

THE PRIORS SCHOOL
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2023

Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number: 03143086
(England & Wales)

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	3
Governors' Report	4
Governance Statement	9
Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance	12
Statement of Governor's Responsibilities	13
Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements	14
Independent Reporting Accountant's Report on Regularity	18
Statement of Financial Activities	20
Balance Sheet	21
Statement of Cash Flows	22
Notes to the Financial Statements	23

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE ACADEMY, GOVERNORS AND ADVISORS**Members**

S Moore (Chair)
J Richards
J Sadler

Governors

S Moore (Chair)
R Emms (Head Teacher and Accounting Officer)
R Holland (Vice Chair)
P Jaques (Vice Chair)
M Bown
D Cox (resigned 28 February 2023)
C Baggiolini (appointed 17 February 2023)
R James (appointed 17 March 2023)
J Peto
E Hooker

Senior Management Team:**Headteacher**

R Emms

Deputy Headteacher

H Logan
A Dyke (maternity cover for H Logan)

Responsible Officer

J Franklin

Principal and Registered Office

School Lane
Priors Marston
Southam
CV47 7RR

Company Registration Number

03143086

Independent Auditor

UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP
9-11 Vittoria Street
Birmingham
B1 3ND

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Bank
PO Box 1000
BX1 1LT

Solicitors

Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP
134 Edmund Street
Birmingham
B3 2ES

GOVERNORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The governors present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purpose of both a governors' report and a directors' report under company law.

The trust operates a primary academy for pupils aged 4 to 11 primarily serving catchment areas in Priors Marston and Priors Hardwick. It has a pupil capacity of 84 and had a roll of 84 in the school census in October 2023 (2022: 76).

Structure, Governance and Management Constitution

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

Details of the governors who served throughout the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 3.

Members' Liability

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

Governors' Indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust has purchased insurance to protect governors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on the academy trust business. This qualifies as third party indemnity insurance, as defined by section 234 of the Companies Act 2006.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Governors

There are clearly designed and approved procedures for the selection and appointment of Governors which are outlined in the company's Articles of Association. These include application, shortlisting and interview procedures. Consideration is given to the skills of Governors which would enhance the effectiveness of the trust.

- The Head Teacher shall be treated for all purposes as an ex officio Governor.
- The Church Governor shall be a representative of the Church of England churches in Priors Marston and Priors Hardwick who shall be nominated by the Parish Priest.
- The Parent Governors shall be elected by the parents of registered pupils at the academy.
- The members may appoint up to five additional Governors, each of whom in the opinion of the Members is committed to the good governance and success of the academy.
- With regard to Parent and Staff Governors, procedures are in place for nomination and election of Governors.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Governors

New governors attend full governing body meetings and are encouraged to view the workings of the academy through personal visits to the school. A full Governors' Induction document is available and attendance at regular training courses is made available to the governing body.

Organisational Structure

The organisation structure comprises the Board of Governors and the Management Team of the School. The Head teacher acts as Accounting Officer and is responsible for the day to day management of the school. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage decision making at all levels.

The Board of Governors is responsible for the strategic development of the school, adopting an annual development plan and budget, monitoring the school by the use of budgets, management accounts and a performance management schedule for the Head Teacher.

GOVERNORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**Organisational Structure (cont'd)**

To ensure an efficient and effective structure to support, monitor and evaluate the work and development of the school there is a governor sub-group responsible for Finance and Audit.

The Board makes major decisions about the direction of the school, capital expenditure and staff appointments. Details of authorisation levels for expenditure are detailed in the school's Financial Regulations document.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

A remuneration committee, comprising three members of the Board of governors, sits to agree the pay and remuneration of trust employees including the Head Teacher. Head Teacher pay is based upon recommendations following a formal performance appraisal process which is conducted by three governors and an independently appointed School Improvement Officer.

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

The Priors School operates in premises subject to a deed of trust dated 2nd February 1849 signed by the then 4th Earl Spencer, which established the original school on the site of the Academy.

The School has access to the local play area operated by the Parish Council and has a lease agreement with the Parish Council for use of the school playing fields.

The School uses Convivio catering for the provision of its school lunches. This company was selected via a thorough tender process. The owner of Convivio catering also acts as the site supervisor for the school. This agreement ended on 31 August 2023 and Convivio decided not to renew the contract. The school have a new catering company, Fresh Start Catering, in place from 1 September 2023.

Objectives and Activities**Objects and Aims**

The school's main objectives are outlined in our vision in that The Priors Free School will remain a relatively small, thriving primary school, dedicated to providing an outstanding education to the young people of Priors Marston, Priors Hardwick and surrounding villages. The school is at the heart of our community. A passionate, highly skilled and committed staff team deliver an innovative, exciting curriculum, which ensures that pupils leave The Priors Free School extremely well placed and appropriately qualified to continue their education at Key Stage 3 in the state or independent sectors. To achieve this, the school aims:

- To offer a secure and happy base in which each child can develop at their own rate and achieve to their full ability.
- To promote equal opportunities in all areas of school life regardless of gender, race, culture or disability.
- To provide a caring community and create a stimulating environment in our school.
- To develop a respect for moral values, tolerance, sensitivity and an understanding of the needs of others.
- To use first-hand experience, where possible, in all areas of the curriculum in order to provide relevant learning opportunities.
- To develop a child's self-confidence, self-reliance and sense of personal worth.
- To encourage a responsible, flexible and questioning outlook, enabling the child to cope with the challenge of society.
- To promote good relationships between home, school and the community.
- To ensure parental knowledge of, and to encourage their involvement in, their child's education.

Target	Actions	When?	Impact on Teaching and Learning
To successfully transition into the Warriner Multi-Academy Trust	Work in partnership with The Warriner, DfE and ESFA Attend CPD sessions	March	Teachers will have wider opportunities to work with other professionals and further develop their

GOVERNORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

Target	Actions	When?	Impact on Teaching and Learning
To develop teaching and learning pedagogy in line with the new curriculum	Review curriculum Review resources Joint observations Links with other schools	End of Year	The curriculum will be developed to ensure children make rapid progress.
To continue to develop and improve our offer for children with Special Education Needs	Conduct full SEND audit Review interventions Staff training Use of EP	End of Year	Better informed staff will allow all children to develop at a rapid rate.
To further develop and enhance healthy lifestyles for all pupils	Purchase additional resources for active play Improve quality of PE lessons and resources Develop competitive sports Active learning in different areas of the curriculum	End of Year	More active and engaged children will lead to better outcomes

Public Benefit

In drafting the above statements, the governors have complied with the duty of the Charities Act 2011, to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

Strategic Report**Achievements and Performance**

The academic performance of the children for the 2023 years is as follows:

KS1

Subject	At Expected Standard 2023 (National)
Reading	80% (68%)
Writing	73% (60%)
Maths	73% (70%)

KS2

Subject	At Expected Standard 2023 (National)
Reading	88% (73%)
Writing	88% (72%)
Spelling, Punctuation and	50% (72%)
Maths	75% (75%)
Reading, Writing and Maths	75% (60%)

Key Performance Indicators

The governors manage the academy on a funding stream basis and employ a number of key performance indicators to monitor the expenditure requirements of the Education Funding Agency and performance or position of the academy. The key measure the governors will be using to assess financial performance on an ongoing basis will be the expenditure on teaching staff as a percentage of total expenditure on educational . For the period ending 31 August 2023 this was 46% (2022: 45%).

	2023	2022
Pupil Numbers (31 August)	80	81
Staff costs as % of ESFA revenue grants	98%	89%
Staff costs as % of total revenue grant income (including SEN funding)	83%	78%
Staff costs as % of total costs	68%	69%

GOVERNORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Achievements and Performance (cont'd)**

We spent almost all of our GAG on staffing this year. We have to recognise that within this expenditure, we have included the cost of the Before and After School staff and the Nursery staff, which generate income to pay for these salaries, and the cost of a teaching assistant, which is funded through additional grants, such as the Pupil Premium and SEND funding. Staff expenditure as a proportion of overall costs is relatively stable.

Other key performance indicators have been assessed within the Achievements and Performance section above.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of governors 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. The School are working to join The Warriner Multi-Academy Trust for March 2024 and will not continue to run as a separate company from this point. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

Financial Review

The majority of the school's income is obtained from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The income from these grants and the associated expenditure are shown as 'Restricted Funds' in the Statement of Financial

The school has also continued to receive a capital grant within the period in respect of the new building and equipment to support the objectives within the school's development plan. In accordance with the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2019)', this grant is shown as restricted income in the Fixed Asset Fund and as expenditure in the form of an annual depreciation charge against the fund over the expected useful life of the assets

During the year ended 31 August 2023, total income was £679,000 (2022: £658,000), compared to expenditure of £744,000 (2022: £728,781).

At 31 August 2023, the Net Book Value of Tangible Fixed Assets was £1,628,000 (2022: £1,637,000) and movements in these assets are shown in note 12 to the Financial Statements.

Reserves Policy

The Governors review the reserve levels of the academy annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Governors have determined that the appropriate level of reserves should be equivalent to at least one month's worth of the General Annual Grant funding. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance. Any surplus reserves built up by the Academy are earmarked to cover:

- Planned capital expenditure
- Improve the quality of learning and social spaces within the school
- Forecast increases in staffing costs

Reserves as at 31 August 2023 were £31,000 (2022: £24,000) after deductions had been made for the fixed assets land and buildings of £1,630,000 (2022: £1,645,000) and the long term LGPS pension deficit of £Nil (2022: £Nil).

Under Financial Reporting Standard 102, it is necessary to charge projected deficits on the LGPS, which is provided to support staff. This results in reducing the reserves in the total funds of the school. It should be noted that this does not present the school with any current liquidity problems.

GOVERNORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Investment Policy**

The school holds no significant investment capital. Any year to year surplus will be invested in short term bank deposits. This policy will be kept under review.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The major risks to which the academy trust is exposed have been identified on the academy's risk register. Governors have reviewed the risks to which the academy trust is exposed to and systems and procedures have been put in place to manage these.

The governors have responsibility to assess the strategic risks to which the school is exposed and have commissioned a systematic analysis of all risks to produce a risk management register.

The principles of the controls encompassed in the Financial Regulations document are intended to minimise risk as well as ensuring value for money in all financial transactions.

The governors consider the principal risks facing the academy are:-

- Meeting requisite standards in education for students in core subjects.
- Complying with legislative requirements regarding employment law, data protection, discrimination, Companies House and HMRC, child protection, the Charity Commission and the National Curriculum.
- Financial risk - operating within the budget and running in deficit, changes in funding, inappropriate or insufficient financial controls and systems, fraudulent activity, and or financial commitments made without adequate authorisation.

The key controls used by this school are:-

- Schemes of delegation and formal financial regulations, as detailed in the Financial Regulations document.
- Clear authorisation and approval levels.
- Regular meetings following a calendar of management milestones identifying key activities and tasks.
- Formal written policies.
- Policies and procedures required by law to protect the vulnerable.
- Regular training of governors and staff in relevant areas of policy.
- Regular financial and performance reviews.
- Regular reporting to governors of a Responsible Officer, independent of the governors.

Plans for Future Periods

The school are working hard to meet the aims and objectives of their school development plan and the long term strategic plan. The school are investigating ways to improve the outdoor learning environment and are actively looking for grants to support this endeavour.

Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others

The academy trust holds no funds on behalf of others as custodian trustee.

Auditor

Insofar as the governors are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware
- the governors 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, UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP, are willing to continue in office and a resolution appoint them will be proposed in the Annual General Meeting.

Governors' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of governors, as the company directors, on 13 December 2023 and signed on the board's behalf by:



S Moore

Chair of Governors

13 December 2023

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**Scope of Responsibility**

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

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

The board of governors has delegated the day to day responsibility to the Head teacher 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 Priors School Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of governors any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the governors' report and in the Statement of Governors' Responsibilities. The board of governors has formally met 11 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of governors was as follows:

Governor	Meetings attended	Out of a Possible
M Bown	7	8
D Cox	-	4
R Emms	11	11
R Holland	9	11
C Baggiolini	1	3
R Hemelryk	3	3
S Moore	9	11
J Peto	7	8
E Hooker	8	11
J Richards	1	2
J Sadler	1	2

Conflicts of Interest

Academy trusts must describe the processes they have in place to manage conflicts of interest, including for example (but not limited to) maintaining an up-to-date and complete register of interests, and how the information on this register is used in the day-to-day management and governance of the academy trust. Where relevant, they must also explain how the academy trust avoids conflicts of interest in its ownership or control of any subsidiaries, joint ventures or associates.

Governance Reviews

The Academy trust reviews its governance arrangements on an annual basis. The outcome of the governance review is as follows:

- The governors have appointed Warwickshire Governor Services to support the governing body to conduct and external governance review to support with identifying strengths and areas for development.
- The governors have now established members as a separate entity to meet the best practice requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook.
- The governors have reviewed the Scheme of Delegation to ensure the board are meeting the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook.

Review of Value for Money

As accounting officer, the Head Teacher 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 governors where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Review of Value for Money (cont'd)**

The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Continue to use the Crown Purchasing Consortium and have procured our gas and electricity through this government backed scheme, which has helped us manage the increase in energy costs in the short term.
- Due to the incumbent catering company winding down the business from 31 August 2023, we had to conduct a thorough examination of different catering companies to provide school meals. A tender process was conducted and evaluated on the following criteria: quality of service, company reputation and cost. After the process the school chose Fresh Start Catering as the best company to conduct this service.
- After receiving the government energy efficiency grant, the school decided to replace the small boilers and radiators in the older part of the building for more energy efficient models. A quotation process was conducted with the following criteria: quality of materials used, company reputation and cost. After this process was complete, Gas Tech were used to complete this work.
- The boys' toilets needed the woodwork replacing. A number of quotes were sought from multiple companies. A number felt that the work was not viable for them, due to the size of the contract, but Ask Washrooms could complete the work in a reasonable timeframe within our specified budget.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of 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 Priors School for the year 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 governors 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 governors is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year ending 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 governors.

The Risk and Control Framework

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

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

The board of governors has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the governors have appointed Mr J Franklin, as Reviewer. The Reviewer's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. In particular the checks carried out in the current period included:

- testing of credit card transactions;
- testing of VAT returns;
- testing of Nursery income;
- review of monthly management reports

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**The Risk and Control Framework (cont'd)**

On a termly basis, the Reviewer will report to the board of governors on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of governors financial responsibilities. There were no material control issues arising as a result of the Reviewer's work.

Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, of The Priors School, the Head teacher has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

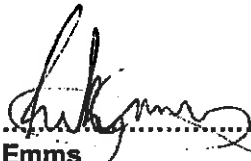
- the work of the Reviewer;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self assessment process
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- correspondence from the ESFA

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance and Resources Committee.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Governors on 13 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



S Moore
Chair of Governors

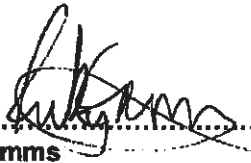


R Emms
Accounting Officer

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

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

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



.....
R Emms
Accounting Officer
13 December 2023

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

The governors (who act as trustees of The Priors School and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Governors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Annual Accounts Direction issued 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 governors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the governors 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 governors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards FRS102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the academy will continue in business.

The governors 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 governors 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 the ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

The governors 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 Governors on 13 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



S Moore

Chair of Governors

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PRIORS SCHOOL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Priors School (the charitable company) for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statement, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 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 The Priors School's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including 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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

In forming our opinion on the financial statements, which is not modified, we have considered the adequacy of the disclosure made in the Statement of Accounting Policies on page 23 concerning the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. The charitable company is reliant on the Education and Skills Funding Agency for the advancement of general annual grant and other grant funding. This funding will be withdrawn when The Priors School activities are expected to be transferred to The Warriner Multi Academy Trust on 1 March 2024.

This condition, together with the other matters set out in the Statement of Accounting Policies, indicates the existence of a material uncertainty which may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern in the longer term. For this reason the charitable company is preparing the accounts on a winding up basis and measuring assets and liabilities at their recoverable amounts. No material adjustments are required as a result of ceasing to apply the going concern basis.

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PRIORS SCHOOL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The governors are responsible for the other information contained within the financial statements. 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the governors' report (incorporating the Strategic Report, and the governors Report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the governors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the governors' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where 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 governors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or

Responsibilities of governors

As explained more fully in the governors' responsibilities statement set out on page 13, the governors 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 governors 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 governors are responsible for assessing the The Priors School'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 governors either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PRIORS SCHOOL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

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:

Based on our understanding of the The Priors School and the industry in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the acts by the The Priors School, which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations including fraud, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, Charities SORP 2019 and Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to inflated revenue and the The Priors School's net income for the year.

Audit procedures performed included: review of the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation, review of correspondence with and reports to the regulators, including correspondence with the Education and Skills Funding Agency review of correspondence with legal advisors, enquiries of management and review of internal audit reports in so far as they related to the financial statements, and testing of journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the governors that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above 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. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the academy trust's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the governors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the governors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the academy trust to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PRIORS SCHOOL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the The Priors School'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 The Priors School's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the The Priors School's and the The Priors School's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Malcolm Winston****Senior Statutory Auditor****UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP, Statutory Auditor****9-11 Vittoria Street****Birmingham****B1 3ND****13 December 2023**

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S AUDITOR'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE PRIORS SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 5 July 2023 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether, the expenditure disbursed and income received by the academy trust during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to The Priors School and the ESFA in accordance with our engagement letter. Our review has been undertaken so that we might state to the governing body and the ESFA those matters we are required to state to it 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 Priors School and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of The Priors School's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Priors School funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 9 December 2011, and the Academy Trust Handbook extant from 1 September 2022 for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

Summary of the work undertaken was as follows:

- Analytical review of the academy trust's general activities are within the academy trusts framework of authorities;
- Consideration of the evidence supporting the accounting officers statement on regularity, propriety and compliance;
- Review of the general control environment for the academy trust on financial statements and on regularity;
- Sample testing of expenditure transactions to ensure the activity is permissible within the academy trust's framework of authority;
- Confirmation that a sample of expenditure has been appropriately authorised in accordance with the academy trust's delegated authorities;

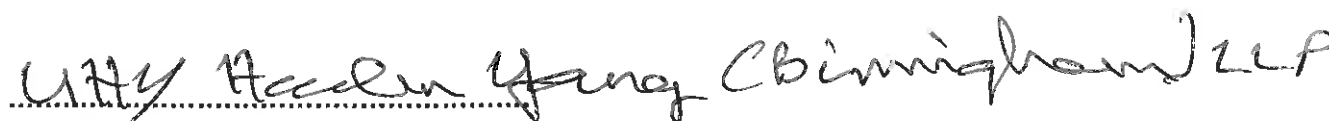
INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S AUDITOR'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE PRIORS SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

Approach (cont'd)

- Formal representations obtained from the board of governors and the accounting officer acknowledging the responsibilities including disclosing all non compliance with laws and regulations specific to the authorising framework;
- Confirmation that any extra contractual payments such as severance and compensation payments have been appropriately authorised;
- Review of credit card expenditure for any indication of personal use by staff, principal or governors;
- Review of specific terms of grant funding within the funding agreement;
- Review of related party transactions for connections with the principal/finance manager or governors;
- Review of income received in accordance with the activities permitted within the academy trust's charitable objectives.

Conclusion

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



Reporting Accountant

UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP

9-11 Vittoria Street

Birmingham

B1 3ND

13 December 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023
(Including Income and Expenditure Account)

		Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
	Note					
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	18	-	17	35	23
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for the academy trust's educational	4	-	608	-	608	598
Other trading activities	5	36	-	-	36	37
Investment income	6	-	-	-	-	-
Total		54	608	17	679	658
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	25	-	-	25	-
Charitable activities:						
- Academy trust's educational operations	7 & 8	-	687	32	719	728
Total	7	25	687	32	744	728
Net (expenditure)/income		29	(79)	(15)	(65)	(70)
Transfers between funds	15	(22)	22	-	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses						
Revaluation of land and buildings	12	-	-	-	-	722
Actuarial gain on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	57	-	57	327
Net movement in funds		7	-	(15)	(8)	979
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		24	-	1,645	1,669	690
Total funds carried forward	15	31	-	1,630	1,661	1,669

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

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	<u>1,628</u>	<u>1,637</u>
		<u>1,628</u>	<u>1,637</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	13	27	16
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>53</u>	<u>57</u>
		<u>80</u>	<u>73</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(47)</u>	<u>(41)</u>
Net current assets		<u>33</u>	<u>32</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		1,661	1,669
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>1,661</u>	<u>1,669</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	25	-	-
Total Net Assets		<u><u>1,661</u></u>	<u><u>1,669</u></u>
Funds of the Academy:			
Restricted funds			
- Fixed asset fund	15	1,630	1,645
- Restricted income fund	15	-	-
- Pension reserve	15	-	-
Total restricted funds		<u>1,630</u>	<u>1,645</u>
Unrestricted income fund	15	<u>31</u>	<u>24</u>
Total unrestricted funds		<u>31</u>	<u>24</u>
Total Funds		<u><u>1,661</u></u>	<u><u>1,669</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 20 to 39 were approved by the Governors and authorised for issue on 13 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



S Moore
Chair of Governors

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by by operating activities	19	2	34
Cash flows from investing activities	20	(6)	(10)
Cash flows from financing activities	21	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>(4)</u>	<u>24</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September	22	57	33
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	22	<u>53</u>	<u>57</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**1 Statement of Accounting Policies**

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

Basis of Preparation

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

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

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which the governors believe to be appropriate on the basis set out below. The governors consider whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the company to continue as a going concern. The governors make this assessment in respect of a period of greater than one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

The charitable company is reliant on the Education and Skills Funding Agency for its funding which is of a lagged nature. As at 31 August 2023 the charitable company had income reserves of £31,000. (2022: £24,000).

The governors assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the company to continue as a going concern. The governors 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 there are material uncertainties about the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern as it is expected that the assets and liabilities will be transferred to The Warriner Multi Academy Trust from 1 March 2024. For this reason the Academy Trust is preparing the financial statements on a winding up basis and measuring assets and liabilities at their recoverable amounts. No material adjustments are required as a result of ceasing to apply the going concern basis.

Income

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

- **Grants**

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

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

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

- **Sponsorship income**

Sponsorship income provided to the academy trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is receivable, where receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Income (cont'd)**

- **Donations**

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where there is certainty of receipt and the amount can be reliably measured.

- **Other income**

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

- **Donated goods, facilities and services**

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

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

- **Transfers of leasehold property**

Leasehold property transferred to the Academy from the local authority at little or no consideration will be revalued at fair value in accordance with FRS 102. This value will be recognised as incoming resources in the Statement of Financial Activities and will be included in the appropriate fixed assets category and depreciated over the life of the building.

- **Investment Income**

Interest receivable is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis, and is stated inclusive of related tax credits.

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.

- **Expenditure on Raising Funds**

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

- **Charitable Activities**

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

- **Governance Costs**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Tangible Fixed Assets (cont'd)****Tangible Fixed Assets**

Assets costing £150 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 a straight line or reducing balance basis on the cost of tangible fixed assets, to write them down to their estimated residual values over their expected useful lives. The principal annual rates used for assets are:

Leasehold buildings	2% straight line
Furniture and equipment	10% -25% reducing balance
Computer equipment and software	25% straight line

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use.

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.

Leased assets

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

Investments - not applicable unless trust has a subsidiary.

Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 13. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 14. 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.

Taxation

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Pensions Benefits**

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

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 trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. TPS is a multi employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers.

Consequently the TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a multi funded employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities.

The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to net income / (expenditure) are the current service costs and the costs of the 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.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the academy trust at the discretion of the governors. Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

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

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 25, 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)***Critical accounting estimates and assumptions (cont'd)***

The critical judgements that the Governors have made in the process of applying the Academy Trust's accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the statutory financial statements are discussed below:

The critical areas of judgement are accounting for government grants, accounting for the write down of assets through depreciation and accounting for the pension liability. Government grants are accounted for as restricted funds. The pension liability is assessed by an independent actuarial valuation. Depreciation rates are based on the expected life of the asset.

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**2 GENERAL ANNUAL GRANT (GAG)**

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023 (see note 15).

3 DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Devolved formula capital grant	-	5	5	5
Other ESFA capital grants	-	12	12	-
Voluntary donations	18	-	18	18
	<u>18</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>23</u>

The income from donations and capital grants was £35,000 (2022: £23,000) of which £18,000 (2022: £18,000) was unrestricted and £17,000 (2022: £5,000) restricted fixed assets.

4 FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY TRUST'S EDUCATIONAL

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG) (note 2)	-	471	471	469
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
Rates Relief	-	2	2	-
Pupil premium grant	-	15	15	15
PE & Sports Grant	-	17	17	17
UIFSM	-	14	14	14
KS1 and KS2 Phonics	-	-	-	1
School Led Tutoring Grant	-	2	2	1
Senior Mental Health Leads Grant	-	-	-	1
Mainstream Schools Additional Grant	-	6	6	-
Supplementary Grant	-	13	13	5
	<u>-</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>523</u>
Other Government grants				
High needs top up grant (WCC)	-	1	1	44
Nursery grant (WCC)	-	51	51	24
Mental Health Curriculum Funding (WCC)	-	-	-	1
Covid recovery grant (WCC)	-	1	1	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>69</u>
COVID-19 DfE/ESFA additional funding				
Recovery Premium	-	2	2	2
	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations				
	-	13	13	4
	<u>-</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>4</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>608</u>	<u>608</u>	<u>598</u>

The income from the academy trust's educational was £608,000 (2022: £598,000) of which £Nil (2022: £Nil) was unrestricted and £608,000 (2022: £598,000) was restricted.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

5 OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Nursery Income	8	-	8	12
Before and after school club income	21	-	21	14
School activities income	4	-	4	2
School lottery fundraising	-	-	-	1
Other miscellaneous income	3	-	3	8
	<u>36</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>37</u>

The income from other trading activities was unrestricted for both 2023 and 2022.

6 INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Bank interest received	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The income from the academy trusts' investment income was unrestricted for both 2023 and 2022.

7 EXPENDITURE

	Staff Costs £'000	Non Pay Expenditure		Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
		Premises £'000	Other Costs £'000		
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	-	-	5	5	-
- Allocated support costs	20	-	-	20	-
Academy's educational					
- Direct costs	423	-	51	474	487
- Allocated support costs	97	99	49	245	241
	<u>520</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>719</u>	<u>728</u>
	<u>540</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>744</u>	<u>728</u>

The expenditure was £744,000 (2022: £728,000) of which £25,000 (2022: £17,000) was unrestricted, £687,000 (2022: £658,000) restricted and £32,000 (2022: £53,000) restricted fixed assets.

	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Net (income)/expenditure for the year includes:		
Operating lease rentals	2	2
Depreciation	32	53
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- audit	6	5
- other services	2	2
	<u>40</u>	<u>62</u>

8 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Direct costs - educational	474	487
Support costs - educational	245	241
	<u>719</u>	<u>728</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

8 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (cont'd)

	Total	Total
	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Analysis of Support Costs		
Support staff costs	97	95
Technology costs	11	11
Depreciation	32	53
Premises costs	67	44
Other support costs	23	26
Governance	15	12
	245	241

9 STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
a Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	353	333
Social security costs	33	32
Pension costs	134	128
	520	493
Agency staff costs	20	26
	540	519

b Staff severance contractual and non contractual payments

The academy trust paid £Nil (2022: Nil) severance payments in the year.

c Special staff severance non contractual payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £Nil (2022 : £Nil). Individually, the payments were £Nil.

d Staff numbers

The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the academy during the year ended 31 August 2023 expressed as whole persons was as follows:

Charitable Activities	No	No
Teachers	5	5
Administration and support - including Teaching Assistants	8	11
Management	1	1

e Higher paid staff

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

	No	No
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1

f Key management personnel

The key management of the academy trust comprise the governors and the senior management team as listed on page 3. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £183,088 (2022: £185,243).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**10 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS - GOVERNORS' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES**

Head Teacher and other staff governors only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff and not in respect of their services as governors. Other governors did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the academy trust in respect of their role as governors. The value of the governors' remuneration was as follows.

R Emms (head teacher and governor)

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

Employers pension contributions	£15,000 - £20,000	(2022: £10,000 - £15,000)
---------------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------

During the year ended 31 August 2022 £87 (2022: £325) of expenses were reimbursed to R Emms in respect of expenses incurred as part of his role as Headteacher.

Other related party transactions including governors are set out in note 26.

11 GOVERNORS' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy has purchased insurance to protect governors' and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business.

The academy has entered into the ESFA's Risk Protection Arrangements and these arrangements include protection for governors and officers of the academy with cover up to £5,000,000. No separately identifiable premium for governors' and officers' protection is available for disclosure under these arrangements.

The cost of the insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

12 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Leasehold Interest in Land & Buildings £'000	Furniture & Equipment £'000	Computer Equipment £'000	Total £'000
Cost				
At 1 September 2022	1,614	114	74	1,802
Additions	16	3	4	23
At 31 August 2023	1,630	117	78	1,825
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2022	46	52	67	165
Charged in year	23	6	3	32
At 31 August 2023	69	58	70	197
Net book value				
At 31 August 2022	1,568	62	7	1,637
At 31 August 2023	1,561	59	8	1,628

The leasehold interest in land and buildings includes an amount of £475,000 (2022: £475,000) brought forward in respect of the original land and school premises, the use of which was gifted to the school by the Spencer family on condition that it is used for educational purposes. This has not been depreciated historically and is therefore subject to an annual impairment review.

13 DEBTORS

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
VAT recoverable	13	4
Other debtors	4	3
Prepayments and accrued income	10	9
	<u>27</u>	<u>16</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

14 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Trade creditors	11	9
Other taxation and social security	17	14
Accruals and deferred income	18	18
Other creditors	1	-
	<u>47</u>	<u>41</u>
Deferred Income		
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	10	8
Resources deferred in the year	8	10
Amounts released from previous years	(10)	(8)
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy was holding funds received in advance for 2023/24 for universal free school meals £8,553 (2022: £8,548) and School Trips £Nil (2022: £1,845).

15 FUNDS

The income funds of the academy comprise the following balances of grants to be applied for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £'000	Incoming Resources £'000	Resources Expended £'000	Gains, Losses & Transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General annual grant (GAG) (note i)	-	471	(491)	20	-
Pupil premium grant (note iii)	-	15	(15)	-	-
PE & sports grant (note ii)	-	17	(17)	-	-
UIFSM (note ii)	-	14	(14)	-	-
Supplementary grant (note ii)	-	13	(13)	-	-
Mainstream schools additional grant (note ii)	-	6	(6)	-	-
National tutoring programme grant (note ii)	-	2	(2)	-	-
Rates relief (note ii)	-	2	(2)	-	-
Covid recovery premium (note ii)	-	2	(2)	-	-
High needs grants - WCC (note v)	-	1	(1)	-	-
Nursery 3&4 Year Olds - WCC (note v)	-	51	(51)	-	-
Other LA grants - WCC (note v)	-	1	(1)	-	-
School trips Income (note vi)	-	13	(15)	2	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>608</u>	<u>(630)</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>-</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE/ESFA capital grants (note vii)	1,363	17	(30)	-	1,350
Private sector capital sponsorship (note viii)	258	-	-	-	258
Other capital grants - PET (note vii)	19	-	(2)	-	17
Capital expenditure from unrestricted funds (note vii)	5	-	-	-	5
Total restricted funds	<u>1,645</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>(32)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,630</u>
Restricted pension scheme liability					
Pension reserve (note ix)	-	-	(57)	57	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(57)</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>-</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>1,645</u>	<u>625</u>	<u>(719)</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>1,630</u>
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted funds (note x)	24	54	(25)	(22)	31
Total unrestricted funds	<u>24</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>(25)</u>	<u>(22)</u>	<u>31</u>
Total funds	<u>1,669</u>	<u>679</u>	<u>(744)</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>1,661</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

15 FUNDS (cont'd)

Notes

- i) General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the academy. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it would carry forward at 31 August 2023 (see note 2).
- ii) Grants received from the ESFA used to support the academy trust.
- iii) Pupil premium are funds paid to disadvantaged pupils.
- iv) The general fund represents the general funds held within the Academy's voluntary fund.
- v) Other grants are grants received from the local authority for special educational needs.
- vi) Other grants received from Priors Education Trust to subsidise staff and trip costs.
- vii) Fixed asset funds include capital grants, additions and depreciation.
- viii) Private sector capital sponsorship includes fixed assets funded by the private sector prior to the Academy obtaining free school status.
- ix) The pension reserve is the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme (see note 25).
- x) Unrestricted funds include voluntary payments made to the Academy and spent at the discretion of the trustees.

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £'000	Incoming Resources £'000	Resources Expended £'000	Gains, Losses & Transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General annual grant (GAG) (note i)	-	469	(476)	7	-
Pupil premium grant (note iii)	-	15	(15)	-	-
PE & Sports Grant (note ii)	-	17	(17)	-	-
UIFSM (note ii)	-	14	(16)	2	-
Supplementary Grant (note ii)	-	5	(5)	-	-
KS2 Moderation and KS1 Phonics (note ii)	-	1	(1)	-	-
School Led Tutoring Grant (note ii)	-	1	(1)	-	-
Senior Mental Health Leads Grant (note ii)	-	1	(1)	-	-
Recovery Premium (note ii)	-	2	(2)	-	-
High Needs grants - WCC (note v)	-	44	(44)	-	-
Nursery 3&4 Year Olds - WCC (note v)	-	24	(24)	-	-
Mental Health Curriculum Funding - WCC (note v)	-	1	(1)	-	-
School Trips Income (note vi)	-	4	(4)	-	-
	-	598	(607)	9	-
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE/ESFA capital grants (note vii)	900	5	(51)	509	1,363
Private sector capital sponsorship (note viii)	45	-	-	213	258
Other capital grants - PET (note vii)	21	-	(2)	-	19
Capital expenditure from unrestricted funds (note vii)	-	-	-	5	5
Total restricted funds	966	5	(53)	727	1,645
Restricted pension scheme liability					
Pension reserve (note ix)	(276)	-	(51)	327	-
	(276)	-	(51)	327	-
Total restricted funds	690	603	(711)	1,063	1,645
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted funds (note x)	-	55	(17)	(14)	24
Total unrestricted funds	-	55	(17)	(14)	24
Total funds	690	658	(728)	1,049	1,669

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

16 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted	Pension	General	Fixed Assets	
	Funds	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Total
	£'000	Funds	Funds	Funds	£'000
		£'000	£'000	£'000	
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	1,628	1,628
Current assets	31	-	47	2	80
Current liabilities	-	-	(47)	-	(47)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	-	-
	31	-	-	1,630	1,661

Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:

	Unrestricted	Pension	General	Fixed Assets	
	Funds	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Total
	£'000	Funds	Funds	Funds	£'000
		£'000	£'000	£'000	
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	1,637	1,637
Current assets	24	-	41	8	73
Current liabilities	-	-	(41)	-	(41)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	-	-
	24	-	-	1,645	1,669

17 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements

Authorised by governors, but not yet contracted

2023	2022
Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil

18 COMMITMENTS UNDER OPERATING LEASES**Operating leases**

At 31 August 2023 the total of the Academy Trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases which expire:

	2023	2022
	Other	Other
	£'000	£'000
Operating leases which expire:		
- Within one year	2	2
- Within two to five years	2	4
	4	6

19 RECONCILIATION OF NET DEFICIT TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Net deficit for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(65)	(70)
Adjusted for:		
Interest received	-	-
Depreciation (note 12)	32	53
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(17)	(5)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 25)	57	46
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 25)	-	5
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(11)	1
Increase in creditors	6	4
Net cash provided by operating activities	2	34

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000	
20 CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Interest received	-	-	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(23)	(15)	
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	17	5	
Net cash used in investing activities	(6)	(10)	
21 CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Repayments of borrowing	-	-	
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	-	
Net cash provided by financing activities	-	-	
22 ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	At 31 Aug 2022 £'000	At 31 Aug 2022 £'000	
Cash in hand and at bank	53	57	
Total cash and cash equivalents	53	57	
23 ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT	At 1 September 2022 £'000	Cash Flows £'000	At 31 Aug 2023 £'000
Cash at bank	57	(4)	53
	57	(4)	53

24 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.

25 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS

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

The total pension cost to the Academy during the year ended 31 August 2023 was £134,000 (2022: £128,000) of which £55,000 (2022: £54,000) relates to the TPS and £79,000 (2022: £74,000) relates to LGPS.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS to the period ended 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £8,851 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022: £8,276) and are included within other creditors.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**25 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (cont'd)****Teachers' Pension Scheme****Introduction**

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for 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 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 5 March 2019. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% 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.

The employer's costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £55,000 (2022: £54,000).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the [Teachers' Pensions website](#).

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee administered funds. The total contributions made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £29,000 (2022: £32,000) of which employers contributions totalled £22,000 (2022: £23,000) and employees contributions totalled £7,000 (2022: £9,000). The agreed contributions for future years are 18.5% (2022 : 18.5%) for employers and 6.5% (2022 : 6.5%) for employees.

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

25 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (cont'd)

Principal Actuarial Assumptions	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2022
The major assumptions used by the actuary were:	% per annum	% per annum
Discount rate	5.2%	4.3%
Salary increases	4.0%	3.9%
Pension increase	3.0%	3.1%

Sensitivity analysis for the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities were as follows:

	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2022	At 31 August 2022
	Approx. % Increase to	Approx. £'000	Approx. % Increase	Approx. £'000
Discount rate reduced by 0.1% per annum	3%	9	3%	10
Assumed pension increased by 0.1% per annum	3%	9	3%	9
One years increase in members life expectancy	4%	13	4%	13

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvement in mortality rates.

The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	2023	2022
	years	years
Longevity at age 65 retiring today		
- Men	21.3	21.6
- Women	24.4	24.1
Longevity at age 65 retiring in 20 years		
- Men	22.1	22.7
- Women	25.9	25.9

The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	Fair value at 31 August 2023	Fair value at 31 August 2022
	£'000	£'000
Equity instruments	220	197
Bonds	95	89
Property	61	36
Cash	4	7
Total market value of assets	380	329
Present value of scheme liabilities		
- Funded	(380)	(329)
- Unfunded	-	-
Total liabilities	(380)	(329)
Deficit in the scheme	-	-

The actual return on the scheme assets in the year was a deficit of £3,000 (2022: £14,000 deficit).

Amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Current service cost	79	69
Interest income	(15)	(5)
Interest cost	15	10
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	79	74

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

25 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (cont'd)

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Changes in deficit during the year		
Deficit in the scheme at 1 September 2022	-	276
Movement in year:		
- Employer service cost (net of employee contributions)	79	69
- Employer contributions	(22)	(23)
- Expected return on scheme assets	(15)	(5)
- Interest cost	15	10
- Actuarial gains	(57)	(327)
Deficit in the scheme at 31 August 2023	-	-

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Scheme liabilities at 1 September 2022	329	587
Current service cost	79	69
Interest cost	15	10
Contributions by scheme participants	7	9
Actuarial gains	(50)	(346)
Scheme liabilities at 31 August 2023	380	329

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

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Fair value of scheme assets at 1 September 2022	329	311
Expected return on scheme assets	15	5
Actuarial gains/(losses)	7	(19)
Contributions by employer	22	23
Contributions by scheme participants	7	9
Fair value of scheme assets at 31 August 2023	380	329

The estimated value of employer contributions for the year ended 31 August 2024 is £23,000 (2023 : £23,000).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**26 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Owing to the nature of the academy trust's and the composition of the board of governors being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the board of governors may have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

J Richards is a trustee of the Priors Education Trust and The Priors School received donations during the year totalling £2,693 (2022: £3,967). The balance outstanding at 31 August 2023 was £Nil (2022: £Nil).

K Emms is a spouse to R Emms who is the Head Teacher and Accounting Officer of the Priors Education Trust and received £Nil (2022: £300) for Forest School Provision teaching cover.

No other related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain governors' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 10.

In entering into the transactions the trust has complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

27 EVENTS AFTER THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD

The Priors School educational operations and activities are expected to be transferred to The Warriner Multi Academy Trust on 1 March 2024.