Company Registration Number: 13306248 (England and Wales)

THE DUNSTAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Bishop Fleming

CONTENTS

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	The Right Reverend Declan Lang, Bishop of Clifton Diocese Lyn Murray, Chief Operating Officer of Clifton Diocese Clifton Catholic Diocese Education Foundation Colleen Collett, Director of Schools and Colleges, Clifton Diocese Mary Cox, Director of Schools and Colleges, Clifton Diocese
Trustees	C Christie, Chair of Trustees C Jarvis, Vice-Chair of Trustees P Smith, Chair of CEO PR Panel J Marsh (appointed 7 October 2022) G Webb (appointed 10 November 2022)
Company registered number	13306248
Company name	The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust
Principal and registered office	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Park Avenue Bridgwater Somerset TA6 7EE
Company secretary	C Emery (resigned 28 February 2023) R Davies (appointed 1 March 2023)
Chief executive officer	H Taylor
Senior management team	Stephen Mitchell, Interim Chief Financial Officer (resigned 31/08/2023) Maxine Ratcliff, Chief Financial Officer (appointed 03/07/2023) Alison Reynolds, Finance Manager
Independent auditors	Bishop Fleming LLP Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors 10 Temple Back Bristol BS1 6FL
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Slight Hill North 2 Bankhead Crossway North Edinburgh EH11 4DT NatWest Bank Bristol City Centre Branch 45-49 Broadmead Bristol BS1 3EU

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

Solicitors	Stone King 13 Queen Square Bath BA1 2HJ

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the Charitable Company for the period ended 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purpose of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

Since the Trust opened on 1 March 2022, it operates a total of eight primary academy schools for pupils aged 2 - 11 with six in Somerset and North Somerset and a further two primary academy schools who joined the trust in March 2023 based in Wiltshire. Its academies have a combined total of circa 1,400 pupils on roll.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution
The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust was incorporated on 31 March 2021 and opened as an Academy Trust on 1 March 2022. The year ended 31 August 2023 is a 12 month period however, the period ended 31 August 2022 was a 6 month period. It is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The Trustees of The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust (DCET) are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company operates as The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust (DCET).

Details of the Trustees who served throughout the period, and to the date the accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administration Details.

Members' Liability
Each Trustee 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 Trustee, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a Trustee, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10, for the debts and liabilities contracted before they cease to be a Trustee.

Trustees' Indemnities
Trustees are indemnified by the Trust's Risk Protection Arrangement insurance policy currently in force.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees
The Trust adopted the latest model articles of association for Catholic academy trusts on 12 July 2022. The recruitment and appointment of trustees/directors is managed by Clifton Diocese as the Articles determine that the Diocesan Bishop shall appoint all directors as Foundation Directors and, where in their opinion the standards or Catholic life of the school at any Academy has fallen unacceptably low, the Bishop may stipulate that one or more of the following shall be appointed as an ex-officio director for such terms as the Diocesan Bishop shall provide (noting guidance in 1.2 of the Governance Handbook for there to be significant separation between members and academy trustees):

- The Diocesan Schools Commissioner (also an ex-officio Member)
- The Diocesan Chief Operating Officer (also an ex-officio Member)
- The Diocesan Capital Strategy Manager

The Trust Board Chair is invited to join the interview panel when an applicant has been deemed by the Diocesan Governance Officer to potentially have the skills and experience required to fulfil the role of a charitable trustee and company director effectively.

Following interview, all applicants provided with a conditional offer of appointment by the Bishop must also sign a declaration to uphold the Catholic ethos of the Trust and its schools, as well as satisfactorily complete the outstanding recruitment formalities i.e., enhanced DBS and section 128 check, references.

The Diocesan Governance Officer invites newly appointed trustees/directors to the next scheduled foundation director training delivered by Clifton Diocese and provides a list of other training and development opportunities available via the Diocese.
The Trust Governance Lead invites the newly appointed trustee/director to complete and return all statutory forms and declarations to enable the registration at Companies House and maintenance of up-to-date records

on the Trust's website and Getting Information About Schools (GIAS). The TGL also offers a one-to-one induction meeting to explain more about the context and priorities of the Trust, the schedule of meetings, in-house and external training materials and events available, where to find the meeting papers on the secure, internal shared drive.

All Trustees participate in accompanied visits to schools to get to know the schools and evidence independent monitoring and evaluation throughout the year.
All members of the Trust's governance team are invited to attend an annual Trust Governance Conference, input to the Trust's strategic planning processes and evaluation of other key documents forming the Trust's governance framework e.g., the Trust Board's Scheme of Delegated Authority, committee terms of reference.

Organisational Structure
A diagram of the Trust's governance structure and copy of its Scheme of Delegated Authority showing the delegated roles and responsibilities to the Trust Board's established committees and executives can be found via the Trust's website: Governance I The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust (thedcet.com).

The Chief Executive Officer is the Accounting Officer.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel
The Trust Board has established a Chief Executive Officer Performance Review (CEO PR) Panel and Trust Remuneration and Nomination Committee to oversee the performance management and pay of its Chief Executive Officer in line with the adopted appraisal and pay policies.

The CEO leads the appraisal and pay meetings for every school's headteacher, informed by data and input from the relevant Local Governing Committee Chair (or another nominated governor). The CEO then, where appropriate, submits any evidence-based pay progression proposals in relation to other employees to the Trust Remuneration and Nomination Committee for consideration in line with the agreed pay policy.

Trade union facility time
There were no relevant union officials for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations
Clifton Diocese and Clifton Catholic Diocese Education Foundation (CCDEF) are both related parties of the Trust. The Right Reverend Declan Lang, the Bishop of Clifton Diocese is registered at Companies House as a 'Person with Significant Control' as he has the sole right to appoint and remove all directors. The Trust's Members as shown on P1 are also representatives of Clifton Diocese or CCDEF.

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)
The Trust is an equal opportunities employer with fewer than 270 staff but takes care to keep staff (as well as parents) updated via a Trust newsletter. Staff are encouraged to engage in continuous professional development at shared inset days, learning sets, in-house and external training events and professional networks.

Staff wellbeing is a high priority so professional counselling and wellbeing advice and guidance is made available via Care First.

The CEO meets regularly with headteachers to invite their input in shaping and monitoring policy and practice. Headteachers have also had the opportunity to work alongside the CEO and Directors during their visits to schools and in their strategic planning events.

The CEO meets regularly with trade union representatives to keep them up-to-date on developments and to consult with them when appropriate.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and Aims

The Company's objects are specifically restricted to the advancement of the Catholic religion in the Diocese by such means as the Diocesan Bishop may think fit and proper by, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing of Catholic schools in the United Kingdom conducted in accordance with the principles, and subject to the regulations and discipline of the Catholic Church.

Subject to the approval of the Diocesan Bishop, during the period that the objects above are being fulfilled and form the majority of the activities of the Company, the advancement of education by the establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing of schools which are not Catholic in the United Kingdom.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The Trust's strategic plan 2022-25 sets out the details of our vision, values and strategic aims. A copy can be found on the Trust's website via: About The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust (thedcet.com)

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commissioner's general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Academy's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

The Trustees are clear about the charitable company's objects or core purpose and have aligned the Trust's vision, values and strategic aims to support its delivery in practice over the next three years. The details are shown in the Trust's strategic plan 2022-25 and a copy can be found on the Trust's website via: About The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust (thedcet.com).

Overseeing implementation of the Trust's strategic plan ensures that the Trust Board makes decisions about resourcing to ensure that our pupils, people, communities and environment benefit in ways that are consistent with the core purpose.

Pupils benefit from being part of a bigger family of Catholic schools where employees, directors and governance work together to share best practice to improve the quality of education and outcomes for children in the communities served by its eight schools across Somerset, North Somerset and Wiltshire.

Communities benefit from the Trust's letting policy which means that the facilities available in the schools can be used by members of the public and local residents, clubs and organisations.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievements and Performance

The School Improvement Team continue to provide high quality support to our school leaders and their teams. During this year we have been successful in appointing a Director of School Improvement. Our School Improvement Offer has provided regular visits to schools to support them in implementing their school improvement priorities and in their areas of vulnerabilities. We have carried out full safeguarding reviews across the Trust identifying specific areas of development and whole Trust issues.

We have developed a Trust wide approach to writing and this has resulted in improved opportunities for writing, the quantity and quality of the writing produced. Our English consultant has worked intensively with schools to support with planning and delivery of writing across the Trust. We have developed Trust wide expectations for each year group, ensuring that pupils master the required skills and knowledge identified for that year group.

Our RE learning set has worked hard to ensure that there is consistency in the outcomes for RE in all year groups and the shared planning sessions have provided high quality CPD for all staff supporting them by improving their subject knowledge. We have furthered the work of this group by building up a portfolio of assessment evidence. Our Governors' RE learning set has supported governors in their role of holding the schools to account.

On 1 March 2023 the Trust incorporated 2 new primary schools into the multi-academy trust bringing the number of schools up to 8.

Primary School Outcomes for 2023

The Trust outcomes for pupils achieving a Good Level of Development at the end of the Early Years is above national outcomes with 68% or our pupils achieving a good level of development. The pupils also achieve above national in the phonics check with 7 out of the 8 schools achieving above the national for 2023. The Trust average is 84% compared to 75% nationally in 2022. In Key Stage 1 our pupils achieve above national outcomes for reading and writing and broadly in line with national for maths.

Our Key Stage 2 results were mixed with reading and maths attainment slightly below national and our writing outcomes in line with national attainment. The Trust focus for 2023-24 is to improve the outcomes in maths and reading using the schools where attainment has been achieved to support the development of a Trust wide approach.

The attendance for the Trust is above national at 93.3% compared to the estimated national attendance of 92.5% and our persistent absence is 19.8% compared to the national of 22.3% (persistently absent is defined as missing 10% or more possible sessions or around 19 days per academic year).

We have continued to focus on our sustainability as a Trust, through our Chaplaincy Teams, Social Teaching and our Eco Teams. All the schools made a commitment to ensure that we actively reduce our carbon footprint from reducing our use of electricity, improving our school environments by litter picking and encouraging more pupils to walk to school. This year we held our second public speaking contest, the presentations by the schools were outstanding and the winning team. St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Burnham whose presentation focused on the Common Good. This year we are looking to achieve the CAFOD live Simply award to further our work on sustainability for the common good.

Going Concern

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

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Most of the Academy's income is obtained from the DfE via the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Academy also receives grants for fixed assets from the DfE which are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the Fixed Asset Fund. The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the useful life of the assets concerned, as defined in the Academy's accounting policies.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, total expenditure (excluding restricted fixed asset fund and pension fund) of £8,194,917 was covered by incoming resources of £8,428,440 and existing reserves brought forward.

At 31 August 2023 the net book value of fixed assets was £231,870 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 16 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Academy.

The Multi Academy Trust has taken on the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme in respect of its non-teaching staff transferred on conversion.

The deficit is incorporated within the Statement of Financial Activity with details to the financial statements. Key financial policies adopted or reviewed during the year include the Finance Policy which lays out the framework for financial management, including financial responsibilities of the Board, Headteachers, managers, budget holders and other staff, as well as delegated authority for spending. Other policies reviewed and updated included Charges and Lettings, Asset Management and Insurance.

Reserves Policy
The defined benefit pension scheme reserve has a negative balance. The effect of the deficit position of the pension scheme is that the Academy Trust is paying higher employers' pension contributions over a period of years. The higher employers' pension contributions will be met from the Academy Trust's budgeted annual income. Whilst the deficit will not be immediately eliminated, there should be no actual cash flow deficit on the fund, nor any direct impact on the free reserves of the Academy Trust.

The aim of the trust is to achieve and maintain free reserves equal to 7% of annual GAG income. The year-end position is £789,632 unrestricted funds, £8,080 restricted funds (including pension), and £409,351 restricted fixed assets. The Directors consider this appropriate at this point.

Reserves exist across a number of the schools within the Trust and reserves will reduce, as a programme of capital development and improvements within teaching and learning are undertaken and as the Trust grows.

Investment Policy
The Trust does not consciously make investments or manage any cash surpluses in a way that could carry a risk. Consequently, any current account balances above a threshold are able to be placed in a recognised bank's higher interest deposit account until required.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the major 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 principle and uncertainties facing the Academy are as follows:

Financial
The Academy has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA with the Academy's incoming resources ultimately Government funded and whilst this expected to continue, there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms.

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

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

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

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

Fraud and mismanagement of funds
The Academy has appointed an internal auditor to carry out checks on financial systems and records as required by the Academy Trust Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and develop their skills in this area.

FUNDRAISING

Funding for the operation and activities of the schools is provided in the main by Government or other grants. There are minimal fundraising activities carried out and are minor in nature and carried out within each school community to raise funds for an activity within the school. The Academy does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the Trustees.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Future plans include supporting delivery of the Bishop's growth plan. The Trust board is committed to working with other catholic and non-faith schools and helping them to improve pupil outcomes in line with its core purpose, vision and values. The Trust is already engaged in conversations about schools joining in 2023-24.

AUDITOR

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

The auditors, Bishop Fleming LLP, are willing to continue in office and a resolution to appoint them will be proposed at the annual general meeting

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on and signed on its behalf by:

C Christie
Chair of Trustees

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

As Trustees we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.
The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust 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.

GOVERNANCE

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Trustees have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in the Governance Handbook and the Competency Framework for Governance.
The Board of Trustees has met six times against its planned meetings during the period and four times for extraordinary meetings. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees is published on the Trust's website and is available via: The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust (www.thedcet.com).

Two new trustees were recruited in the financial year, Jo Marsh (7/10/2022) and Gail Webb (10/11/2022).

There were no resignations within the financial year 2022-23.

Planned Meetings

Trustee	Meetings Attended	Possible Meetings
Cathreine Christie	6	6
Chris Jarvis	6	6
Peter Smith	5	6
Jo Marsh	4	5
Gail Webb	4	4

Extraordinary Meetings

Trustee	Meetings Attended	Possible Meetings
Catherine Christie	4	4
Chris Jarvis	3	4
Peter Smith	3	4
Jo Marsh	2	3
Gail Webb	3	3

Except for managing the CEO's performance, the size of the Trust Board's membership means all routine business is managed at board level to benefit from the expertise of all directors. The directors' collective experience and feedback, plus guidance from the Trust Governance Lead has helped to evolve executive reporting to ensure that it is accessible and fit for purpose in helping directors fulfil their core functions and statutory duties effectively.

Register of Interests

A statement of interest is reported annually and published on the Trust's website.
Governance Review
The Trust Board has completed and submitted its Financial Management and Governance Self- Assessment form to the Education and Skills Funding Agency as part of its review.

The Trust Board has also overseen the completion of an Internal Review of Governance of all its Local Governing Committees (LGC) in the financial year 2022-23.

REVIEW OF VALUE FOR MONEY

As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive Officer 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 achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

- A review of reprographic contracts upon renewal to secure value for money from the economies of scale offered by procurement on behalf of six schools.
- Robust financial governance and budget management.
- Value for money purchasing.
- Maintenance of estates.
- Reviewing controls and managing risk.
- Not allocating time/resources to areas where few improvements can be achieved.
- Reviewing quality of curriculum and quality of teaching.
- Reviewing quality of children's learning to enable children to achieve nationally expected progress.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks 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 The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust for the period ended 31 August 2023 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 ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that have been in place for the period ended 31 August 2023 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 Board of Trustees considered the requirement for a specific internal audit function and appointed Validera, internal auditors.

The purpose of internal audit is to provide an independent and objective opinion on risk management, Control and governance and their effectiveness in achieving the organisation's agreed objectives. Internal audit also has an independent and objective consultancy role to help management improve Risk management, governance and control and for the period ended 31 August 2023 to provide Assurances in the following areas:

- Corporate Governance
- Key Financial Controls
- Risk Management

The audit plan was undertaken as planned. The Internal Auditor reported through the Finance Resource, Risk and Audit Committee, on the system of controls and the annual report will be submitted along with the audited accounts to the Department of Education.

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

As Accounting Officer the Chief Executive Officer 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; and
- the work of the executive managers within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

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

C Christie	**H Taylor**
Chair of Trustees	Accounting Officer

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

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

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

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

H Taylor
Accounting Officer
Date:

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

C Christie
Chair of Trustees
Date:

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DUNSTAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust (the 'academy') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

BASIS FOR OPINION

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

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

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

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

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DUNSTAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST (CONTINUED)

OTHER INFORMATION

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

OPINION ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

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

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

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

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

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

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

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

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

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

AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

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

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the Academy sector, control environment and the Academy's performance;
- results of our enquiries of management and the Trustee board, including the committees charged with governance over the Academy's finance and control, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Academy's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to: identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance; detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or noncompliance with laws and regulations;
- how the Academy ensured it met its obligations arising from it being financed by the ESFA and other funders, and as such material compliance with these obligations is required to ensure the Academy will continue to receive its public funding and be authorised to operate, including around ensuring there is no material unauthorised use of funds and expenditure;
- how the Academy ensured it met its obligations to its principal regulator, the Secretary of State for Education; and
- these matters were discussed among the audit engagement team who also considered any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud, which included incorrect recognition of revenue, management override of controls using manual journal entries, procurement and payroll. We identified the greatest potential for fraud as incorrect recognition of revenue and management override using manual journal entries.

In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Academy operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Academies Accounts Direction, Academies Trust Handbook, UK Companies Act and tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the Academy's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included safeguarding regulations, data protection regulations, occupational health and safety regulations, education and inspections legislation, building legislation and employment legislation.

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DUNSTAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST (CONTINUED)

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess the recognition of revenue;
- enquiring of Trustees and management and those charged with governance concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing procedures to confirm material compliance with the requirements of its regulators;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing internal control reports; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; and assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from an error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it.

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

USE OF OUR REPORT

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

John Talbot FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
Bishop Fleming LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
10 Temple Back
Bristol
BS1 6FL

Date:

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE DUNSTAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 27 July 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust during the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DUNSTAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST'S ACCOUNTING OFFICER AND THE REPORTING ACCOUNTANT

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 21 February 2022 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE DUNSTAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

APPROACH

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes:

An assessment of the risk of material irregularity and impropriety across all of the Trust’s activities;

Further testing and review of the areas identified through the risk assessment including enquiry, identification of controls processes and examination of supporting evidence across all areas identified as well as additional verification work where considered necessary; and

Consideration of evidence obtained through the work detailed above and the work completed as part of our audit of the financial statements in order to support the regularity conclusion.

In line with the Framework and guide for external auditors and reporting accountants of academy trusts issued April 2023, we have not performed any additional procedures regarding the Trust's compliance with safeguarding, health and safety and estates management.

CONCLUSION

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

Reporting Accountant
Bishop Fleming LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
10 Temple Back
Bristol
BS1 6FL

Date:

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds 31 August 2023 £	Restricted funds 31 August 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 31 August 2023 £	Total funds 31 August 2023 £	Total funds Period ended 31 August 2022 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants:	4					
Funds inherited on conversion		**72,987**	**(149,000)**	**50,128**	**(25,885)**	(3,211,988)
Donations in Kind - Rent		**-**	**314,500**	**-**	**314,500**	267,000
Other donations and capital grants		**27,786**	**-**	**173,007**	**200,793**	106,069
Other trading activities	7	**8,754**	**-**	**-**	**8,754**	1,663
Investments	8	**183**	**-**	**-**	**183**	36
Charitable activities	5	**358,678**	**7,571,417**	**-**	**7,930,095**	3,594,145
Total income		**468,388**	**7,736,917**	**223,135**	**8,428,440**	756,925
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities		**410,573**	**7,712,682**	**71,662**	**8,194,917**	3,802,385
Total expenditure		**410,573**	**7,712,682**	**71,662**	**8,194,917**	3,802,385
Net income/(expenditure)		**57,815**	**24,235**	**151,473**	**233,523**	(3,045,460)
Transfers between funds	20	**(20,000)**	**(6,560)**	**26,560**	**-**	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains		**37,815**	**17,675**	**178,033**	**233,523**	(3,045,460)
Other recognised gains:						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	28	**-**	**758,000**	**-**	**758,000**	3,261,000
Net movement in funds		**37,815**	**775,675**	**178,033**	**991,523**	215,540
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		**751,817**	**(767,595)**	**231,318**	**215,540**	-
Net movement in funds		**37,815**	**775,675**	**178,033**	**991,523**	215,540
Total funds carried forward		**789,632**	**8,080**	**409,351**	**1,207,063**	215,540

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 23 to 56 form part of these financial statements.

THE DUNSTAN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
REGISTERED NUMBER:13306248

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note		2023 £		2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	16		**231,870**		184,740
			231,870		184,740
Current assets					
Debtors	17	**271,857**		207,088	
Cash at bank and in hand		**2,106,768**		1,350,120	
		2,378,625		1,557,208	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	**(784,432)**		(408,408)	
Net current assets			**1,594,193**		1,148,800
Total assets less current liabilities			**1,826,063**		1,333,540
Net assets excluding pension liability			**1,826,063**		1,333,540
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	28		**(619,000)**		(1,118,000)
Total net assets			**1,207,063**		215,540
Funds of the Academy					
Restricted funds:					
Fixed asset funds	20	**409,351**		231,318	
Restricted income funds	20	**627,080**		350,405	
Restricted funds excluding pension reserve	20	**1,036,431**		581,723	
Pension reserve	20	**(619,000)**		(1,118,000)	
Total restricted funds	20		**417,431**		(536,277)
Unrestricted income funds	20		**789,632**		751,817
Total funds			**1,207,063**		215,540

The financial statements on pages 20 to 56 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:

C Christie
Chair of Trustees
Date:

The notes on pages 23 to 56 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	31 August 2023 £	Period ended 31 August 2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	22	**413,897**	460,609
Cash flows from investing activities	24	**123,157**	88,912
Cash flows from financing activities	23	**219,594**	800,599
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**756,648**	1,350,120
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		**1,350,120**	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	25, 26	**2,106,768**	1,350,120

The notes on pages 23 to 56 form part of these financial statements

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Park Avenue, Bridgwater, Somerset, England, TA6 7EE.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

2.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

2.2 GOING CONCERN

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

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.3 INCOME

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.4 EXPENDITURE

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

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

  All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.5 INTEREST RECEIVABLE

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Academy; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.6 TAXATION

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

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

2.7 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Assets costing £1,500 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Long-term leasehold land	- Straight line basis over 125 years
Furniture and equipment	- Straight line basis over 4 years
Computer equipment	- Straight line basis over 4 years

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.

Where the Academy Trust occupies land and buildings owned by the Clifton Diocese under a Church Supplemental Agreement, the Trust does not recognise these land and buildings as tangible fixed assets.

2.8 DEBTORS

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

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.9 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

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

2.10 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 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.

2.11 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 17. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 18. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

2.12 OPERATING LEASES

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

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.13 PENSIONS

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

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

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

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

2.14 FUND ACCOUNTING

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

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

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

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

3. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND AREAS OF JUDGMENT

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 28, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgment:

The Academy Trust obtains use of fixed assets as a lessee. The classification of such leases as operating or finance lease requires the Academy to determine, based on an evaluation of the terms and conditions of the arrangements, whether it retains or acquires the significant risks and rewards of ownership of these assets and accordingly whether the lease requires an asset and liability to be recognised in the Balance Sheet.

4. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted funds 31 August 2023 £	**Restricted funds 31 August 2023 £**	**Restricted fixed asset funds 31 August 2023 £**	**Total funds 31 August 2023 £**	Total funds Period ended 31 August 2022 £
Transfer from LA on conversion	72,987	(149,000)	50,128	**(25,885)**	(3,211,988)
Donations in Kind - Rent	-	314,500	-	**314,500**	267,000
Donations	27,786	-	-	**27,786**	18,582
Capital Grants	-	-	173,007	**173,007**	87,487
TOTAL 2023	100,773	165,500	223,135	**489,408**	(2,838,919)
TOTAL 2022	733,790	(3,868,000)	295,291	(2,838,919)	

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 31 August 2023 £	Restricted funds 31 August 2023 £	Total funds 31 August 2023 £	Total funds Period ended 31 August 2022 £
Income from charitable activities - Education	354,022	7,404,527	**7,758,549**	3,594,145
Nursery	4,656	166,890	**171,546**	-
TOTAL 2023	358,678	7,571,417	**7,930,095**	3,594,145
TOTAL 2022	162,717	3,431,428	3,594,145	

6. FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY'S CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 31 August 2023 £	**Restricted funds 31 August 2023 £**	**Total funds 31 August 2023 £**	Total funds Period ended 31 August 2022 £
EDUCATION				
DFE/ESFA GRANTS				
General Annual Grant	-	5,920,334	**5,920,334**	2,542,354
OTHER DFE/ESFA GRANTS				
Pupil Premium	-	310,380	**310,380**	171,088
Start up grants	-	140,000	**140,000**	195,404
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	153,034	**153,034**	141,541
Trust Capacity Fund	-	88,895	**88,895**	123,991
Supplementary Grant	-	164,240	**164,240**	61,201
Mainstream School Additional Grant	-	92,508	**92,508**	-
PE and Sports Grant	-	117,252	**117,252**	46,661
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	31,383	**31,383**	3,391
	-	7,018,026	**7,018,026**	3,285,631
OTHER GOVERNMENT GRANTS				
High needs	-	280,313	**280,313**	59,596
Nursery income funded	-	-	**-**	42,897
Other government grants	-	42,176	**42,176**	9,669
	-	322,489	**322,489**	112,162
Other income from the Academy's education	354,022	404	**354,426**	162,717
Additional Funding				
School Led Tutoring	-	32,108	**32,108**	13,792
Recovery Premium	-	31,500	**31,500**	19,843
	-	63,608	**63,608**	33,635
TOTAL 2023	354,022	7,404,527	**7,758,549**	3,594,145
TOTAL 2022	162,717	3,431,428	3,594,145	

7. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 31 August 2023 £	**Total funds 31 August 2023 £**	Total funds Period ended 31 August 2022 £
Rental Income	7,714	**7,714**	1,663
Uniform Sales	1,040	**1,040**	-
TOTAL 2023	8,754	**8,754**	1,663
TOTAL 2022	1,663	1,663	

8. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 31 August 2023 £	**Total funds 31 August 2023 £**	Total funds Period ended 31 August 2022 £
Bank Interest	183	**183**	36
TOTAL 2022	36	36	

9. EXPENDITURE

	Staff Costs 31 August 2023 £	**Premises 31 August 2023 £**	**Other 31 August 2023 £**	**Total 31 August 2023 £**	Total Period ended 31 August 2022 £
EDUCATION:					
Direct costs	4,881,545	-	406,659	**5,288,204**	2,333,966
Allocated support costs	1,202,314	616,208	937,392	**2,755,914**	1,398,513
NURSERY					
Direct costs	125,679	-	475	**126,154**	56,829
Allocated support costs	13,649	10,996	-	**24,645**	13,077
TOTAL 2023	6,223,187	627,204	1,344,526	**8,194,917**	3,802,385
TOTAL 2022	2,756,380	114,122	931,883	3,802,385	

10. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly 31 August 2023 £	**Support costs 31 August 2023 £**	**Total funds 31 August 2023 £**	Total funds Period ended 31 August 2022 £
Education	5,288,204	2,755,914	**8,044,118**	3,732,479
Nursery	126,154	24,645	**150,799**	69,906
TOTAL 2023	5,414,358	2,780,559	**8,194,917**	3,802,385
TOTAL 2022	2,390,795	1,411,590	3,802,385	

10. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS

	Total funds 31 August 2023 £	Total funds Period ended 31 August 2022 £
Pension finance costs	**26,000**	35,000
Staff costs	**4,953,052**	2,204,193
Depreciation	**53,509**	21,675
Educational supplies	**60,555**	23,719
Staff development	**35,121**	9,539
Other costs	**143,674**	59,414
Supply teachers	**54,172**	24,964
Educational consultancy	**88,275**	12,291
TOTAL 2023	**5,414,358**	2,390,795

10. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Total funds 31 August 2023 £	Total funds Period ended 31 August 2022 £
Pension finance costs	**22,000**	13,000
Staff costs	**1,215,963**	527,223
Other costs	**42,911**	8,320
Supply teachers	**40,772**	16,773
Recruitment and support	**14,874**	7,405
Maintenance of premises and equipment	**69,965**	16,458
Cleaning	**42,712**	12,215
Rent and rates	**360,052**	310,234
Energy costs	**142,245**	32,755
Insurance	**27,412**	11,235
Security and transport	**12,230**	2,548
Catering	**258,264**	89,172
Technology costs	**215,538**	93,843
Office overheads	**62,532**	25,528
Legal and professional	**248,220**	244,414
Bank interest and charges	**4,869**	467
TOTAL 2023	**2,780,559**	1,411,590

11. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Operating lease rentals	**14,032**	2,785
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	**53,034**	21,675
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	**21,500**	17,000
- other services	**4,150**	2,750

12. STAFF

a. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	31 August 2023 £	Period ended 31 August 2022 £
Wages and salaries	**4,681,787**	1,938,076
Social security costs	**358,455**	150,967
Pension costs	**1,128,773**	642,373
	6,169,015	2,731,416
Agency staff costs	**54,172**	24,964
	6,223,187	2,756,380

b. STAFF NUMBERS

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

	No. 2023 No.	Period ended 31 August 2022 No.
Teachers	**74**	56
Educational Support	**103**	132
Leadership	**17**	10
Administration and Clerical	**72**	11
	266	209

12. STAFF (CONTINUED)

b. STAFF NUMBERS (CONTINUED)

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	31 August 2023 No.	Period ended 31 August 2022 No.
Teachers	**53**	38
Educational Support	**60**	66
Leadership	**16**	9
Administration and Clerical	**31**	8
	160	121

c. HIGHER PAID STAFF

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

	31 August 2023 No.	Period ended 31 August 2022 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	**6**	1
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	**1**	-

Annual employer's contributions of £110,455 (2022: £14,484) are payable to the Teachers' pension Scheme (TPS) in respect of the above employees.

d. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The key management personnel of the Academy comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy was £317,271 (2022 - £40,606)

13. CENTRAL SERVICES

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

- School Improvement
- Human Resources
- Legal
- Information Technology
- Training and CPD
- Health and Safety
- Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance
- Finance

The Academy charges for these services on the following basis:

6% of General annual Grant.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School	**59,748**	25,546
St Gildas Catholic Primary School	**58,601**	28,927
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	**55,329**	27,150
St Joseph's Catholic Primary & Nursery School	**61,416**	29,711
St Joseph and St Teresa Catholic Primary School	**42,188**	20,742
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Primary School	**39,958**	20,772
Christ The King Catholic Primary School	**20,335**	-
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	**21,402**	-
TOTAL	**358,977**	152,848

14. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2022 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 August 2023, expenses totalling £368 were reimbursed to 1 Trustee (2022 - £ £nil).

15. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

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

16. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Long-term leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION				
At 1 September 2022	**34,100**	**172,315**	**-**	**206,415**
Additions	**-**	**28,559**	**21,477**	**50,036**
Acquired on conversion	**-**	**50,128**	**-**	**50,128**
At 31 August 2023	**34,100**	**251,002**	**21,477**	**306,579**
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 September 2022	**136**	**21,539**	**-**	**21,675**
Charge for the year	**272**	**51,070**	**1,692**	**53,034**
At 31 August 2023	**408**	**72,609**	**1,692**	**74,709**
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 August 2023	**33,692**	**178,393**	**19,785**	**231,870**
At 31 August 2022	33,964	150,776	-	184,740

17. DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
Trade debtors	**7,537**	4,427
Other debtors	**13,715**	16,758
Prepayments and accrued income	**168,826**	94,581
Tax recoverable	**81,779**	91,322
	271,857	207,088

18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	**106,313**	50,999
Other taxation and social security	**99,304**	70,193
Other creditors	**280,458**	223,310
Accruals and deferred income	**298,357**	63,906
	784,432	408,408

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income		
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	**59,988**	-
Resources deferred during the year	**174,244**	59,988
Amounts released from previous periods	**(59,988)**	-
	174,244	59,988

At the balance sheet date the Academy was holding £126,751 of funds received in advance for Universal Infant Free School Meals relating to the 2023/24 financial year.

19. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	2023 £	2022 £
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	**2,106,768**	1,350,120

Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise Cash at bank and in hand.

20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Balance at 1 September 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers in/out	Gains/ (Losses)	Balance at 31 August 2023
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
General Funds - all funds	751,817	468,388	(410,573)	(20,000)	-	789,632
RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	350,405	5,920,334	(5,791,650)	-	-	479,089
Pupil Premium	-	310,380	(302,001)	-	-	8,379
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	153,034	(153,034)	-	-	-
Household Support Fund	-	1,130	-	-	-	1,130
PE and Sports Grant	-	117,252	(90,083)	-	-	27,169
High Needs	-	280,313	(271,538)	-	-	8,775
Teachers Pay & Pension Grant	-	3,358	(3,358)	-	-	-
Other LA Grants	-	204,578	(106,790)	-	-	97,788
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	580,634	(569,324)	(6,560)	-	4,750
Other Restricted Funds	-	314,904	(314,904)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,118,000)	(149,000)	(110,000)	-	758,000	(619,000)
	(767,595)	7,736,917	(7,712,682)	(6,560)	758,000	8,080

20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS						
Fixed assets transferred on conversion	**184,740**	**50,128**	**(53,034)**	**-**	**-**	**181,834**
Devolved Formula Capital	**46,578**	**173,007**	**(18,628)**	**(23,476)**	**-**	**177,481**
Fixed assets purchased from donations	**-**	**-**	**-**	**20,000**	**-**	**20,000**
Fixed assets purchased from grants	**-**	**-**	**-**	**30,036**	**-**	**30,036**
	231,318	**223,135**	**(71,662)**	**26,560**	**-**	**409,351**
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	**(536,277)**	**7,960,052**	**(7,784,344)**	**20,000**	**758,000**	**417,431**
TOTAL FUNDS	**215,540**	**8,428,440**	**(8,194,917)**	**-**	**758,000**	**1,207,063**

20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

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

The General Annual Grant (GAG) represents funding received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) during the period in order to fund the continuing activities of the school.

Start-up Grants represents one off funding received from the ESFA to contribute to the cost of a school converting to academy status and joining the Multi-Academy Trust.

Pupil Premium represents funding received from the ESFA for children that qualify for free school meals to enable the School to address the current underlying inequalities between those children and their wealthier peers.

Universal Infant Free School Meals represents funding from the ESFA to provide school meals to pupils in key stage 1 or below.

Teachers' Pay & Pension Grant - Funding from Local Authorities to support with the cost of the increase in employer contributions to the Teachers' pension Scheme and Teacher's pay relating to teachers' pay awards.

School Supplementary Grant represents additional funding allocated to the Academy to provide support for the costs of Health and Social Care Levy and wider costs.

PE sports grant represents funding received from the ESFA and must be used to fund improvements to the provision of PE and sports, for the benefit of primary-aged pupils, so that they develop healthy lifestyles.

High needs funding is received from the Local Authority to cater for pupils with learning difficulties and other disabilities.

Early Years funding represents income received from the Local Authority in relation to providing early years education and childcare.

Household Support Fund is received from the Local Authority to help low-income households with food and fuel poverty.

Other government grants funding represents other income received from the Local Authority.

Other DfE/ESFA grants funding represents other grants received from the DfE/ESFA.

Trust Capacity Fund represents additional funding provided to the Academy in order to help strengthen central capacity for growth.

Donations in kind - Rent is an estimate of the value of the usage of the buildings and land occupied occupied which is shown as income and fully spent as a rental expense in the year.

The pension fund represents the School's share of the assets and liabilities in the Local Government Pension Scheme. As with most pension schemes this is currently in deficit due to an excess of scheme liabilities over scheme assets which was inherited on conversion to an academy. The School is following the recommendation of the actuary to reduce the deficit by making additional contributions over a number of years.

Fixed assets transferred on conversion - This represents the buildings and equipment donated to the Academy from the Local Authority on conversion to an Academy.

Devolved Formula Capital - This represents funding received from the ESFA towards the purchase and improvement of long-term assets.

20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

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

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

	Income	Expenditure	Transfers in/out	Gains/ (Losses)	Balance at 31 August 2022
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
General Funds	898,206	(146,389)	-	-	751,817
RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	2,542,354	(2,191,949)	-	-	350,405
Start-up Grants	195,404	(195,404)	-	-	-
Pupil Premium	171,088	(171,088)	-	-	-
Universal Infant Free School Meals	141,541	(141,541)	-	-	-
Household Support Fund	61,201	(61,201)	-	-	-
PE and Sports Grant	46,661	(46,661)	-	-	-
High Needs	59,596	(59,596)	-	-	-
Teachers Pay & Pension Grant	42,897	(42,897)	-	-	-
Other LA Grants	9,669	(9,669)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	37,026	(37,026)	-	-	-
Other Restricted Funds	123,991	(123,991)	-	-	-
Donations in Kind - Rent	267,000	(267,000)	-	-	-
Capital Grants - Revenue Expenditure	-	(42,298)	42,298	-	-
Pension reserve	(4,135,000)	(244,000)	-	3,261,000	(1,118,000)
	(436,572)	(3,634,321)	42,298	3,261,000	(767,595)
RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS					
Fixed assets transferred on conversion	206,415	(21,675)	-	-	184,740
Devolved Formula Capital	88,876	-	(42,298)	-	46,578
	295,291	(21,675)	(42,298)	-	231,318
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	(141,281)	(3,655,996)	-	3,261,000	(536,277)

20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

TOTAL FUNDS	756,925	(3,802,385)	-	3,261,000	215,540

20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	2023 **£**	2022 £
Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School	**66,092**	101,608
St Gildas Catholic Primary School	**288,738**	287,823
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	**268,507**	167,661
St Joseph's Catholic Primary & Nursery School	**425,435**	385,205
St Joseph and St Teresa Catholic Primary School	**107,433**	81,726
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Primary School	**(122,057)**	(88,611)
The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust (Central)	**209,885**	166,810
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	**76,549**	-
Christ The Kind Catholic Primary School	**96,130**	-
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	**1,416,712**	1,102,222
Restricted fixed asset fund	**409,351**	231,318
Pension reserve	**(619,000)**	(1,118,000)
TOTAL	**1,207,063**	215,540

The following academy is carrying a net deficit on its portion of the funds as follows:

	Deficit **£**
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Primary School	**(122,057)**

The school returned a deficit in the period due to a challenging financial position of the school, and the historical deficit that was transferred upon conversion to an academy

The Academy is taking the following action to return the academy to surplus:

The Trust is committed to working with the school to continue the turnaround in the financial performance, which is already well underway, and has the resources available to it to support the school in this period.

20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

TOTAL COST ANALYSIS BY ACADEMY

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	**Other support staff costs £**	**Educational supplies £**	**Other costs excluding depreciation £**	**Total 2023 £**	Total 2022 £
Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School	684,398	185,215	21,512	257,169	**1,148,294**	501,680
St Gildas Catholic Primary School	767,942	182,850	7,028	210,247	**1,168,067**	533,343
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	719,009	168,382	10,664	193,044	**1,091,099**	554,305
St Joseph's Catholic Primary & Nursery School	897,703	242,567	11,356	249,214	**1,400,840**	660,300
St Joseph and St Teresa Catholic Primary School	567,179	102,747	7,483	185,637	**863,046**	406,630
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Primary School	598,822	133,523	6,074	178,542	**916,961**	458,818
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	273,943	64,738	6,148	126,387	**471,216**	-
Christ The King Catholic Primary School	346,479	64,446	8,236	70,305	**489,466**	-
The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust (Central)	151,749	112,267	682	327,721	**592,419**	665,634
ACADEMY	5,007,224	1,256,735	79,183	1,798,266	**8,141,408**	3,780,710

21. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	**Restricted funds 2023 £**	**Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £**	**Total funds 2023 £**
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	231,870	**231,870**
Current assets	789,632	1,411,512	177,481	**2,378,625**
Creditors due within one year	-	(784,432)	-	**(784,432)**
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(619,000)	-	**(619,000)**
TOTAL	789,632	8,080	409,351	**1,207,063**

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	184,740	184,740
Current assets	751,817	758,813	46,578	1,557,208
Creditors due within one year	-	(408,408)	-	(408,408)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(1,118,000)	-	(1,118,000)
TOTAL	751,817	(767,595)	231,318	215,540

22. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £	Period ended 2022 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	**233,523**	(3,045,460)
ADJUSTMENTS FOR:		
Depreciation	**53,034**	21,675
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	**(173,007)**	(88,876)
Interest receivable	**(186)**	(36)
Defined benefit pension scheme obligation inherited	**149,000**	4,135,000
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	**62,000**	-
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	**48,000**	244,000
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	**9,292**	(207,088)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	**149,015**	324,406
Net assets received on conversion	**(116,774)**	(923,012)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	**413,897**	460,609

23. CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash on transferring to the Trust	**219,594**	800,599
NET CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES	**219,594**	800,599

24. CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £	2022 £
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**(50,036)**	-
Capital grants from DfE Group	**173,007**	88,876
Interest received	**186**	36
NET CASH PROVIDED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES	**123,157**	88,912

25. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand and at bank	**2,106,768**	1,350,120
TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	**2,106,768**	1,350,120

26. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	**1,350,120**	**756,648**	**2,106,768**
	1,350,120	**756,648**	**2,106,768**

27. CONVERSION TO AN ACADEMY TRUST

On 1 March 2023 Christ The King Catholic Primary School converted to academy trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust from Somerset County Council for £NIL consideration.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the Balance Sheet under the appropriate heading with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net loss in the Statement of Financial Activities as Expenditure on Charitable activities - transfer from local authority on conversion.

The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the Statement of Financial Activities.

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS				
Furniture and equipment	-	-	25,064	**25,064**
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors due within one year	54,452	-	-	**54,452**
Cash at bank and in hand	66,582	-	-	**66,582**
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors due within one year	(74,343)	-	-	**(74,343)**
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	-	(84,433)	-	**(84,433)**
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)	46,691	(84,433)	25,064	**(12,678)**

27. CONVERSION TO AN ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)

On 1 March 2023 St Mary's Catholic Primary School converted to academy trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust from Somerset County Council for £NIL consideration.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the Balance Sheet under the appropriate heading with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net loss in the Statement of Financial Activities as Expenditure on Charitable activities - transfer from local authority on conversion.

The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the Statement of Financial Activities.

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS				
Furniture and equipment	-	-	25,064	**25,064**
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors due within one year	19,609	-	-	**19,609**
Cash at bank and in hand	153,012	-	-	**153,012**
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors due within one year	(152,666)	-	-	**(152,666)**
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	-	(64,567)	-	**(64,567)**
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)	19,955	(64,567)	25,064	**(19,548)**

28. PENSION COMMITMENTS

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

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

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or the end of the financial year.

28. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME

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

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

VALUATION OF THE TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 26 October 2023. The key elements of the previous valuation as at 31 March 2016 which was effective for the year ended 31 August 2023 are:

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

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024 and effective until 31 March 2027. The employer contribution rate for this period will be 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy).

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £399,387 (2022 - £178,929).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2019/04/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx) for 2016 and www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2023/10/valuation-result.aspx for 2020.

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

28. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £496,000 (2022 - £191,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £402,000 (2022 - £154,000) and employees' contributions totalled £94,000 (2022 - £37,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.7 - 23.7 per cent for employers and 5.5 - 12.5 per cent for employees.

As described in note 2.1227 the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Academy, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Academy at the balance sheet date.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

PRINCIPAL ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

	2023	2022
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	**3.91**	4.10
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	**2.90**	2.90
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	**5.29**	4.27
Inflation assumption (CPI)	**3.23**	2.85

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

	2023	2022
	Years	Years
RETIRING TODAY		
Males	**21.9**	22.3
Females	**24.3**	24.3
RETIRING IN 20 YEARS		
Males	**22.1**	23.6
Females	**24.6**	26.0

28. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

SHARE OF SCHEME ASSETS

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

	At 31 August 2023 £	Period ended At 31 August 2022 £
Equities	**2,692,000**	1,984,000
Gilts	**204,000**	-
Bonds	**466,000**	386,000
Property	**328,000**	253,000
Cash	**100,000**	112,000
Other	**164,000**	125,000
TOTAL MARKET VALUE OF ASSETS	**3,954,000**	2,860,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £86,000 (2022 - £1,000,000).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

	2023 £	Period ended 2022 £
Current service cost	**(464,000)**	(350,000)
Interest income	**139,000**	32,000
Interest cost	**(183,000)**	(78,000)
TOTAL AMOUNT RECOGNISED IN THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	**(508,000)**	(396,000)

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

	2023 £	2022 £
AT 1 SEPTEMBER	**3,978,000**	-
Liability transferred on conversion	**493,000**	6,804,000
Current service cost	**464,000**	350,000
Interest cost	**183,000**	78,000
Employee contributions	**94,000**	37,000
Actuarial gains	**(587,000)**	(3,291,000)
Benefits paid	**(52,000)**	-
AT 31 AUGUST	**4,573,000**	3,978,000

28. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

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

	2023 £	2022 £
AT 1 SEPTEMBER	**2,860,000**	-
Assets transferred on conversion	**344,000**	2,669,000
Interest income	**139,000**	32,000
Actuarial gains/(losses)	**171,000**	(30,000)
Employer contributions	**402,000**	154,000
Employee contributions	**94,000**	37,000
Administration expenses	**(4,000)**	(2,000)
Benefits paid	**(52,000)**	-
AT 31 AUGUST	**3,954,000**	2,860,000

29. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 August 2023 the Academy had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Not later than 1 year	**14,764**	2,596
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	**35,065**	-
	49,829	2,596

30. MEMBERS' LIABILITY

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

31. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

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

During the period costs of £52,055 were reimbursed to the Clifton Diocese for legal and consultancy fees relating to the formation of the trust and conversion of the schools in the prior year.

During the period costs of £10,314 were paid to the Clifton Diocese in respect of SLA for governance, staff training costs, Chaplancy days, Headteacher Forums and other Diocese related services.

S Mitchell is a Director of Keystone Knowledge Limited. During the period the Academy recognised costs in relation to interim Chief Financial Officer and interim Chief Operating Officer services provided by Keystone Knowledge Limited of £120,021 (2022: £40,877). There was no balance oustanding at the period end.

32. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

On 1 November 2023 Saint Edmund's Roman Catholic Primary School joined the Trust donating its assets and liabilities.

33. CONTROLLING PARTY

The Academy is under the control of the Bishop of Clifton by virtue of his ability to appoint the majority of the Board of Trustees.