

Company Registration Number: 07524069 (England & Wales)

**THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

**THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL**  
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**Reference and Administrative Details**

**Members** Mr S Baines  
Mr R Lindop  
Ms E Sheppard (appointed 14 October 2024)  
Mr R Nicoll

**Governors** Mr R Lindop, Chair<sup>1</sup>  
Mr J McNamara, Head Teacher<sup>1</sup>  
Mr J Blackwell (resigned 22 July 2024)<sup>1</sup>  
Mr T Harris<sup>1</sup>  
Mr S Chopra<sup>1</sup>  
Mr I Jarvis (resigned 22 July 2024)<sup>1</sup>  
Mrs S Dixon  
Ms S Hussain  
Mr P McCrea (resigned 13 December 2023)<sup>1</sup>  
Mr J Minton<sup>1</sup>  
Mrs E Page (resigned 22 July 2024)  
Mr B Payne  
Ms C Robertson (resigned 22 July 2024)  
Ms A Vincent  
Mr H Lloyd<sup>1</sup>  
Mr S Black (appointed 14 October 2024)  
Ms L Davison (appointed 14 October 2024)  
Mr M Rees (appointed 14 October 2024)  
Ms J Travis (appointed 14 October 2024)

<sup>1</sup> Members of the Finance and Resources Committee

**Company registered number** 07524069

**Company name** The Ecclesbourne School

**Principal and registered office** Wirksworth Road  
Duffield  
Belper  
Derbyshire  
DE56 4GS

**Company secretary** Mrs L Brannan

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**Reference and Administrative Details (continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

**Senior management  
team**

Mr J McNamara, Head Teacher  
Mrs C Ourabi, Deputy Head Teacher, Head of Pastoral Care, Safeguarding and Behaviour  
Mrs P Owen-Moore, Deputy Head Teacher, Head of Lower School  
Mrs H Green, Assistant Head and Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion  
Mr D Duncker-Brown, Deputy Head Teacher, Head of Upper School  
Mrs H Weller, Assistant Head and Head of Sixth Form  
Mr D Tanser, Assistant Head, Head of Learning Services (retired 30 April 2024)  
Mrs K Taylor, Assistant Head and Head of Curriculum  
Mr A Hardy, Director of ICT and Data  
Mrs E Scullion, Chief Financial Officer  
Mr S Carnwell, Assistant Head, Head of Enrichment

**Independent auditors**

PKF Smith Cooper Audit Limited  
Statutory Auditors  
2 Lace Market Square  
Nottingham  
NG1 1PB



**THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL**  
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**Governors' Report**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

The Governors present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Governors' report and a directors' report under company law. The academy is for pupils aged 11 to 18 serving a catchment area north of Derby. It has a pupil capacity of 1,603 and current number on roll is 1566 (at 4 September 2024 school census).

**Structure, governance and management**

**a. Constitution**

The Academy is a charitable company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity.

The charitable company's Memorandum of Association is the primary governing document of the Academy.

Mr R Lindop is a Member and also a Governor of the charitable company. All Governors are Trustees for the purposes of charity legislation.

The charitable company is known as The Ecclesbourne School.

Details of the Governors who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

**b. 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.

**c. Governors' indemnities**

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

**d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Governors**

The management of the Academy is the responsibility of the Governors who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Trust deed. In accordance with our Articles of Association, the members may appoint up to 12 governors. Members may also appoint staff governors. Parent governors are elected by parents of registered pupils at the academy. Where the Governors identify vacancies, they agree the required skills, experience and knowledge in order to start the recruitment process. All Governors remain in control of the process and decisions but may delegate some of the work to a sub-group of Governors. Prior to appointment, potential new Governors are appropriately vetted in line with the Trust's safeguarding and recruitment policies.

**e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Governors**

The Governors are offered training throughout their tenure in office to assist them in meeting their statutory obligations and duties. In addition, all new Governors are signposted to a training provider (NGA). All Governors are given a tour of the Academy and the chance to meet with staff and students. All Governors are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Governors within a charitable company.

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**Governors' Report (continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

**f. Organisational structure**

The Head Teacher is the Accounting Officer. The Governors are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the Academy by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the Academy, and the appointment of senior leaders. The Governors are responsible for the monitoring and performance of the Head Teacher.

The Strategic Leadership Team members for the Academy are listed on the Reference and Administrative Details page. These leaders control the Academy at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the Governors and reporting back to them on the success of the policies.

As a group the Strategic Leadership Team are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets according to the Financial Scheme of Delegation and for the appointment of staff. Some spending control is devolved to individual budget holders who have responsibility for the line management of individual functions within the school structure, with limits above which the Head Teacher must countersign.

Governors' sub committees report back to the Full Governing Board at each FGB meeting.

**g. Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel**

The pay policy does not discriminate between key management personnel and the other staff and is based on performance management in line with pupil progress and outcomes. The main parameters used for setting key management personnel salaries are national guidance, job responsibilities and experience. All pay rises including SLT are signed off at Governors Pay Committee.

**h. Trade union facility time**

**Relevant union officials**

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the year	1
Full-time equivalent employee number	1

**Percentage of time spent on facility time**

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	-
1%-50%	1
51%-99%	-
100%	-
<b>Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time</b>	<b>£</b>
Total cost of facility time	7,042
Total pay bill	7,750,068
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	0.09 %

**Paid trade union activities**

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	-	%
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**THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL**  
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**Governors' Report (continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

**Objectives and activities**

**a. Objects and aims**

The Ecclesbourne School's object and aim is to advance, for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a school offering a broad and balanced curriculum. In pursuit of this object, its principal activity is to operate The Ecclesbourne School in Duffield, Derbyshire, which caters for all abilities between the ages of 11 and 18.

**b. Objectives, strategies and activities**

The Ecclesbourne School strives to be a successful and caring learning community in which individuals are inspired to meet the challenges of the future.

All members of our School Community should:

- Acquire the knowledge and skills for now and for a fulfilling future
- Develop confidence in themselves and their abilities
- Feel valued and value others
- Work together effectively and with enthusiasm
- Create an innovative learning environment
- Appreciate the world at large

The School Community includes everyone who learns and works within the school and all those with a supportive interest in the school.

**c. Public benefit**

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the Governors have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The Ecclesbourne School is a non selective, non fee paying secondary school and as such operates entirely for the public benefit. In addition to striving for and achieving the highest of educational standards and attainment for all its students, it also engages in partnership, working with other local secondary schools, especially with regard to effective operation of inclusion measures and systems.

The school has developed strong links with the local community. The school actively engages in charity work through a range of themed activities and days throughout the year.

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**Governors' Report (continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

**Strategic report**

**Achievements and performance**

**a. Key performance indicators**

The Governors have reviewed the significant activities undertaken by the charitable company during the past year to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit. Below is a review of these significant activities and achievements. The academy has performed above national level in all areas where national figures are available. Objectives for the 24-25 academic year are set out in the "Plans for future periods" section.

**Examination results**

**GCSE:**

- Attainment 8 Score 57.61 (National: 46.2)
- Progress 8 Score +0.42
- 86% of students achieved a 4 (C) or better in both English and Mathematics (National: 65%)
- 70% of students achieved a 5 or better in both English and Mathematics (National: 45%)
- 83% of our students secured 5 or more GCSEs at 9-4 (A\*-C) or better in both English and Mathematics
- 64% of students entered the English Baccalaureate (National: 39.8%)
- 52% of students achieved the English Baccalaureate 9-4 (National: 24%)
- 38% of students achieved the English Baccalaureate 9-5 (National: 17%)
- 34% of grades were at 9-7(A\*-A)

**A LEVEL:**

- 80% of students gained A\*-C grades
- 60% of students gained A\*-B grades
- 30% of students gained A\*-A grades

**b. Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Governors has a reasonable expectation that the Academy has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

**c. Review by OFSTED**

The School was inspected by OFSTED in September 2023. The outcome of the review was as follows:

- Overall effectiveness – good
- The quality of education – good
- Behaviour and attitudes – requires improvement
- Personal development – good
- Leadership and management – good
- Sixth form provision – good

Please see the "Plans for future periods" section for commentary on how we plan to address the matters raised in the report.

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**Governors' Report (continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

**Strategic report (continued)**

**Financial review**

The Academy's main funding source is the General Annual Grant (GAG) received monthly from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). The Academy also generates additional income through interest income and teacher release. Revenue funding is mainly used to employ educational staff and procure educational resources for the school and its pupils.

The Academy's financial position at the end of the period shows funds of £26,223,870; including £21,712,965 of restricted fixed asset funds, £397,916 general unrestricted funds and £4,112,989 restricted funds.

Additional grant income was received during the year to assist with rising costs to the academy. The number and mix of trips offered by the academy changed year on year, leading to a decrease in trip income and corresponding expenditure. Areas where expenditure increased most were teaching staff costs, following nationally agreed pay increases, utilities costs, site maintenance costs and examination fees.

During the year the academy continued to invest in laptops for all students, as well as updating and maintaining the school estate.

**a. Reserves policy**

The policy of the Academy is to maintain a sufficient surplus to uphold the following year's budget against financial uncertainty and then to transfer recognised surpluses to reserves for investment in tangible fixed assets in all ways possible to assist our tutorial staff to achieve increasing academic standards. The Academy has a number of restricted funds, details of which can be found in note 19 of the financial statements.

**b. Material investments policy**

The Academy seeks to invest surplus funds in a manner to obtain the best possible return consistent with prudent minimisation of risk and with the strategic plans of the Academy for deployment of resources. The Academy is committed to investment with reputable and ethical investors.

**c. Principal risks and uncertainties**

There are a number of factors which may affect the principal risks and uncertainties that the Academy faces and how the Academy intends to resolve them.

- Change in government policy: with a change in government or change in government policy, the funding of the Academy may change and may in the future reduce funding. This is mitigated by building healthy unrestricted reserves, which may be used in times where funding has been tightened.
- The overall performance of the students: this is a continuing risk to the Academy since both funding, student numbers and positioning of the Academy is affected if performance of the students declines. To ensure that this is limited as much as possible, the Academy intends to retain the teaching staff, focus on training of all staff to improve teaching and learning and to continuously monitor student performance at an early stage of their educational development and ensure that they are nurtured to achieve the best possible standard that each individual can achieve.
- Operate the Academy within the budget: there is always the risk of operating above budget constraints.

The main 'financial instruments' that the Ecclesbourne School deals with are bank balances, cash and trade creditors, with limited trade and other debtors. These are not material to the assessment of the Academy's assets, liabilities, financial position and its results.

The academy's estate is reviewed at each meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee to ensure that the estate is safe, well maintained, and complies with relevant regulations.

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**Governors' Report (continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

**Fundraising**

The Academy does not use any external fundraisers. The Academy holds Non-uniform Days to raise funds for both internal and external projects. External fundraising has been undertaken for projects such as Comic Relief. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the Trustees.

**Plans for future periods**

Whole School Improvement Plan for 2024-2025

**1. Behaviour For Learning**

The main priority of the school in the academic year 2024-2025 is to ensure the highest standards of behaviour and safety through consistent and effective implementation of the behaviour procedure by all staff. To review communication, alertness, and response to behaviour incidents by individual staff, the Faculty Leadership Teams and Pastoral Leadership Teams so that students know with certainty what the consequences will be when they do not meet behaviour expectations and abide by the 4 Cs: Courtesy, Commitment, Co-operation, and Community.

**2. Safeguarding, Wellbeing & Staying Safe**

According to the guidance set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024) we will ensure that safeguarding is effective and that there is a strong culture of safeguarding that pervades the school. The pastoral leadership team will lead by example, ensuring that all staff are held accountable, and will work from the notion that it could happen here. The Senior Leaders will hold pastoral leaders to account for the impact of their work. The Designated Safeguarding Leader working alongside the Head Teacher will assure themselves accurately about the effectiveness of the school's arrangements to safeguard pupils and feedback regularly to the Governing Body. The Pastoral Leadership Team will have a suitable understanding of statutory guidance and their responsibilities to keep pupils safe. We will work hard to ensure that students are confident about reporting bullying and harassment and that it will be effectively followed-up and resolved. We will always follow up safeguarding concerns when they arise and work with external providers where appropriate.

**3. Teaching & Learning**

- Ensure teaching is informed by effective and regular assessment that identifies gaps in prior learning.
- All teachers and teaching assistants use formative feedback (viz Dylan Wiliam) to support students to make incremental improvements.
- All subject areas review their assessment criteria and display it prominently in classrooms and in student exercise books and folders.
- Ensure excellent behaviour for learning through consistent application of the Behaviour Procedure by all staff.
- Ensure effective deployment of teaching assistants and adaptation of teaching so that all students are able to make progress.

**4. Student Progress: KS3, KS4 and KS5**

Across three key stages we will ensure all students are equipped to achieve their potential and that gaps in achievement are narrowed. In practical terms this means students at KS3 achieving their Minimum Expected Targets (MET) which are based on progress in the top 20% of students nationally. At KS4 this means GCSE outcomes in line with FFT targets and at A Level, in line with ALPS target grades.

**5. Curriculum & SEND**

- The delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum that develops the knowledge and skills pupils need to thrive now and for a fulfilling future.
- Effective adaptation to ensure all students are able to access a broad curriculum.
- Development of pupils' resilience and confidence in themselves and their capacity for growth.
- Ensuring pupils feel valued, value others, and learn to work together to make a positive contribution.
- Ensuring pupils stay safe and healthy in mind and body.
- Developing creativity in an innovative learning environment.
- Appreciating the: spiritual, moral, social, and cultural richness of the world at large.
- Appreciation of reading in subject areas and especially English, the Library and in DEAL sessions in PDC.



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**Governors' Report (continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

**Plans for future periods (continued)**

**6. Pupil Premium Strategy**

To ensure that the PP strategy is delivered so that students in receipt of the Pupil Premium achieve at least expected progress, that gaps in achievement between PP and non-PP students are closed and that PP students are supported to access all the opportunities that the school offers in curricular and extra-curricular terms.

**7. Ensuring Excellent Attendance**

Implement systems, procedures, and practices to embed the requirements outlined in the DFE "Working together to improve school attendance" document.

**8. Student Voice/Student Council**

- To ensure students of all ages have access to positions of student leadership.
- To ensure students of all ages have their voice heard and regular opportunities to be heard by the school's leadership and Heads of Faculty.
- To improve the quality of teaching and learning, behaviour, and safety through response to student voice.

**9. PDC and Relationships & Sex Education**

To develop policy and practice so that Relationships & Sex Education is fully compliant with statutory requirements and adapted for delivery via PDC lessons, assembly, and form time through centrally produced and delivered curriculum. To ensure PDC continues to be an effective well-planned curriculum with a range of opportunities and responsibilities for students. To ensure students understand the issues surrounding homophobic and other discriminatory language and that it is not tolerated in school. Students receive the information they need at the right time. To ensure the school's curriculum supports pupils to develop an appropriate understanding of the safeguarding risks they may face

**10. Communication and Remote Learning Strategy**

- To ensure that the school is prepared for disruption so that stakeholders are well informed and remote learning is facilitated.
- To dramatically improve staff access to communication and ability to use SIMS remotely through roll-out of staff mobiles.
- To future-proof and secure communication by moving telephony to a cloud-based system.

**11. Compliance & Website**

To ensure the whole school policy, practice and risk registers are compliant, up to date and fit for purpose.

**12. Early Careers Framework (ECF) Strategy, Implementation and Initial Teacher Training (ITT)**

- To operate the Early Careers Framework in partnership with the Potentia Teaching Hub ensuring access and support for two-year induction and ongoing career development support.
- To re-establish our ITT involvement both building on and forming new relationships with ITT providers including Derby University and Landau Forte SCITT.

**13. Facilities Master Plan**

- To develop the plans for replacement of D Block with a state-of-the-art Technology teaching facility housed in a new two-story building.
- To deliver improvements to existing facilities given that start date of the replacement is likely 2028.
- To increase pastoral capacity through refurbishment and remodeling of LSO and ICT/Facilities Office.

**14. Leadership & Governance – External Review of Governance/ SAT/MAT Strategy**

- To ensure the school is well led and managed and is held to account and challenged by its Governors including implementing recommendations of external independent review of governance and review of the articles of association and scheme of delegation.

**15. Staff wellbeing**

- To ensure that staff feel supported, valued, and listened to in their role so that they are able to perform their job to the best of their ability.

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**Governors' Report (continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

**Plans for future periods (continued)**

16. CPD & Partnership Development
  - To ensure that the school has access to the highest quality CPD, the school will review its working partnerships to maximise the opportunities for school-school collaboration and in-house cooperation.
17. CPD (In House)
  - The school's CPD plan is aligned the school improvement aims and its impact is robustly evaluated.

**Funds held as custodian on behalf of others**

The Academy does not hold any Custodian Trustee funds on behalf of others.

**Disclosure of information to auditors**

Insofar as the Governors are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and
- that 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 auditors are aware of that information.

The Governors' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Governors, as the company directors, on *9 Dec 2024* and signed on its behalf by:

  
**Mr R Lindop**  
Chair of Governors



**THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL**  
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**Governance Statement**

**Scope of responsibility**

As Governors, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Academy 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 Academy 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**

This year the full Governing Body (FGB) met four times for scheduled meetings. In addition, the Finance, Audit & Resources Committee meets four times a year. The Personnel Committee and the Students & Curriculum Committee each meet four times every year. The FGB receives minutes and reports from each committee to which it delegates governance functions in accordance with the governance scheme of delegation and the terms of reference for committees. In addition, the Admissions Committee meet twice a year and the Pay Committee meets once. The Staff Employment Committee and Student Discipline Committee meet as necessary. There have been no key changes in the composition of the board in during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Governors was as follows:

Governor	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr R Lindop, Chair	4	4
Mr J McNamara, Head Teacher	3	4
Mr J Blackwell	2	4
Mr T Harris	4	4
Mr S Chopra	4	4
Mr I Jarvis	3	4
Mrs S Dixon	4	4
Ms S Hussain	4	4
Mr P McCrea	2	2
Mr J Minton	4	4
Mrs E Page	1	4
Mr B Payne	3	4
Ms C Robertson	2	4
Ms A Vincent	3	4
Mr H Lloyd	2	4

Whilst the full board have met less than six times during the year it has maintained effective oversight through its committees which report to the FGB. The management accounts are shared with all governors monthly and scrutinised at 4 FGB meetings and a further 4 Finance, Audit & Resources Committee meetings. The Trustees receive monthly management accounts. They also receive information on all relevant areas at the regular committee meetings. The management accounts are prepared by SAAF Education who are a leading provider of business support services in education.

**Governance reviews**

The Academy has regular external governance reviews. The final report from the latest external governance review was received in September 2024. The outcomes of the reviews are discussed by Trustees and any recommendations are acted upon.

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**Governance Statement (continued)**

**Governance (continued)**

It was found that the school takes its governance responsibilities seriously and is largely delivering effective governance. Main recommendations were that:

- 1) The development of a long-term Strategic Plan should be a high priority for the new academic year and clear and challenging milestones for the development of this Strategic Plan be identified and committed to. This Strategic Plan will have the potential to meaningfully impact upon the governance activity of the Board.
- 2) Meetings of the Members should no longer be chaired by the Chair of the Board of Trustees to ensure that there are no structural accountability issues that might be risk being perceived as compromising the Members' ability to credibly perform its role of assessing whether the Board of Trustees is performing well.
- 3) Members should give consideration to starting to convene a second meeting each year in order to provide an opportunity to have some more expansive and reflective discussions than are feasible within the confines of the current AGM format. This will enable the Members to play a more active role in contributing to the effectiveness of the Trust's governance.
- 4) The educational expertise and capacity of the composition of the Board of Trustees is less well developed and the Board would benefit from additional expert Trustee capacity in this area that can lead the Board and set the tone in holding the executive to account for educational performance.
- 5) Future Trustee recruitment should be seen as an opportunity to mitigate against the risks of group think and insularity by ensuring that the Board membership is periodically refreshed with genuinely new blood from outside of the school's immediate own community.
- 6) The Board should introduce limits on the total number of terms of office that can be served by a Trustee so that there is a more continuous process of renewal of the Board.
- 7) The Trust CFO's attendance and participation in Board meetings is highly recommended to ensure that the key executive leaders of the Trust can be seen to be working proactively with those responsible for governance to establish effective reporting, robust challenge and accountability.
- 8) Board meeting agendas should be organised with a view to facilitating the Board to spend more time in a strategic mode.
- 9) The Board should become actively engaged in securing a succession for the role of Chair, which process should be approached by way of a staged process to be completed within the next two academic years at the latest and it is therefore recommended that momentum must be gained in terms of succession planning early in the 2024/25 academic year.
- 10) The Strategic Oversight Committee should now be disbanded and the Terms of Reference updated to this effect, with the Committee's responsibilities for developing medium and long-term strategic objectives for the school and scrutinising and maintaining oversight of the school's strategic plans retained by the full Board.
- 11) The Governance Professional's limited capacity and bandwidth to contribute to aspects of the role of a Governance Professional other than clerking should be enhanced, including enabling her to develop a more comprehensive induction programme for new Trustees that will support the more rapid and authentic integration of new Trustees into the Board team.
- 12) The Board should consider retaining the reviewer to carry out an interim progress review in around six months with a view to ensuring that a good level of momentum is generated in respect of each of these recommendations.

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**Governance Statement (continued)**

**Governance (continued)**

**Conflicts of interest**

The Ecclesbourne School is committed to ensuring that its decisions and decision-making processes are and are seen to be in the best interest of the School at all times, and do not unfairly benefit any individual connected to the School. A conflict of interest policy is in place that sets out the guidelines and procedures for identifying, monitoring, and managing actual and potential or perceived conflicts of interest and has been adopted to ensure that:

- the school's activities and those of its governors, staff and volunteers are, and are seen to be, conducted to the highest standards of ethics and integrity, and
- the individuals to whom the policy applies are able to recognise activities that might give rise to conflicts of interest or the perception of conflicts of interests, declare any conflict that may arise, and manage all arising conflicts, so that such conflicts do not affect the decision making of the school.

**Finance, Audit and Resources Committee**

The Finance, Audit & Resources Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Governors. Its purpose is to oversee the financial affairs of the Academy on behalf of the Governing Board. There were no specific matters dealt with by the committee during the year which are necessary to disclose. There were no significant changes made to the composition of the committee during the period.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Governor	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr T Harris	4	4
Mr J McNamara, Head Teacher	3	4
Mr J Blackwell	3	4
Mr S Chopra	4	4
Mr I Jarvis (Chair from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024)	2	4
Mr R Lindop	4	4
Mr P McCrea	2	2
Mr J Minton	4	4
Mr H Lloyd (Chair from 1 September 2024)	4	4

**Review of value for money**

As Accounting Officer, the Head Teacher has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Accounting Officer considers how the Academy'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.

To ensure value for money in purchasing and procurement each Governor's sub-committee has "Benchmarking" as a standing item. The Finance and Resources Committee keeps expenditure items under review and receives a budget report detailing where savings can be made. This includes careful consideration of curriculum and staffing. For building and refurbishment projects across the academy estate, a comprehensive quotation and competitive tendering process is followed to ensure best value, and to ensure that the estate remains safe, maintained, and compliant with relevant regulations. Different options have been considered before making purchases, including an assessment of the costs and benefits of the alternatives over the longer term.

**THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Governance Statement (continued)**

**The purpose of the system of internal control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy 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 Academy for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

**Capacity to handle risk**

The Board of Governors has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy 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's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Governors.

**The risk and control framework**

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Governors
- regular reviews by the Finance, Audit & Resources Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- identification and management of risks

The Board of Governors employed Browne Jacobson LLP to carry out an internal audit review during the year.

The Academy decided to buy in an internal audit service from Browne Jacobson LLP as it was thought to be the most effective way to carry out the work required, and they have previous experience in this area.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice and performing a range of checks on the Academy's External Governance review systems. In particular the checks carried out in the current period included:

- External governance review

On an annual basis, the internal auditor reports to the Board of Governors through the Finance, Audit & Resources Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Governors' responsibilities. This report outlines the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess progress.

Browne Jacobson LLP has delivered their schedule of work as planned, and no material control issues were identified.

**THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Governance Statement (continued)**

**Review of effectiveness**

As Accounting Officer, 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 internal auditor;
- the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework;
- the work of the external auditors;
- correspondence from 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, Audit & Resources Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

**Conclusion**

Based on the advice of the Finance, Audit & Resources Committee and the Accounting Officer, the Board of Governors is of the opinion that the Academy has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Governors on  
on their behalf by:

9 Dec 2024

and signed

  
**Mr R Lindop**  
Chair of Governors

  
**Mr J McNamara, Head Teacher**  
Accounting Officer

**THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance**

As Accounting Officer of the Academy I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Board of Governors and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the Academy, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of The Academy Trust Handbook 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

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

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



**Mr J McNamara, Head Teacher**

Accounting Officer

Date: 9/12/24



**THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Statement of Governors' responsibilities**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

The Governors (who 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 Academies Accounts Direction published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the 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:

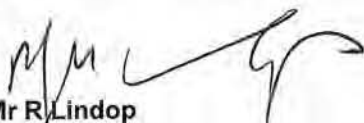
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting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

The 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 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 and signed on its behalf by:

  
**Mr R Lindop**  
Chair of Governors  
Date: 9 Dec 2024

**THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of The Ecclesbourne School**

**Opinion**

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

**Basis for opinion**

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

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

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

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

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



**THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of The Ecclesbourne School**  
**(continued)**

**Other information**

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Governors' Responsibilities Statement, the Governors (who are also the directors of the Academy for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the 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 Academy's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Governors either intend to liquidate the Academy or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of The Ecclesbourne School**  
**(continued)**

**Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. Based on our understanding of the industry, we identify key laws and regulations affecting the Academy. 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 Academy and industry, key laws and regulations that we identified included the Companies Act, Charities SORP and guidance included within the Academy Trust Handbook and Academies Accounts Direction. We identified that the principal risk of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations related to:

- Management bias in respect of accounting estimates and judgements made;
- Management override of control;
- Posting of unusual journals or transactions;
- Non-compliance with the Academy Trust Handbook and Academies Accounts Direction.

We focussed on those areas that could give rise to a material misstatement in the Academy financial statements. Our procedures included, but were not limited to:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims, including instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance where available;
- Reviewing legal expenditure in the year to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias. In particular pension liabilities;
- A separate limited scope regularity review has been undertaken in respect of compliance with the Academy Trust Handbook and our report in respect of this is contained within the financial statements.

It is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.


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

**THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of The Ecclesbourne School**  
**(continued)**

**Use of our report**

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



**Julie Stringer (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

for and on behalf of

**PKF Smith Cooper Audit Limited**

Statutory Auditors

2 Lace Market Square

Nottingham

NG1 1PB

Date: 10 December 2024

**THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 7 August 2020 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Ecclesbourne School during the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

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

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Ecclesbourne School's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 11 February 2011 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

**Approach**

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion was as follows:

- Planned our assurance procedures including identifying key risks;
- Carried out a programme of substantive testing, including review of the program of work and findings in relation to internal scrutiny;
- Undertook controls testing where considered appropriate;
- Concluded on the procedures undertaken.

**THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

**Conclusion**

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

*PKF Smith Cooper Audit Limited*

**PKF Smith Cooper Audit Limited**  
Statutory Auditors  
2 Lace Market Square  
Nottingham  
NG1 1PB

Date: 10 December 2024

**THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
<b>Income from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	1,713,966	1,713,966	93,083
Other trading activities	5	-	36,630	-	36,630	19,254
Investments	6	70,040	-	-	70,040	10,434
Charitable activities: Funding for academy's educational operations	4	-	10,130,438	-	10,130,438	9,621,474
Other income	7	95,000	-	-	95,000	-
<b>Total income</b>		<b>165,040</b>	<b>10,167,068</b>	<b>1,713,966</b>	<b>12,046,074</b>	<b>9,744,245</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities: educational operations	9	1,320	9,714,606	709,641	10,425,567	9,811,862
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>1,320</b>	<b>9,714,606</b>	<b>709,641</b>	<b>10,425,567</b>	<b>9,811,862</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>163,720</b>	<b>452,462</b>	<b>1,004,325</b>	<b>1,620,507</b>	<b>(67,617)</b>
Transfers between funds	19	-	1,523,768	(1,523,768)	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)</b>		<b>163,720</b>	<b>1,976,230</b>	<b>(519,443)</b>	<b>1,620,507</b>	<b>(67,617)</b>
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	309,000	-	309,000	562,000
Derecognition of defined benefit pension scheme asset	25	-	(192,000)	-	(192,000)	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>163,720</b>	<b>2,093,230</b>	<b>(519,443)</b>	<b>1,737,507</b>	<b>494,383</b>

**THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account) (continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Note					
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward	234,196	2,019,759	22,232,408	24,486,363	23,991,980
Net movement in funds	163,720	2,093,230	(519,443)	1,737,507	494,383
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>397,916</b>	<b>4,112,989</b>	<b>21,712,965</b>	<b>26,223,870</b>	<b>24,486,363</b>

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

The notes on pages 29 to 54 form part of these financial statements.

**THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**Registered number: 07524069**

**Balance Sheet**  
**As at 31 August 2024**

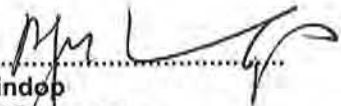
	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	15	21,712,965	22,232,408
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	16	2,493	8,146
Debtors	17	1,866,277	145,191
Cash at bank and in hand	23	3,285,479	2,713,391
		<u>5,154,249</u>	<u>2,866,728</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(643,344)	(454,773)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>4,510,905</u>	<u>2,411,955</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>26,223,870</u>	<u>24,644,363</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>		<u>26,223,870</u>	<u>24,644,363</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	25	-	(158,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u><u>26,223,870</u></u>	<u><u>24,486,363</u></u>
<b>Funds of the Academy</b>			
<b>Restricted funds:</b>			
Fixed asset funds	19	21,712,965	22,232,408
Restricted income funds	19	4,112,989	2,177,759
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	19	<u>25,825,954</u>	<u>24,410,167</u>
Pension reserve	19	-	(158,000)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	19	<u>25,825,954</u>	<u>24,252,167</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	19	<u>397,916</u>	<u>234,196</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><u>26,223,870</u></u>	<u><u>24,486,363</u></u>



**THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**Registered number: 07524069**

**Balance Sheet (continued)**  
**As at 31 August 2024**

The financial statements on pages 24 to 54 were approved and authorised for issue by the Governors and are signed on their behalf, by:

  
.....  
**Mr R Lindop**  
Chair of Governors  
Date: 9 Dec 2024

The notes on pages 29 to 54 form part of these financial statements.

**THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	21	(1,021,720)	378,740
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	22	1,593,808	(417,383)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		572,088	(38,643)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		2,713,391	2,752,034
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	23, 24	<u>3,285,479</u>	<u>2,713,391</u>

The notes on pages 29 to 54 form part of these financial statements

**THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

**1. Accounting policies**

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

**1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements**

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

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

The financial statements are prepared in Sterling which is the functional currency of the company and rounded to the nearest £1.

**1.2 Going concern**

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 Academy 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 that the Academy has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Academy's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

**1.3 Income**

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

• **Grants**

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

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

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

• **Donations**

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

**THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.3 Income (continued)**

- **Other income**

Other income is recognised in the year it is receivable and to the extent the Academy has provided the goods or services.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

**1.4 Expenditure**

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

**Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

**1.5 Interest receivable**

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

**1.6 Taxation**

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

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

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**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.7 Tangible fixed assets**

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

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

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

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Freehold property	-	2% on cost
Furniture and equipment	-	15% on cost
Computer equipment	-	20% on cost
Motor vehicles	-	20% on cost

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

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

**1.8 Stocks**

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

**1.9 Debtors**

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

**1.10 Cash at bank and in hand**

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

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**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.11 Liabilities and provisions**

Liabilities and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Academy anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

**1.12 Financial instruments**

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

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

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

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

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**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.13 Pensions**

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

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

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

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

**1.14 Fund accounting**

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

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

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

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**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

**2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment**

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 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 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

As a result of the current market conditions factored into the assumptions applied by the LGPS scheme actuary, the actuarial valuation at the year-end has resulted in a surplus position for the Trust. The recognition of a surplus under FRS102 should only be made to the extent that an employer can expect to secure economic benefit from it, either by paying a reduced rate of contributions or taking a refund. Management have assessed both considerations and concluded the following:

- Based on historic practices and updates on future expectations from the administering authority, management do not anticipate that the next actuarial valuation will result in a reduction to contributions due to current market conditions.
- The availability of any potential cash refund once all liabilities have been paid is based on several unpredictable future outcomes set out in the scheme rules that cannot be reasonably assumed at this stage. As a result, management consider there to be a very low possibility of a cash refund.

From the above conclusion, the surplus balance has therefore been restricted to a value of "nil" at the year-end. The derecognition adjustment is shown as other recognised gains/losses in the Statement of Financial Activities.

**3. Income from donations and capital grants**

	<b>Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Capital Grants	1,713,966	<b>1,713,966</b>	93,083
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<hr/> 93,083 <hr/>	<hr/> 93,083 <hr/>	



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**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

**4. Funding for the Academy's educational operations**

	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
<b>Academy trust educational operations</b>			
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	9,004,445	<b>9,004,445</b>	8,539,192
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
Pupil premium	110,882	<b>110,882</b>	93,706
Supplementary grant	-	-	202,318
Other DfE Group grants	551,504	<b>551,504</b>	219,675
	<hr/> 9,666,831	<hr/> <b>9,666,831</b>	<hr/> 9,054,891
<b>Other Government grants</b>			
Local authority grants	149,638	<b>149,638</b>	173,883
	<hr/> 149,638	<hr/> <b>149,638</b>	<hr/> 173,883
<b>Other income from academy trust's educational operations</b>			
School trip income	313,969	<b>313,969</b>	392,700
	<hr/> 313,969	<hr/> <b>313,969</b>	<hr/> 392,700
<b>Total 2024</b>	<hr/> <hr/> 10,130,438	<hr/> <hr/> <b>10,130,438</b>	<hr/> <hr/> 9,621,474
<i>Total 2023</i>	<hr/> <hr/> 9,621,474	<hr/> <hr/> 9,621,474	

**5. Income from other trading activities**

	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Exam fees and teacher release	5,580	<b>5,580</b>	7,853
Other income	31,050	<b>31,050</b>	11,401
	<hr/> 36,630	<hr/> <b>36,630</b>	<hr/> 19,254
<i>Total 2023</i>	<hr/> <hr/> 19,254	<hr/> <hr/> 19,254	

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**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
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**6. Investment income**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Bank interest	70,040	70,040	10,434
	<u>70,040</u>	<u>70,040</u>	<u>10,434</u>

All income in 2023 related to unrestricted funding.

**7. Other incoming resources**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Catering income	95,000	95,000	-
	<u>95,000</u>	<u>95,000</u>	<u>-</u>

**8. Expenditure**

	Staff Costs 2024 £	Premises 2024 £	Other 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Academy trust educational operations:					
Direct costs	7,016,673	613,238	715,012	8,344,923	7,799,647
Allocated support costs	880,888	719,296	480,460	2,080,644	2,012,215
	<u>7,897,561</u>	<u>1,332,534</u>	<u>1,195,472</u>	<u>10,425,567</u>	<u>9,811,862</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>7,488,833</u>	<u>1,191,307</u>	<u>1,131,722</u>	<u>9,811,862</u>	

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**9. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities**

**Summary by fund type**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Academy trust educational operations	1,320	10,424,247	10,425,567	9,811,862
<i>Total 2023</i>	1,364	9,810,498	9,811,862	

**10. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Academy trust educational operations	8,344,923	2,080,644	10,425,567	9,811,862
<i>Total 2023</i>	7,799,647	2,012,215	9,811,862	

**Analysis of direct costs**

	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Staff costs	7,016,673	6,412,914
Depreciation	613,238	567,947
Educational supplies	178,742	174,173
Examination fees	213,630	206,710
Staff development	26,705	42,459
Other direct costs	295,935	395,444
	8,344,923	7,799,647

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**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
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**10. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of support costs**

	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Staff costs	<b>880,888</b>	1,075,919
Rent, rates and utilities	<b>314,212</b>	256,855
Maintenance of premises and equipment	<b>160,534</b>	102,276
Cleaning and trade waste	<b>244,550</b>	226,273
Other support costs	<b>303,473</b>	262,678
Insurance	<b>8,513</b>	8,773
Governance costs	<b>72,071</b>	78,675
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	<b>96,403</b>	766
	<b>2,080,644</b>	2,012,215

During the year ended 31 August 2024, the academy incurred the following Governance costs:

	<b>2024 £</b>	<i>2023 £</i>
Audit fees	<b>10,300</b>	9,300
Other accountancy and non-audit fees	<b>14,504</b>	18,307
Legal and professional fees	<b>47,267</b>	51,068
	<b>72,071</b>	78,675

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**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

**11. Net income/(expenditure)**

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Operating lease rentals	<b>1,685</b>	5,561
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<b>613,238</b>	567,947
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	<b>96,403</b>	766
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	<b>10,300</b>	9,300
- other services	<b>4,690</b>	4,380
	<b>=====</b>	<b>=====</b>

During the year there were no individual transactions exceeding £5,000 falling under the following headings:

- Ex-gratia/compensation payments
- Gifts made by the trust
- Stock losses
- Unrecoverable debts
- Cash losses

The loss on disposal of fixed assets of £96,403 relates to initial costs associated with the construction of a new technology block. This was previously held within the assets under construction tangible fixed asset category. This project is no longer being continued at this time, therefore the costs have been written off in their entirety.

**12. Staff**

**a. Staff costs and employee benefits**

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	<b>5,737,966</b>	5,481,104
Social security costs	<b>612,011</b>	568,863
Pension costs	<b>1,400,091</b>	1,323,527
	<b>=====</b>	<b>=====</b>
	<b>7,750,068</b>	7,373,494
Agency staff costs	<b>147,493</b>	115,339
	<b>=====</b>	<b>=====</b>
	<b>7,897,561</b>	7,488,833

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**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

**12. Staff (continued)**

**b. Staff numbers**

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

	<b>2024</b> <b>No.</b>	<i>2023</i> <i>No.</i>
Teachers	<b>96</b>	91
Administration and support	<b>64</b>	55
Management	<b>13</b>	11
	<hr/> <b>173</b> <hr/>	<hr/> 157 <hr/>

**c. Higher paid staff**

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

	<b>2024</b> <b>No.</b>	<i>2023</i> <i>No.</i>
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	<b>6</b>	5
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	<b>4</b>	3
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	<b>1</b>	-
In the band £120,001 - £130,000	<b>-</b>	1
In the band £140,001 - £150,000	<b>1</b>	-
	<hr/> <b>1</b> <hr/>	<hr/> - <hr/>

11 (2023 - 9) employees above participated in the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

1 (2023 - 0) employee above participated in the Local Government Pension Scheme.

**d. Key management personnel**

The key management personnel of the Academy comprise the Governors and the senior management team as listed on page 1 and 2. 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 was £1,140,479 (2023 - £1,115,873).

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**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
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**13. Governors' remuneration and expenses**

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Mr J McNamara (Head Teacher) Remuneration	140,000 - 145,000	125,000 - 130,000
Pension contributions paid	35,000 - 40,000	30,000 - 35,000
Mr J Minton (staff governor) Remuneration	10,000 - 15,000	10,000 - 15,000

During the year, retirement benefits were accruing to 1 Governor (2023 - 1) in respect of defined benefit pension schemes.

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

**14. Governors' and Officers' insurance**

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

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**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
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**15. Tangible fixed assets**

	Freehold property £	Assets under construction £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>						
At 1 September 2023	24,799,486	129,661	434,326	950,365	60,420	26,374,258
Additions	40,398	-	59,370	90,430	-	190,198
Disposals	-	(96,403)	-	-	-	(96,403)
Transfers between classes	-	(33,258)	33,258	-	-	-
At 31 August 2024	<u>24,839,884</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>526,954</u>	<u>1,040,795</u>	<u>60,420</u>	<u>26,468,053</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At 1 September 2023	3,451,356	-	149,012	493,995	47,487	4,141,850
Charge for the year	386,173	-	64,868	156,224	5,973	613,238
At 31 August 2024	<u>3,837,529</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>213,880</u>	<u>650,219</u>	<u>53,460</u>	<u>4,755,088</u>
<b>Net book value</b>						
At 31 August 2024	<u>21,002,355</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>313,074</u>	<u>390,576</u>	<u>6,960</u>	<u>21,712,965</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>21,348,130</u>	<u>129,661</u>	<u>285,314</u>	<u>456,370</u>	<u>12,933</u>	<u>22,232,408</u>

Included in land and buildings is freehold land at valuation of £5,500,000 (2023: £5,500,000), which is not depreciated.

**16. Stocks**

	2024 £	2023 £
Stationery	<u>2,493</u>	<u>8,146</u>



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**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
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**17. Debtors**

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Trade debtors	-	2,520
Prepayments and accrued income	1,844,946	119,209
VAT recoverable	21,331	23,462
	<u>1,866,277</u>	<u>145,191</u>

**18. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	143,746	96,078
Other taxation and social security	139,415	-
Other creditors	2,903	1,927
Accruals and deferred income	357,280	356,768
	<u>643,344</u>	<u>454,773</u>

	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	118,634	163,066
Resources deferred during the year	215,255	118,634
Amounts released from previous periods	(118,634)	(163,066)
	<u>215,255</u>	<u>118,634</u>

Deferred income relates to trip income (£176,925), school led tutoring clawback (£6,776), PSFA income (£525) and rates relief (£31,029) which relate to the 2024/25 academic and financial year.

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**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

**19. Statement of funds**

	Balance at 1 Sep 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
Unrestricted funds	234,196	165,040	(1,320)	-	-	397,916
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	2,032,440	9,004,445	(8,640,719)	1,523,768	-	3,919,934
Other DfE group grants	-	551,504	(551,504)	-	-	-
Exam fees and teacher release	-	5,580	(5,580)	-	-	-
Local authority grants	-	149,638	(149,638)	-	-	-
Pupil premium	17,780	110,882	(110,705)	-	-	17,957
Other income	127,539	345,019	(297,460)	-	-	175,098
Pension reserve	(158,000)	-	41,000	-	117,000	-
	<u>2,019,759</u>	<u>10,167,068</u>	<u>(9,714,606)</u>	<u>1,523,768</u>	<u>117,000</u>	<u>4,112,989</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Fixed assets transferred on conversion	10,703,935	-	(138,766)	-	-	10,565,169
Capital expenditure from GAG	2,727,565	-	(141,612)	-	-	2,585,953
Capital expenditure from unrestricted funds	2,782,764	-	(113,605)	-	-	2,669,159
DfE Group Capital Grants	4,616,955	33,408	(189,848)	-	-	4,460,515
Section 106 funding	1,401,189	1,680,558	(125,810)	(1,523,768)	-	1,432,169
	<u>22,232,408</u>	<u>1,713,966</u>	<u>(709,641)</u>	<u>(1,523,768)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,712,965</u>

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**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
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**19. Statement of funds (continued)**

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	<b>24,252,167</b>	<b>11,881,034</b>	<b>(10,424,247)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>117,000</b>	<b>25,825,954</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>24,486,363</b>	<b>12,046,074</b>	<b>(10,425,567)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>117,000</b>	<b>26,223,870</b>

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

The General Annual Grant, and other DfE Group grants relate to government funding for the provision of education by the academy including Special Educational Needs projects. Other restricted income relates to non-government restricted funding.

Unrestricted reserves comprise the net of income and expenditure from lettings, bank interest, and profit share from the catering contract.

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

Transfer between funds represent movement of funds in relation to assets purchased in previous years from GAG funding for which Section 106 funding has now been received in arrears within the year under audit.

The gain of £117,000 is an actuarial gain on the defined benefit pension scheme.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2024.

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**19. Statement of funds (continued)**

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
Unrestricted funds	167,808	-	-	-	-	167,808
Bank interest	57,318	10,434	(1,364)	-	-	66,388
	<u>225,126</u>	<u>10,434</u>	<u>(1,364)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>234,196</u>
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	2,030,818	8,969,038	(8,539,599)	(427,817)	-	2,032,440
Local authority grants	-	173,883	(173,883)	-	-	-
Pupil premium	13,869	93,706	(89,795)	-	-	17,780
Other income	117,946	404,101	(394,508)	-	-	127,539
Pension reserve	(676,000)	-	(44,000)	-	562,000	(158,000)
	<u>1,486,633</u>	<u>9,640,728</u>	<u>(9,241,785)</u>	<u>(427,817)</u>	<u>562,000</u>	<u>2,019,759</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Fixed assets transferred on conversion	10,842,691	-	(138,756)	-	-	10,703,935
Capital expenditure from GAG	2,402,084	-	(102,336)	427,817	-	2,727,565
Capital expenditure from unrestricted funds	2,886,355	-	(103,591)	-	-	2,782,764
DfE Group Capital Grants	4,695,742	93,083	(171,870)	-	-	4,616,955
Section 106 funding	1,453,349	-	(52,160)	-	-	1,401,189
	<u>22,280,221</u>	<u>93,083</u>	<u>(568,713)</u>	<u>427,817</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,232,408</u>

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**19. Statement of funds (continued)**

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2022 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2023 £</i>
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	23,766,854	9,733,811	(9,810,498)	-	562,000	24,252,167
<b>Total funds</b>	23,991,980	9,744,245	(9,811,862)	-	562,000	24,486,363

**20. Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current period**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	21,712,965	<b>21,712,965</b>
Current assets	397,916	4,756,333	-	<b>5,154,249</b>
Creditors due within one year	-	(643,344)	-	<b>(643,344)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>397,916</b>	<b>4,112,989</b>	<b>21,712,965</b>	<b>26,223,870</b>

**Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period**

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	22,232,408	22,232,408
Current assets	234,196	2,632,532	-	2,866,728
Creditors due within one year	-	(454,773)	-	(454,773)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(158,000)	-	(158,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>234,196</b>	<b>2,019,759</b>	<b>22,232,408</b>	<b>24,486,363</b>

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**21. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities**

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<b>1,620,507</b>	<b>(67,617)</b>
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation	<b>613,238</b>	567,947
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	<b>(1,713,966)</b>	(93,083)
Interest receivable	<b>(70,040)</b>	(10,434)
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	<b>96,403</b>	766
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	<b>(48,000)</b>	15,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	<b>7,000</b>	29,000
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	<b>5,653</b>	(5,241)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	<b>(1,721,086)</b>	19,259
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	<b>188,571</b>	(76,857)
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities</b>	<b>(1,021,720)</b>	<b>378,740</b>

**22. Cash flows from investing activities**

	2024 £	2023 £
Bank interest received	<b>70,040</b>	10,434
Purchase of tangible assets	<b>(190,198)</b>	(521,836)
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets	-	936
Capital grants from DfE Group	<b>1,713,966</b>	93,083
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>	<b>1,593,808</b>	<b>(417,383)</b>

**23. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand and at bank	<b>3,285,479</b>	2,713,391
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>3,285,479</b>	2,713,391

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**24. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	At 1 September 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	2,713,391	572,088	3,285,479
	<u>2,713,391</u>	<u>572,088</u>	<u>3,285,479</u>

**25. Pension commitments**

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

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

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

**Teachers' Pension Scheme**

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

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

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**25. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme**

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

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

- employer contribution rates set at 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 £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,000 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,152,899 (2023 - £985,446).

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

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



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**25. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Local Government Pension Scheme**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £369,000 (2023 - £347,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £295,000 (2023 - £278,000) and employees' contributions totalled £74,000 (2023 - £69,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 25.6 per cent for employers and 5.5 - 12.5 per cent for employees.

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

As a result of the current market conditions factored into the assumptions applied by the LGPS scheme actuary, the actuarial valuation at the year-end has resulted in a surplus position for the Trust. The recognition of a surplus under FRS102 should only be made to the extent that an employer can expect to secure economic benefit from it, either by paying a reduced rate of contributions or taking a refund. Management have assessed both considerations and concluded the following:

- Based on historical practices and updates on future expectations from the administering authority, management do not anticipate that the next actuarial valuation will result in a reduction to contributions due to current market conditions.
- The availability of any potential cash refund once all liabilities have been paid is based on several unpredictable future outcomes set out in the scheme rules that cannot be reasonably assumed at this stage. As a result, management consider there to be a very low possibility of a cash refund.

From the above conclusion, the surplus balance has therefore been restricted to a value of "nil" at the year end. The derecognition adjustment is shown as other recognised gains/losses in the Statement of Financial Activities.

**Principal actuarial assumptions**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Rate of increase in salaries	<b>3.65</b>	<b>4.00</b>
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	<b>2.65</b>	<b>3.00</b>
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	<b>5.00</b>	<b>5.20</b>

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

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>Years</b>	<b>Years</b>
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	<b>20.8</b>	<b>20.8</b>
Females	<b>23.8</b>	<b>23.8</b>
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	<b>21.5</b>	<b>21.6</b>
Females	<b>25.3</b>	<b>25.3</b>

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**25. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Share of scheme assets**

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

	At 31 August 2024 £	At 31 August 2023 £
Equities	3,380,000	3,041,000
Bonds	1,320,000	998,000
Property	370,000	363,000
Cash	211,000	136,000
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>5,281,000</b>	<b>4,538,000</b>

The actual return on scheme assets was £547,000 (2023 - £(62,000)).

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Current service cost	(242,000)	(293,000)
Past service cost	(5,000)	-
Interest cost	(7,000)	(29,000)
<b>Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities</b>	<b>(254,000)</b>	<b>(322,000)</b>

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

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>4,696,000</b>	<b>4,140,000</b>
Current service cost	242,000	293,000
Past service cost	5,000	-
Interest cost	248,000	180,000
Contributions by scheme participants	74,000	69,000
Change in financial assumptions	(3,000)	166,000
Losses on curtailments	(173,000)	(152,000)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>5,089,000</b>	<b>4,696,000</b>

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**25. Pension commitments (continued)**

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

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>4,538,000</b>	<b>3,464,000</b>
Interest income	241,000	151,000
Change in financial assumptions	-	941,000
Return on assets less interest	306,000	(213,000)
Employer contributions	295,000	278,000
Employee contributions	74,000	69,000
Estimated benefits paid plus unfunded net of transfers in	(173,000)	(152,000)
Derecognition of pension asset	(192,000)	-
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>5,089,000</b>	<b>4,538,000</b>

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Sensitivity analysis</b>		
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	102,000	89,000
1 year increase in member life expectancy	201,000	166,000
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	-	4,000
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	102,000	86,000
	<b>405,000</b>	<b>345,000</b>

**26. Operating lease commitments**

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Not later than 1 year	15,559	1,685
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	62,237	-
	<b>77,796</b>	<b>1,685</b>

**27. 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.

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**28. Related party transactions**

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

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain governors' remuneration already disclosed in note 13.

Mrs J McNamara, spouse of Mr J McNamara, a governor and member of the senior management team, is employed by the academy trust as a member of teaching staff. Mrs J McNamara's appointment was made in open competition and Mr J McNamara was not involved in the decision-making process regarding appointment. Mrs J McNamara is paid within the normal pay scale for her role and receives no special treatment as a result of her relationship to a governor and member of the senior management team.

L Ourabi, spouse of C Ourabi, a member of the senior management team, is employed by the academy trust as a member of support staff. L Ourabi's appointment was made in open competition and C Ourabi was not involved in the decision-making process regarding appointment. L Ourabi is paid within the normal pay scale for his role and receives no special treatment as a result of his relationship to a member of the senior management team.

J Weller, spouse of H Weller, a member of the senior management team, is employed by the academy trust as a member of support staff. J Weller's appointment was made in open competition and H Weller was not involved in the decision-making process regarding appointment. J Weller is paid within the normal pay scale for his role and receives no special treatment as a result of his relationship to a member of the senior management team.

L Tanser, spouse of D Tanser, is employed by the academy trust as a member of support staff. D Tanser retired during the year and was a member of the senior management team until that point. L Tanser's appointment was made in open competition and D Tanser was not involved in the decision-making process regarding appointment. L Tanser is paid within the normal pay scale for her role and receives no special treatment as a result of her relationship to a member of the senior management team.