Butler (staff trustee to 14 November 2022)</b>		
Remuneration		(2023: £0 to £4,999)
Employer's pension contributions		(2023: £5,000 to £9,999)
<b>Mrs Jenny Mason (staff trustee to 14 November 2022)</b>		
Remuneration		(2023: £0 to £4,999)
Employer's pension contributions		(2023: £5,000 to £9,999)

During the year ended 31 August 2024, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £Nil were reimbursed to no trustees in respect of their role as a governor (2023: £Nil to no trustees). There are payments made to staff trustees in relation to their teaching roles which are not disclosed here.

**12. Trustees and officers insurance**

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy has purchased insurance to protect governors and officers from claims for negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance for the year ended 31 August 2024 provides cover up to £10,000,000 (2023: £10,000,000) on any one loss and any one membership year.

The academy’s insurance is via the Department for Education’s risk protection arrangement (RPA) and the cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost. It is not possible to quantify the trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme membership.

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

## 13. Intangible Fixed Assets

	Computer Software £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>		
As at 1 September 2023	14,438	14,438
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
As at 31 August 2024	<u>14,438</u>	<u>14,438</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
As at 1 September 2023	14,438	14,438
Charge in year	-	-
Disposals	-	-
As at 31 August 2024	<u>14,438</u>	<u>14,438</u>
<b>Net book values</b>		
As at 31 August 2024	-	-
As at 1 September 2023	-	-

## 14. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Long Leasehold Land & Buildings £	Building Improvements £	Furniture Fittings & Equipment £	ICT Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>					
As at 1 September 2023	2,329,000	330,120	161,002	169,606	2,989,728
Additions	-	-	-	2,910	2,910
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
As at 31 August 2024	<u>2,329,000</u>	<u>330,120</u>	<u>161,002</u>	<u>172,516</u>	<u>2,992,638</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
As at 1 September 2023	448,355	237,200	153,027	141,609	980,191
Charge in year	39,272	20,860	3,827	9,905	73,864
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
As at 31 August 2024	<u>487,627</u>	<u>258,060</u>	<u>156,854</u>	<u>151,514</u>	<u>1,054,055</u>
<b>Net book values</b>					
As at 31 August 2024	<u>1,841,373</u>	<u>72,060</u>	<u>4,148</u>	<u>21,002</u>	<u>1,938,583</u>
As at 1 September 2023	<u>1,880,645</u>	<u>92,920</u>	<u>7,975</u>	<u>27,997</u>	<u>2,009,537</u>

## Valuation Details

The leasehold land and buildings include a valuation of £2,329,000 made in 2013 by P Ivany MRICs Registered Valuer, who is independent of the charitable company. The basis of valuation for the assets was Existing Use Value using a Depreciated Replacement Cost approach. This was for the inclusion of the items on conversion to an academy trust.

## Land and building transactions

The academy trust's transactions relating to land and buildings included the granting of a leasehold on land and buildings on the main school site to Stramongate Nursery, from 1 September 2021, for £6,000 (plus annual RPI adjustments) over a term of 5 years.



## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

<b>15. Stock</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Educational materials	5,803	-
Catering	250	-
Uniform	100	-
	<u>6,153</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>16. Debtors</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	800
VAT recoverable	7,860	5,330
Prepayments	38,182	35,771
Accrued income	19,382	18,194
Other debtors	913	5,640
	<u>66,337</u>	<u>65,735</u>
<b>17. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Trade creditors	24,679	9,905
Taxation and social security	-	19,139
Other creditors	-	23,906
Accruals	33,548	83,956
Deferred income	29,363	42,254
ESFA creditors	7,360	7,360
	<u>94,950</u>	<u>186,520</u>
<b>Deferred Income</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Deferred income includes:		
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	42,254	25,310
Resources deferred in the year	29,363	42,254
Amounts released from previous years	(42,254)	(25,310)
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	<u>29,363</u>	<u>42,254</u>
Deferred income comprises:		
Universal Infants Free School Meals allocation for next year	23,695	
ESFA grant for rates 1 September 2024 to 31 March 2025	4,233	
Other income in relation to the next academic year	1,435	
	<u>29,363</u>	

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

18. Funds	Balance at 01-Sep 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, Losses and Transfers £	Balance at 31-Aug 2024 £
<b>Restricted General Funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	1,301,015	(1,259,166)	16,566	58,415
Pupil premium	-	90,097	(80,336)	(9,761)	-
UIFSM	-	40,620	(32,088)	(8,532)	-
Sports premium	-	18,550	(18,550)	-	-
Schools supplementary grant	-	-	-	-	-
Teachers Pension Grant	-	11,398	(11,398)	-	-
Teachers Pay Grant	-	22,938	(22,938)	-	-
Mainstream schools additional grant	-	44,903	(44,903)	-	-
Recovery premium grant	-	8,845	(8,845)	-	-
National tutoring programme	-	1,445	(1,445)	-	-
Other ESFA Grants	-	6,994	(6,994)	-	-
LA funded statements	-	109,184	(109,184)	-	-
Homes for Ukraine	6,235	5,370	(11,605)	-	-
Other government grants	-	-	-	-	-
Trips and productions	-	26,764	(39,525)	12,761	-
Other restricted income	-	4,248	(1,248)	(3,000)	-
	<u>6,235</u>	<u>1,692,371</u>	<u>(1,648,225)</u>	<u>8,034</u>	<u>58,415</u>
<b>Restricted Fixed Asset Funds</b>					
Fixed assets used for charitable purposes	2,009,537	-	(73,864)	2,910	1,938,583
ESFA formula capital	16,620	7,218	(13,710)	(2,910)	7,218
ESFA condition improvement fund	-	-	-	-	-
Other capital donations	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>2,026,157</u>	<u>7,218</u>	<u>(87,574)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,945,801</u>
<b>Restricted Pension Reserve Funds</b>					
Pension reserve fund	-	-	24,000	(24,000)	-
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<u>2,032,392</u>	<u>1,699,589</u>	<u>(1,711,799)</u>	<u>(15,966)</u>	<u>2,004,216</u>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
Wraparound care funds	-	55,882	(50,056)	(5,826)	-
Catering fund	-	21,772	(23,002)	1,230	-
Facilities hire	-	13,715	(3,566)	(10,149)	-
General funds	79,115	34,853	(10,810)	6,711	109,869
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<u>79,115</u>	<u>126,222</u>	<u>(87,434)</u>	<u>(8,034)</u>	<u>109,869</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>2,111,507</u>	<u>1,825,811</u>	<u>(1,799,233)</u>	<u>(24,000)</u>	<u>2,114,085</u>

Details of transfers are shown in Note 10.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of General Annual Grant (GAG) that it could carry forward at 31 August 2024.

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)**

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

**General annual grant (GAG) fund**

This represents the core funding for the educational activities of the school that has been provided to the trust via the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

**Pupil premium fund**

This represents funding paid by the DfE to support disadvantaged pupils in their teaching and learning, with the aim of improving their attainment and closing the gap with more advantaged pupils.

**Universal infant free school meals (UIFSM) fund**

This represents the funding paid by the DfE to provide all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 with free school meals.

**Sports premium fund**

This represents the funding paid by the DfE to fund additional and sustained improvements to the quality of PE provision.

**Supplementary grant fund**

This represents the funding paid by the DfE to support the costs of the Health and Social Care Levy and wider increasing costs.

**Teachers pay and pension grants**

The teachers' pay grant was provided to support teacher pay awards. The teachers' pension grant was provided to temporarily support the increase in employers' contributions to the Teachers Pension Scheme from September 2019. These grants have now come to an end, with the associated funding now being included within the general annual grant.

**Catch-up premium, recovery premium and school led tutoring / national tutoring funds**

This represents funding paid by the DfE to support pupils catch up on missed education due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

**Local authority grants**

This represents funding from the Local Authority to pay for additional teaching support for children with an Educational Healthcare Plan (EHCP).

**MSAG**

This represents additional core funding.

**Fixed assets used for charitable purposes**

The restricted fixed asset fund relates to funding received from the DfE, ESFA and private sectors, as well as invested from the school's revenue funding, to carry out works of a capital nature as part of the school improvement plan.

**Devolved formula capital (DFC) and condition improvement fund (CIF)**

This represents monies from the ESFA in relation to capital projects. The DFC is paid annually, with the amount received being based on pupil numbers. Eligible trusts can apply for additional CIF funds for significant capital projects.

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

## Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds relate to monies received from insurers and donors, as well as generated by the school through trading activities such as the sale of meals, operation of a breakfast club and letting of rooms, to carry out works of a revenue nature.

## Funds in Deficit

None

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

	Balance at 01-Sep 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains, Losses and Transfers	Balance at 31-Aug 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted General Funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	1,240,487	(1,242,070)	1,583	-
Pupil premium	-	79,865	(79,865)	-	-
UIFSM	-	39,609	(53,012)	13,403	-
Sports premium	-	18,590	(19,475)	885	-
Schools supplementary grant	-	35,744	(35,744)	-	-
Teachers Pension Grant	-	78	(78)	-	-
Teachers Pay Grant	-	27	(27)	-	-
Mainstream schools additional grant	-	18,710	(18,710)	-	-
Recovery premium grant	-	7,576	(7,576)	-	-
National tutoring programme	-	7,938	(12,775)	4,837	-
Other ESFA Grants	-	11,444	(11,444)	-	-
LA funded statements	-	128,548	(128,548)	-	-
Homes for Ukraine	-	6,235	-	-	6,235
Other government grants	-	500	(500)	-	-
Trips and productions	-	18,573	(22,781)	4,208	-
Other restricted income	-	-	-	-	-
	-	<u>1,613,924</u>	<u>(1,632,605)</u>	<u>24,916</u>	<u>6,235</u>
<b>Restricted Fixed Asset Funds</b>					
Fixed assets used for charitable purposes	2,083,401	-	(85,794)	11,930	2,009,537
ESFA formula capital	-	23,497	-	(6,877)	16,620
ESFA condition improvement fund	129,104	(6,034)	(132,405)	9,335	-
Other capital donations	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>2,212,505</u>	<u>17,463</u>	<u>(218,199)</u>	<u>14,388</u>	<u>2,026,157</u>
<b>Restricted Pension Reserve Funds</b>					
Pension reserve fund	(274,000)	-	2,000	272,000	-
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<u>1,938,505</u>	<u>1,631,387</u>	<u>(1,848,804)</u>	<u>311,304</u>	<u>2,032,392</u>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
Wraparound care funds		26,426	(25,316)	(1,110)	-
Catering fund		23,748	(31,493)	7,745	-
Facilities hire		14,584	(4,878)	(9,706)	-
General funds	105,810	25,281	(15,743)	(36,233)	79,115
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<u>105,810</u>	<u>90,039</u>	<u>(77,430)</u>	<u>(39,304)</u>	<u>79,115</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>2,044,315</u>	<u>1,721,426</u>	<u>(1,926,234)</u>	<u>272,000</u>	<u>2,111,507</u>

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

## 19. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	1,938,583	1,938,583
Intangible assets	-	-	-	-
Current assets	109,869	146,005	14,578	270,452
Current liabilities	-	(87,590)	(7,360)	(94,950)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>109,869</b>	<b>58,415</b>	<b>1,945,801</b>	<b>2,114,085</b>

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

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	2,009,537	2,009,537
Intangible assets	-	-	-	-
Current assets	79,115	158,876	50,499	288,490
Current liabilities	-	(152,641)	(33,879)	(186,520)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>79,115</b>	<b>6,235</b>	<b>2,026,157</b>	<b>2,111,507</b>

## 20. Long-term commitments, including under operating leases

## Operating Leases

At the balance sheet date the total of the Academy Trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2024 £	2023 £
Assets other than land & buildings		
Amounts due within one year	5,256	6,021
Amounts due between one and five years	7,886	7,907
Amounts due after five years	-	-
	<u>13,142</u>	<u>13,928</u>

## Land and property leases

The leasehold land and buildings are subject to a 125-year lease with Cumbria County Council. Although a peppercorn rent may be demanded, no such rent has been demanded to date.

## 21. Capital Commitments

	2024 £	2023 £
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

## 22. Members' Liability

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

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

### 23. Pension and Similar Obligations

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

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020 and of the LGPS to the period ended 31 March 2022.

Contributions payable to the schemes at 31 August and included in creditors were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Teachers' Pension Scheme	-	9,171
Local Government Pension Scheme	-	14,639
	<u>-</u>	<u>23,810</u>

The total pension costs to the academy during the year ended 31 August and included in staff costs were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Teachers' Pension Scheme	144,188	120,403
Local Government Pension Scheme	83,638	77,335
Local Government Pension Scheme deficit recovery	9,625	24,025
LGPS current service cost/contributions adjustment	(22,000)	(15,000)
	<u>215,451</u>	<u>206,763</u>

#### 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 ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies the level of future contributions.

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

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

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)****23. Pensions and Similar Obligations (continued)**

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £144,188 (2023: £120,403).

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

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The academy trust is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan. Accordingly, the academy trust has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The academy 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 made for the year ended 31 August were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Employer's contributions	93,263	101,360
Employees' contributions	24,877	23,141
Total contributions	<u>118,140</u>	<u>124,501</u>

The agreed contribution rates for future years are 19.2% for employers, and 5.5% to 12.5% for employees depending on pay bands.

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

At the balance sheet date the scheme is in surplus per the actuarial report at the year end.

However, the academy has entered into an agreement effective from 1 April 2023 to make additional contributions in addition to normal funding levels. It is anticipated that the payments will be made over 10 years from 1 April 2023, including £9,500 for 2023/24, £9,800 in 2024/25 and £10,100 in 2025/26.

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

## 23. Pensions and Similar Obligations (continued)

## Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

The principal actuarial assumptions are:

	At 31 August 2024	At 31 August 2023
Rate of increase in salaries	4.10%	4.30%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.70%	2.90%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.00%	5.40%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.60%	2.80%

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

	At 31 August 2024	At 31 August 2023
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.4	21.4
Females	23.9	23.8
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.7	22.7
Females	25.6	25.6

**Sensitivity analysis**

The table below, as produced by Mercer sets out the impact of a small change in assumptions on the defined benefit obligation. The figures are based on the surplus /deficit in the scheme before any surplus restriction.

	(Surplus) / Deficit	At 31 August 2024 Change	(Surplus) / Deficit	At 31 August 2023 Change
Discount rate + 0.1%	(107,000)	(33,000)	(78,000)	(28,000)
Discount rate - 0.1%	(41,000)	33,000	(21,000)	29,000
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	(34,000)	40,000	(16,000)	34,000
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(113,000)	(39,000)	(83,000)	(33,000)
CPI rate + 0.1%	(41,000)	33,000	(21,000)	29,000
CPI rate - 0.1%	(107,000)	(33,000)	(78,000)	(28,000)



## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

## 23. Pensions and Similar Obligations (continued)

## Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

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

	Fair value at 31 August 2024 £	Fair value at 31 August 2023 £
Equity instruments		
Equities	709,000	651,000
Debt instruments		
Government bonds	286,000	218,000
Other bonds	-	-
Property	152,000	135,000
Cash/liquidity	43,000	38,000
Other	755,000	671,000
<b>Total Market Value of Assets</b>	<b>1,945,000</b>	<b>1,713,000</b>
Present value of scheme liabilities		
Funded	(1,871,000)	(1,663,000)
Unfunded	-	-
<b>Surplus / (deficit) in the scheme</b>	<b>74,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>
Surplus restriction	(74,000)	(50,000)
<b>Surplus / (deficit) recognised in the financial statements</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**Surplus Restriction**

As noted above the actuary has valued the academy's share of the Cumbria LGPS to be a surplus of £74,000 (2023: £50,000). The trust has not recognised this surplus as an asset, as FRS102 states that a surplus can only be recognised to the extent that it reduces future contributions. The rate of future contributions are set at the triennial reviews of the LGPS, the last one was at 31 March 2022. In the supporting valuation reports, this stated that only surpluses over 110% of liabilities are able to be returned to scheme participants through reduced future contributions. In the academy's case the assets do not exceed 110% of the liabilities, therefore, under the scheme's current funding strategy the academy cannot reduce its future contributions.

The actual return on the scheme assets in the year was £147,000 (2023: £80,000).

None of the fair values of the assets shown above include any of the academy's own financial instruments or any property occupied by, or other assets used by, the academy.

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities	2024 £	2023 £
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	(68,000)	(90,000)
Net interest cost	6,000	(10,000)
Administration expenses	(4,000)	(3,000)
Past service (cost)/gain	-	-
Gain/(loss) on settlement	-	-
<b>Total operating charge</b>	<b>(66,000)</b>	<b>(103,000)</b>
<b>Other recognised gains and (losses)</b>	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Remeasurements (liabilities)	(52,000)	450,000
Remeasurements (assets)	52,000	(128,000)
Surplus restriction movement	(24,000)	(50,000)
<b>Total amount recognised in the SOFA - gain / (loss)</b>	<b>(24,000)</b>	<b>272,000</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

## 23. Pensions and Similar Obligations (continued)

## Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

Changes in the (surplus) / deficit in the year:	2024	2023
	£	£
Deficit in scheme at beginning of period	(50,000)	274,000
Current service cost	68,000	90,000
Interest cost	89,000	84,000
Employer contributions	(90,000)	(105,000)
Past service (cost)/gain	-	-
Actuarial (gain)/loss - Remeasurements	-	(322,000)
Administration expenses	4,000	3,000
Interest income	(95,000)	(74,000)
Plan introductions, benefit changes, curtailments and settlements	-	-
<b>Deficit / (Surplus) at 31 August 2024</b>	<b>(74,000)</b>	<b>(50,000)</b>
Surplus restriction	74,000	50,000
<b>Deficit / (Surplus) recognised in the financial statements</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
At beginning of period	(1,663,000)	(1,947,000)
Current service cost	(68,000)	(90,000)
Interest cost	(89,000)	(84,000)
Employee contributions	(25,000)	(23,000)
Past service (cost)/gain	-	-
Actuarial gain/(loss) - Remeasurements	(52,000)	450,000
Benefits / transfers paid	26,000	31,000
Plan introductions, benefit changes, curtailments and settlements	-	-
<b>Benefit obligation at 31 August 2024</b>	<b>(1,871,000)</b>	<b>(1,663,000)</b>
<b>Changes in the fair value of Academy's share of scheme assets:</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
At beginning of period	1,713,000	1,673,000
Interest income	95,000	74,000
Administration expenses	(4,000)	(3,000)
Actuarial gain/(loss) - Remeasurements	52,000	(128,000)
Employer contributions	90,000	105,000
Employee contributions	25,000	23,000
Benefits / transfers paid	(26,000)	(31,000)
Plan introductions, benefit changes, curtailments and settlements	-	-
<b>Scheme assets at 31 August 2024</b>	<b>1,945,000</b>	<b>1,713,000</b>

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)****24. Related Party Transactions**

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and composition of its board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which trustees have an interest.

All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

The following related party transactions took place in the period of account:

**Stramongate Nursery**

The headteacher and one trustee of the academy act as two out of three trustees of Stramongate Nursery, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Stramongate Nursery leases premises from the academy trust in return for a monthly lease rental payment and a share of nursery profits. During the year to 31 August 2024 the academy trust received £6,784 (2023: £6,784) in lease rental payments. The academy trust also received a profit share in respect of the period to 31 August 2024 of £20,000 (2023: £nil).

The academy trust also provides meals and other supplies and services to Stramongate Nursery. During the year to 31 August 2024, the academy trust received £4,628 in respect of the provision of meals (2023: £5,581) and a small amount for the provision of other services

£nil was due from Stramongate Nursery to the trust at 31 August 2024.

**Friends of Stramongate School**

The headteacher acts as a trustee of Friends of Stramongate School, a registered charity comprising of parents and teachers. The charity made donations of £3,000 during the year to 31 August 2024 for the purposes of supporting school trips (2023: £4,138).

**25. Events after the end of the reporting period**

The trustees have the intention to move into a Multi Academy Trust within less than a year of the financial statements being approved, the financial statements are therefore prepared on a basis other than going concern however the values have been calculated on a going concern basis since the academy trust's intention is for the school to remain a going concern but will operate under the Multi Academy Trust.

The academy hopes to join the Cumbria Education Trust within the current academic year.