Company Registration Number: 07667407 (England & Wales)

EAST ANGLIAN SCHOOLS TRUST LTD

(A company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

EAST ANGLIAN SCHOOLS TRUST LTD
(A company limited by guarantee)

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EAST ANGLIAN SCHOOLS TRUST LTD
(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	Mr T Fosker Mr J Neal (resigned 18 October 2023) Ms A Rickwood (resigned 18 October 2023) Ms Z Sprake Mr P Hulley Dr P Elliott (appointed 1 November 2023) Dr J Mead (appointed 1 November 2023)
Trustees	Ms S Mackenzie, Chair Dr L Franks Mr N Howe Mr S Curzon (resigned 31 December 2022)[1] Mr P Lee (appointed 13 September 2022) Ms E Plane (appointed 13 September 2022)[1] Mr S Shaw[1] Ms S Thorne[1] Mr D Hawkley (appointed 1 November 2023) Mr J Duggan (appointed 1 November 2023) Mr P Simpson (appointed 1 November 2023) Mr T Cooper (appointed 1 November 2023) Mr T Roberts (resigned 6 September 2022)[1] Mr N Wellington (appointed 13 September 2022)[1]
	[1] Member of the Finance Committee during the year
Company registered number	07667407
Company name	East Anglian Schools Trust Ltd
Principal and registered office	Framlingham Technology Centre Station Road Framlingham Woodbridge Suffolk IP13 9EZ
Company secretary	C Singleton
Chief executive officer	A Goduti

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

Senior Leadership Team

M Roots, Chief Finance Officer until 31 July 2023
A Goduti, Accounting Officer and CEO
J Porter- Hardy, Chief Finance Officer from 1 August 2023
C Oswick, Headteacher
A Mears, Headteacher
A Sievewright, Headteacher
J Upton, Headteacher
K Carrick, EAST SCITT Director
K King, Chief Operating Officer from January 2023

Independent auditors

Larking Gowen LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Claydon Business Park
Great Blakenham
Ipswich
IP6 0NL

Bankers

Lloyds Banking Group Plc
8 Thoroughfare
Woodbridge
Suffolk
IP1 1UR

Solicitors

Stone King LLP
Bateman House
82-88 Hills Road
Cambridge
CB2 1LQ

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report for the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and a directors' report under company law.

For the period of these accounts the trust operated as East Anglian Schools Trust (EAST), a multi academy trust comprising of three high schools for pupils aged 11 to 18 and one special school serving catchment areas in East Suffolk. It has a pupil capacity of 4,840 and had a roll of 4,812 in the school census on October 2023.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

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

The charitable company's memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust.

The Trustees of East Anglian Schools Trust Ltd are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

The charitable company is known as East Anglian Schools Trust Ltd since changing its name on 12 July 2019, before when it was known as Farlingaye High School. On 1 September 2019 Kesgrave High School and Bungay High School merged with Farlingaye High School to form the multi academy trust which operates through this company. Castle EAST School was opened by East Anglian Schools Trust on 1 September 2021.

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

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. Trustees' indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000.

Structure, governance and management (continued)

d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

East Anglian Schools Trust has 5 members.

Members may appoint by ordinary resolution up to 11 trustees. The trust has a board of 8 trustees and is recruiting more for the new year.

The board of trustees have appointed local governing bodies in respect of the academies. At least two parent local governors are appointed to each established local governing body.

Parent governors serve at local level and are elected by parents of registered students of one of the schools. A parent governor must be a parent of a student at the time of election. Eligible parents are invited to apply for the position and a secret ballot is carried out for the election process.

e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new trustees will depend upon their experience but will include:

- Members, Chair and CEO meeting with each new trustee
- Online meeting to introduce logistical arrangements and trust priorities
- Skills audit to identify areas of expertise and requirements for development
- Personalised sessions with central team to support areas for development
- Annual Education Committee which includes meeting trustees and headteachers
- Headteacher ‘in-person’ presentations of results
- Individual conversations with the chair of trustees to identify development needs
- Annual tour programme of the academies and meeting students and staff wherever possible
- Formal and informal meetings with headteachers
- Access to key documentation via the trust SharePoint platform. These include policies, procedures, minutes, budget reports, risk assessments and improvement plans.
- Access to governor training services from Schools’ Choice and NGA Learning Links
- Subscription to Confederation of School Trusts (CST) and The Key

Structure, governance and management (continued)

f. Organisational structure

Governance of EAST is strong and principled, undertaken by Governors in each school (Local Governing Bodies - LGBs), a trust board working across the Multi Academy Trust (MAT) and an overarching members board. The collective knowledge, skills, experience and insight of all these individuals ensures that governance in the trust both challenges and supports each school to ensure the best outcome for its learners. The board ensures that EAST complies with charity and company law requirements. In accordance with academy requirements, the trust follows approved articles of association and delegates functions to the LGBs of each academy through a scheme of delegation and terms of reference at all committee levels.

EAST's members hold the trust board to account for academy performance, approve changes to the scheme of delegation and articles of association and appoints the trust's external auditors.

Trustees make up the board and are responsible under the articles of association for controlling the management and administration of EAST. They have responsibility for directing its affairs and for ensuring that it is solvent, well run and delivers EAST's charitable outcomes for the benefit of the public. The board is accountable for the performance of all the schools within the MAT.

LGBs continue to have a significant role in the governance of the schools, involved fully in activities such as approving the local strategic plans, setting measurable targets, challenging and supporting monitoring of the school budget, holding the headteacher to account and working closely with the leadership of each school to create and approve local policies.

Trust-wide pay decisions are made by the trust board, supported by the Finance and Audit Committee. Staff appointments are made locally by the individual schools supported by their local governing bodies.

The board of trustees meets at least six times a year, once every half term, using a carefully devised cycle of business. They have an overall framework for the governance of the trust and determine membership, terms of reference and procedures of committees. It receives reports including policies from its committees for ratification. It monitors the activities of the committees through the minutes of their meetings and the summary of action points. Working groups may be established to perform specific tasks.

The Finance and Audit committee meets at least six times a year and is responsible for the monitoring of the Trust budget, evaluating and reviewing policies in relation to financial management and ensuring financial resources are deployed effectively. They have regard to risk and compliance, which includes determining the internal scrutiny programme and receiving reports from the trust's appointed Internal Auditor. LGBs have delegated responsibilities according to the scheme of delegation to support the monitoring and oversight of the local budget and resource matters. The LGBs are accountable to the trust board.

Structure, governance and management (continued)

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

The headteachers must demonstrate high quality of performance with regard to leadership, management and student progress at the schools and will be subject to a review by the performance management panel, made up of the CEO, LGB Chair and External Advisor before any pay progression is awarded. The pay range for the headteacher posts is set by the trust board in accordance with the School Teachers' Pay Review Body Document. All deputy and assistant headteachers follow a similar procedure with pay determined through a review by the headteacher and Pay Review Committee. Support staff are paid following a performance review in line with the national pay scales for support staff.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Finance Officer (CFO) and Chief Operating Officer (COO) pay scales are set by the trust board. The CEO, CFO and COO respectively must demonstrate high quality of performance with regard to leadership and management (and student progress for the CEO). The CEO's performance across the trust is subject to review by a panel of the HR Committee before any pay progression is awarded.

A robust performance management process is in place for all staff, including headteachers, leadership teams, the CEO, CFO and COO.

h. Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the year	**5**
Full-time equivalent employee number	**5**

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	**Number of employees**
0%	**1**
1%-50%	**4**
51%-99%	**-**
100%	**-**

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time	**£**	
Total cost of facility time	**1,406**	
Total pay bill	**24,734**	
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	**5.68448**	%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	**2.20000**	%

Structure, governance and management (continued)

i. Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Owing to the nature of the trust's operations and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local private and public sector organisations it may be that from time to time transactions will take place with organisations in which members of the board of trustees may have an interest. All such transactions would be conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the trust's financial regulations.

There were no such transactions for the accounting period.

j. Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

Employees have been consulted on issues of concern to them by means of regular, consultive staff meetings and have been kept informed on specific matters directly by management. The trust carries out exit interviews for staff leaving the organisation and has adopted a procedure of upward feedback for senior management and the trustees. A full and transparent consultation process is part of all policy reviews.

The academy trust has implemented a number of detailed policies in relation to all aspects of personnel matters including:

- Equal opportunities
- Recruitment and Selection
- Staff Development and Retention
- Capability of Staff
- Code of Conduct – Governance
- Code of Conduct - Staff
- Complaints
- Conflicts of Interest (Pecuniary Interests) (Register of Business Interests of Headteachers & Governors)
- Data Protection (GDPR)
- Employment Disability Guidance
- Equality & Diversity
- Equality Duty Statement
- Equality in Employment Guidance
- Pay Policy - Teachers and Support Staff
- Performance Management
- Probation Procedure
- Staff Disciplinary Procedure
- Staff Grievance Procedure
- Statement of Procedures for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse Against Staff

In accordance with the trust's Equal Opportunities Policy, the schools have long-established fair employment practices in the recruitment, selection, retention and training of disabled staff. Full details of these policies are available from the trust and school websites.

Structure, governance and management (continued)

k. Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the Academy Trust

The trust aims to be fair and equitable in all dealings with third parties. The trust's adopted vision and values ensure that integrity, accountability and respect is fostered in all its business relationships. With regards to relationships with suppliers these are selected following a robust procurement policy and process.

The trust ensures, via its leadership teams, that there is open communication with all of its customers, which include parents and students. This is done via letters, newsletters, websites, face to face communication and progress reports.

The trust maintains strong business relationships with the local authority and other local and regional education providers.

Objectives and activities

a. Objects and aims

The Company's 'object' is specifically restricted to the following:

To advance for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom, in particular without prejudice by establishing, maintaining, managing and developing a school offering a broad and balanced curriculum. We aim to offer a curriculum appropriate to the needs of its students or schools specially organised to make special educational provision for pupils with special educational needs.

We aim to provide an excellent and inclusive education to the children of Suffolk, through developing and maintaining consistently good and outstanding schools and through identifying, nurturing and spreading good practice.

We aim to secure the financial future of all of the MAT schools through the implementation of effective centralised strategic planning and leadership and through creating economies of scale and access to funding streams.

We aim to develop our staff and to recruit well, in order to ensure that high professional standards are maintained over time across the MAT. EAST SCITT fully supports this aim.

We aim to grow the MAT within the local area, including through sponsorship in due course. Five primary schools which make up Avocet Academy Trust will be joining EAST on 1 November 2023.

Objectives and activities (continued)

b. Objectives, strategies and activities

In 2022-23, EAST's Strategic Plan was underpinned by 5 key strands:

1. Vision, Culture and Ethos
2. People
3. High Quality Education
4. Quality Assurance and Accountability
5. Business Finance and Governance

These were evidenced through 4 strategic areas with detailed objectives:

Strategic Development Area 1: School Improvement

- Launched and monitored EAST continuing professional development offer to support leadership capacity and classroom practice
- Explored, considered and developed further CPD opportunities to support targeted areas
- Consolidated our people and recruitment strategy to ensure best practice
- Developed and monitored school recovery strategies to support disadvantaged students
- Embedded and developed monitoring and accountability measures for school improvement

Strategic Development Area 2: Growth

- Established EAST to become an 'all-phase' trust through the development of primary expertise and growth
- Developed infrastructure for further secondary school growth
- Continued to explore opportunities for appropriate growth for EAST

Strategic Development Area 3: Operations

- Developed an effective approach to monitoring and mitigating risk across EAST
- Revised the central team model and appointed in line with growth strategy requirements
- Planned for effective approaches to financial management
- Business infrastructure strategy devised with new Chief Operating Officer

Strategic Development Area 4: Governance

- Developed Annual Cycle of Business for all EAST governance groups
- Developed the role of governance in organisation improvement
- Continued to develop and enhance the role of members and LGBs in the governance of EAST

c. Public benefit

The Trustees have complied with their duty under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission and the trustees have followed this guidance in deciding what activities the charitable company should undertake.

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

Bungay High School

The achievement and attainment of Year 11 students in 2022-23 demonstrate a provisional Progress 8 figure of -0.05 (October 2023) and Attainment 8 of 44.78. Achievement at 4+ for Maths and English is higher than 2019 (65% vs 62%). Our Pupil Premium (PP) gap was similar to 2019, which is better than the national gap showing that these students continue to be supported well at Bungay. Our focus for going forward is improving attainment at 5+, and the progress of students in the higher ability band from KS2. For A Level, subjects will continue to be supported to improve outcomes for 2024 and beyond, alongside a new leader of the 6th form.

We were really pleased that the intake for 2023 was above that forecasted by the Local Authority and despite increasing our Pupil Admission Number (PAN) from 180 to 210, we still exceeded this with an intake of 214.This was mostly attributed to an increase in intake from outside catchment schools, with pupils from 34 different schools joining us this September.

Bungay's extracurricular programme continues to be inclusive, vibrant and popular with many students engaging in a range of activities and the reintroduction of the annual activities week. Pastoral care and teaching and learning are strong, with the highest expectations of all. Bungay is a popular, high achieving school that is well respected in the community. We are also aiming to introduce 'Experiences of Work' for Year 10 students as we are well aware of how vital these skills are for young adults when making the transition from school/college or university to the workplace.

Farlingaye High School

The school was last inspected by Ofsted in March 2022 and was judged overall as "Good" with recognition given to both personal development and sixth form judged as "Outstanding".

We continue to be at PAN in nearly all main school year groups with numbers remaining strong despite some fluctuations in numbers in local primary schools. In the Sixth Form, post-pandemic entry numbers have stabilised which reflects a return to formal exams. The compliment of students in Year 12 and 13 remains strong and continued recruitment is a focus for the year ahead.

The Attainment 8 score for the Year 11 cohort in 2022-23 was 48.03. 70% of the cohort achieved 4+ in both English and Maths. These headline figures are above national averages. Continuing to focus grade 5 in both English and Maths is an area of focus in 2023- 2024.

The Year 13 cohort performed extremely well, with 29.1% of all grades being A*-A and 76.8% being A*-C. The overall pass rate was 97.9%. Our A Level Performance System (Alps) T-Score (3-year average of grades) was 3 (excellent). Again, these results were broadly in line with the results of previous years and above local and national averages.

Progression outcomes continue to be strong: all of our 2022-2023 Year 13 leavers left with a clearly defined pathway to the future, with 78% securing HE places, 11% entering Employment, 9% beginning an Apprenticeship and 2% starting further education courses. Although final figures for the 2022-23 Y11 leavers are not available, the provisional picture is encouraging.

Our extra-curricular programme remains a key part of what we do at Farlingaye, with students having a broad range of opportunities on offer to develop interests, passions and skills in a range of areas. Music, drama, sports, charity work and supporting peers are cornerstones of what we offer, with Duke of Edinburgh also a central thread through the wider life of the school. We had one school production last year, with a glorious run

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

of performances of “The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe” which involved a significant cast and was received incredibly positively by all who saw.

Kesgrave High School

Key Stage 5:
This year we are delighted to have sustained attainment at a similar level to 2021-2022, this despite the return to pre-pandemic benchmark grading of 2019, without any adjustment to examination expectations for this group of young people. Students’ attainment in A Level, BTEC and other Level 3 equivalent courses:

A*-B 48%
A*-C 75%
A*-E 97%

Average point score per academic entry was 33.2, equivalent to an impressive B-. The average grade in vocational qualifications was Merit+, with average points per entry of 31.5 in this qualification suite.

Key Stage 4:
The Attainment 8 score for the Year 11 cohort in 2022-23 was 47.9, 80% of the cohort achieved 4+ in both English and Maths, while 59% achieved 5+ in both English and Maths. Progress 8 measure for the whole cohort was 0.11.
Within the Key Stage 4 measures, different student groups performed well, with gaps significantly closed for gender, prior ability and disadvantaged students.

As the first year of externally validated results in line with standards pre-pandemic, this is pleasing and demonstrates the continued improvement at Key Stage 4 in particular. The progress figure demonstrates an increase of almost 0.5 from pre-pandemic levels. At Key Stage 5, to have sustained attainment outcomes is very pleasing.

These results have come from a continued focus on the continuing progression of learning from Year 7 through to Year 13. Our quality assurance and review processes ensure that we scrutinise learning and reflect upon our practice working with middle leaders to drive forward improvements.

The school was visited by OFSTED in December 2022 and this was an important moment to externally validate the improvement work that the school had undertaken in the previous two years. This was a fully graded, two-day inspection. The school inspection was very positive, recognising the many improvements that had been made since the previous inspection. The final judgement was Good but showed a considerable shift from the inspection in 2019 and there were many areas of outstanding commentary by the inspectors.

We continue to be at PAN in all main school year groups with numbers strong and over-subscription year on year. The compliment of students in Year 12 and 13 remains strong and continued recruitment is a focus in 2023-24.

The school continues to offer a rich and varied extracurricular diet, with trips and visits commonplace, alongside out of hours clubs and activities.

We continue to improve the school site and have phase 3 of a roof improvement project ongoing (both school and Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) Funded) due to complete in 2023-24. In the reporting year we completed phase 2 of roof works (CIF part-funded) and external door replacement (grant funded) along with renewal of tennis court area (grant and school funded).

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Castle EAST School

Our first year of Key Stage 4 pupils saw our Year 10 begin their GCSE pathway: GCSE English Language, Biology, Geography and Maths, Creative iMedia, ASDAN Foodwise and Arts Award Bronze.

All three of our Year 6 pupils took part in the formal Standard Assessment Tests (SATS) in May 2023 and performed well. Two pupils achieved age-related expectations across the board. Considering this was their first experience in formal assessments - this was an excellent achievement.

Intake for 2022/23 saw our numbers grow again from 48, and with in year admissions, bringing our roll to 56 by the end of the academic year.

Our staffing model continued to grow with the introduction of a Cover Supervisor role and an Inclusion Practitioner, which has enabled us to formalise and strengthen our pastoral intervention approach.

As always, there were many highlights, but the standout opportunities included our pupils once again taking part in an incredible production with Pro Corda, this time of School Of Rock. Pupils had the opportunity to work with a talented local musician to write an original song which was performed in front of parents as part of the production. We had our inaugural Sports Day which saw all of the pupils take part and gave us a great opportunity to come together as a school and support each other in our sporting endeavours. Pupils took part in The Black Schuck Festival and worked with local artists and authors to produce a musical performance and artwork which were proudly displayed at the community centre as part of the celebrations.

Staff training

Bungay High School – The school has successfully trained staff in Mental Health and Wellbeing and as a result, has been awarded the Sandwell Charter Mark. The school has also successfully had 3 staff pass the NPQ (National Professional Qualification) with 2 passing the Leading Teaching qualification and 1 securing the Leading Teacher Development. We are in the process of using the Apprenticeship Levy to sign up a member of the support staff to the Wellbeing Champion Apprenticeship to further support staff and student wellbeing and add capacity in this much needed area of school life. Our Assistant Headteacher is undertaking 'The Difference Inclusive Leadership' course this year, which aims to educate leaders in schools to use their training to implement strategic change to further support children with challenging behaviours. The school is also liaising with other schools in East Anglia to support with subject specialist knowledge and curriculum information as well as moderation support for practical subjects. The Character Kitemark remains a focus this year and EAST has kindly supported this from their Innovation Fund to support staff visiting other 'hub' schools to see how the Kitemark is being met and to help us achieve this part of the school development plan. Our Data Lead is accessing additional training on Power BI to further enhance her data analysis skills and increase the depth of analysis we can undertake to further support student outcomes at the school and Sixth Form.

Farlingaye High School - The school continues to offer a range of in-house sessions led by staff, as well as utilising wider expertise to deliver CPD and also national programmes. The key focus of our in-house programme was the school's new Teaching and Learning policy, and tailored sessions focused on delivering support and guidance for the key principles of the policy. In a wider sense, two staff undertook different strands of the NPQ offer, which were fully funded for the academic year. Whilst offering development opportunities for these staff, we also hope to see a wider impact with the sharing of good practice from the staff who undertook this training.

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Kesgrave High School - The school continues to source both internal expertise as well as external support to ensure the development of all staff.

2022-23 saw the completion of the second year and first wave of Early Career Framework teachers. The school successfully passed five staff into their third year and in the year ahead has eight staff in Early Career Teacher (ECT) year 1 and eight staff in ECT year 2. The development of a new professional development lead who oversees the work of all ITT students and ECTs in school has been highly successful, aligning the progression of staff at the early stages of their career and providing a consistent approach across a large team of mentors.

All teaching staff undertake a research project as part of the school CPD offer. The contribution of in-school research creates professional development for all teachers at a school level. The summer celebration event shared outcomes from all projects with colleagues, demonstrating the collective reflection upon teaching and learning by all staff. In the year ahead we will be focusing on research in subject pedagogy, underpinned by the teaching and learning principles.

Government funded NPQ courses continue to be the most significant route for staff embarking on leadership training at all levels.

Castle EAST School – Our Inclusion Practitioner began his Trauma Informed Diploma meaning that the school can be formally affiliated with TISUK. The Headteacher completed her Level 3 Designated Safeguarding Lead training and also completed the Senior Mental Health Lead training. Three members of staff completed Safer Recruitment Training and as a school we signed up to The Ability Bridge which provides staff with key training opportunities directly related to working with pupils with complex communication and interaction needs. One member of senior staff commenced the Government funded NPQH course which continues into the new academic year.

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future having reviewed and approved the Trust's medium term budget plan covering up to the end of August 2025. 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.

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

b. Promoting the success of the company

As the Academy Trust is deemed to be a large company, we fall within the threshold to include a Section 172 Statement arising from a requirement of the Companies (Miscellaneous Reporting) Regulations 2018 and Companies Act (2006).

Our board of trustees (who are our company directors) must act in the way they consider to be in good faith, would be most likely to promote the success of the company for the benefit of its stakeholders as a whole, and in doing so have regard (amongst other matters) to —

(a) **the likely consequences of any decision in the long term**
- all our directors' decisions are fully considered and openly discussed and minuted in committee and board meetings, reviewing the short term and long-term outcomes and potential impacts of their decisions, taking the advice of officers when it is appropriate to do so
- we operate and have now refined a strategic risk register to review and address potential risks which could arise from those decisions. These are reviewed in the context of all MAT levels

(b) **the interests of the company's employees**
- we include our employees in policy and procedural consultations and regularly involve them in leadership recruitment processes
- we value staff and have staff wellbeing facilities and school based offers
- we have developed employee networks to cover specialist areas, share information and reduce isolation

(c) **the need to foster the company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others**
- we have high expectations of our suppliers on whom we rely for essential curriculum and support service delivery and maintain relationships with them by promptly settling invoices and having open communication with them if there are any challenges
- we require all employees to be respectful in their dealings with students and their families and carers
- we have a clear and compelling vision that we actively share with all shareholders

(d) **the impact of the company's operations on the community and the environment**
- as community schools, our schools have a significant impact on their local communities and provide vital facilities and fundraising for local and national charities through our student's activities
- we consider the impact on our environment, for example reducing printing volumes and we are including low carbon as a requirement for future energy tenders

(e) **the desirability of the company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct**
- we expect all employees, governors, trustees and members to abide by a code of conduct in all dealings with stakeholders and wider organisations
- we engender high standards for employees by having performance appraisals and embedding a high achieving culture to help our students reach their potential
- we have policies that set out our expectations including a financial policy which covers how we should conduct our business for operational financial transactions and strategic procurements and planning, ensuring that there are sufficient controls in line with the Academy Trust Handbook and principles of public life

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

(f) **the need to act fairly as between members of the company**

- as a charity we do not have shareholders but everything we do is with our students' interests at our very heart and in accordance with our charitable objects
- our Trust's vision and code of conduct clearly stipulates appropriate behaviour expected
- the seven principles of public life underpin our governance handbook, advice for stakeholders

Financial review

Most of the trust's income is obtained from the Department for Education (DfE) via the ESFA (Education and Skills Funding Agency) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The funding received from the DfE during the year end 31st August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities and summarised in note 20, Statement of Funds.

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

The trust had an in-year surplus of £1,142,021 calculated as the change in balance of restricted funds (excluding the pension reserve) plus unrestricted funds. The revenue reserves position excluding the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is a surplus of £5,763,934 which include £3,079,178 restricted reserves and £2,684,756 unrestricted reserves.

The schools' individual revenue balances are shown in Note 20, Statement of Funds.

At the year end, the trust had no significant liabilities arising from trade creditors or debtors where there would be a significant effect on liquidity.

a. Reserves policy

The board of trustees review the level of reserves requirement for the trust annually and monitor the forecast reserves shown in the financial reports. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves.

The board of trustees have agreed that the minimum cumulative target reserves should equate to 1/12th of annual staff costs for schools and for Central MAT, 10-15% of income. For 2022-23 this equated to £2.06m revenue reserves. The actual revenue reserves, excluding pension, were £5.76m exceeding the minimum level set by board of trustees by over £3.70m. Of this, £2.68m reserves are classed as free reserves whereas the remaining funds are restricted and designated reserves.

It was agreed by the Board of Trustees that some non-recurring projects could be funded from trust reserves during 2022-23 for items not previously planned:

- Multi use games area
- New local exhaust ventilation system
- Electrical distribution boards
- Upgraded drama studio
- Asbestos removal
- Combination ovens

The future management of reserves will continue to consider:
- longer term school improvement
- significant financial pressures arising from pay and energy inflation
- support for capital projects not covered by Schools Condition Allocation

b. Investment policy

The board of trustees are committed to ensuring all funds under their control are managed in order to maximise return whilst minimising risk. Any cash not required for operating expenses is placed on deposit at the most favourable rate available from Lloyds Bank Plc. Day to day management of the surplus funds is delegated to the Chief Financial Officer within the guidelines of the Finance policy. A review of the balances held will take place in the new year to increase returns as well as reviewing alternative savings arrangements.

c. Principal risks and uncertainties

Assessing strategic risks at committee and full trust board meetings is a consistent and fundamental part of the trustees' role. These discussions and high-level analyses are minuted in meetings. To ensure that we continue to prioritise and develop our risk management system, we have used consultant advice and expertise to develop an enhanced approach to this for 2023-4. The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Academy Trust were assessed as follows:

Financial – Increasing costs present an ongoing risk for EAST's schools, in line with the national picture. The pay awards announced for teachers (from September 2022) and support staff (from April 2022) incurred significant additional costs. This is likely to be a continuing picture as negotiations have led to a further pay award for teachers of 6.5% from September 2023. Whilst this is mitigated in part by the trust's financial position, using reserves is not a sustainable approach. Schools and the trust are reviewing spending carefully and responsibly, developing financial sustainability plans and closely monitoring these at school and trust level. It is important to acknowledge the continuing additional pressure arising from increased energy prices as contracts come up for renewal and our efforts to work towards those deals which provide best value. These are contributing towards the overall financial risks from pay and price inflation.

Cyber and Data Security – With the continuing risk posed by "ransomware" and "hacking", all schools nationally face increasing risk from unauthorised access to data or attack from viruses, phishing and cyber fraud. This is mitigated with firewalls, filtering, back up and close monitoring by our network staff as well as general security vigilance by all staff when using online systems and following the security and GDPR policies. Staff receive updates and training to minimise and mitigate risk. The process of external review to support the validation of Trust and school approaches to this is ongoing and discussed at trust level.

Estates Compliance – It has been a key objective to mitigate risks associated with health and safety compliance in 2022-3 and the appointment of the new Chief Operating Officer has ensured that the trust has developed a robust strategy to address this. This was developed in 2022-23 and we are working towards monitoring it formally through the newly formed Estates and IT Committee from September 2023. Strategies are underpinned by the implementation of trust-wide monitoring systems, adherence to health and safety guidelines and an increased understanding of industry standard quality. This development, established in 2022-23, will be embedded in 2023-4.

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)
The restrictions placed on RAAC affected buildings meant Farlingaye High School were unable to use 19 classrooms and a range of other spaces. This posed significant logistical challenges to minimise the impact on learning for the school community. The school and trust worked effectively and efficiently to strategise quickly, and ensure that the situation did not affect students' learning . Immediately, revised timetables were used to ensure all available spaces in the school were used. A slightly delayed start to term also allowed time for staff to remove resources, equipment and teaching materials safely from affected areas to ensure that lessons could run in their normal way. Farlingaye High School remained closed to some students for an additional 3 days as part of a phased return. Where possible, specialist spaces were recreated, such as creating a new computer room to ensure that specialist ICT lessons had the right classroom environment and resources. Staff and student positivity has been outstanding.

The financial impact of committed funds currently stands at £772,797 with confirmation from the Department for Education (DfE) that these will be funded. Mitigations have included temporary classrooms, changing rooms, toilets, office spaces and a library space. In addition, this covers the mitigation works for the creative art block which will provide an immediate permanent solution for 4 classrooms. The DfE are yet to decide upon which permanent solution for RAAC will be agreed upon within our specific school setting. As a result we estimate cost of mitigating works will be between £1.1m (safe mitigations) and £1.8m (complete removal). The estimated total cost that will be funded by the DfE is likely to be between £1,850,000 - £2,550,000.

Disadvantaged Students – It is important to acknowledge the ongoing impact of 'lost learning' over the past few years (lockdown related) and the recovery strategies in schools continue to present another great challenge and risk to a nationally underachieving group of students. The trust has invested funds in addition to Government funds to provide school-based strategies to address the areas of greatest need. Schools have been able to continue to or newly appoint pastoral-based staff to support vulnerable students.

Student numbers – EAST's schools are very popular, with pupil intake consistent at Kesgrave and Farlingaye. Numbers are increasing at Bungay although they have a small Sixth Form and being of a rural nature (where transport is an issue) incurs risks which are closely monitored. Student numbers are monitored by the schools and trustees, with a renewed focus on marketing the benefits of being a student in an EAST school.

Staffing – Effective staffing is essential to ensure children receive the best education and the MAT's work is underpinned by quality leadership at all levels. The national recruitment picture, exacerbated by being based in semi-rural and rural areas, means that this is an ongoing risk for all schools locally. EAST has continued to invest in EAST SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training), and this will continue to be a sustained source of new teachers for the region. Continuing professional development is key to developing, retaining and attracting staff so that the very best expertise continues to be a reality of EAST's vision. The recruitment and retention of support staff in schools continues to provide a challenge and therefore a risk. Schools are continuing to work together to review strategies to increase retention, focus on wellbeing and effective recruitment.

Fundraising

The trust is funded mainly by government grants, but we encourage students to participate in fundraising activities for recognised charities. No one is obliged to contribute towards Parent Teacher Association activities, but parents and carers are encouraged to take part in several ways in order to support their schools. The board of trustees believe this adds to the school community and therefore are acting in the best interest of the charity and do not use any professional fundraisers to act on their behalf. This builds a sense of community and strong links with local families. The trust has not received any complaints about fundraising.

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

The Academy Trust's greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption are as follows:

	2023	*2022*
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	**3,079,823**	*4,283,154*
Energy consumption breakdown (kWh):		
Gas	**1,561,069**	*3,047,297*
Electricity	**1,396,098**	*1,256,145*
Electricity - Renewables	**36,381**	*61,744*
Transport fuel	**86,275**	*40,890*
Scope 1 emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent):		
Gas consumption	**280**	*558*
Owned transport	**30**	*8*
Total scope 1	**310**	*566*
Scope 2 emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent):		
Purchased electricity	**297**	*267*
Scope 3 emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent):		
Business travel in employee-owned or rental vehicles	**2**	*2*
Total gross emissions (in tonnes of C02 equivalent):	**609**	*835*
Intensity ratio:		
Tonnes of CO2 equivalent per pupil	**0.13**	*0.18*

The Academy Trust has followed and used the following quantification and reporting methodologies:

- the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines;
- the GHG Reporting Protocol - Corporate Standard; and
- the 2022 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

The chosen intensity ratio is total gross emissions in tonnes of CO2 equivalent per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

Plans for future periods

For 2023-24, the trust has created a detailed Strategic Development Plan, which is underpinned by the following:

Strategic Development Area 1: Vision, Culture & Ethos

Clear and Compelling Aims:
- Shared ethos is evident in all of EAST's schools
- School and trust communities are invested in the vision
- Stakeholders understand the value of being part of the trust

Objectives:
- Devise an effective approach to trust-wide feedback and communication
- Develop a comprehensive equality strategy
- Enhance the EAST SharePoint platform

Strategic Development Area 2: People

Clear and Compelling Aims:
- Staff are highly skilled, qualified and have specific, professional expertise
- Staff are able to reflect, aspire and grow
- EAST is the employer of choice

Objectives:
- Fully support the professional development of individuals and teams across EAST
- Ensure that succession planning supports trust-wide progression, leadership and continuity
- Develop the offer of EAST as an employer

Strategic Development Area 3: High Quality Education

Clear and Compelling Aims:
- Students/Pupils achieve highly
- Schools adopt broad curriculums
- Teaching and learning is effective and engaging
- Students/Pupils are prepared for transition for the next experience
- Collaboration enhances opportunities to engage and grow in schools

Objectives:

- Develop the 'main thing' (exciting educational practice) to ensure that staff training supports quality learning in schools

Strategic Development Area 4: Quality Assurance and Accountability

Clear and Compelling Aims:
- Leaders are restless to constantly improve, embrace change and challenge the status quo
- Trustees and Governors know that schools provide an effective education to all our pupils
- Sufficient, timely and reliable data monitors and evidence performance
- Effective systems drive high expectations
- Professional challenge is supportive and collaborative.

Plans for future periods (continued)

Objectives:

- Ensure efficiency of reporting and removal of duplication across the trust
- Ensure policies are fit for purpose and impactful
- Embed trust high level approach to reporting and using data effectively
- Continue to ensure safeguarding is robust
- Develop an approach to peer review to support with development across schools
- Develop school improvement planning across schools

Strategic Development Area 5: Business, Finance and Estates

Clear and Compelling Aims:

- Financial security provides stability, predictability and drives success for young people
- Financial systems and structures are effective, driving efficiency across the trust
- Central services drive school improvement and provide expertise
- School sites are safe and inspiring environments for all to learn and work in

Objectives:

- Create an effective model for finance and business across the trust
- Maximise the value of central services
- Develop a strong and coherent risk management process
- Embed integrated curriculum financial planning to ensure the curriculum and available financial resources are aligned
- Design and implement an efficient system to manage School Condition Allocations
- Development of a Net Zero Strategy, in line with the governments aim of 2050
- Compliance with Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, Good Estate Management in School and sector relevant Approved Codes of Practice
- Develop the Health & Safety Policy for the trust

Strategic Development Area 6: Governance

Clear and Compelling Aims:

- Governance is principled, supportive and impactful
- Individuals in governance understand their role and work together effectively

Objectives:

- Review and develop the structure of governance across EAST
- Develop clarity around the trust board's decision-making process as stated in the Scheme of Delegation and how it is understood
- Explore self-review and how this could support effective strategic planning in governance
- Develop stakeholder networking and training across EAST
- Develop clarity and understanding of the role of Trustees at local level
- Ensure effective succession planning
- Develop and clarify the role of trustees during Ofsted Inspections

Disclosure of information to auditors

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

The members and board of trustees will review the appointment of auditors for the next period

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

.....
Ms S Mackenzie
(Chair of Trustees)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

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

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO, 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 East Anglian Schools Trust Ltd and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' report and in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 6 times during the year.

The work of the trust board continues to evolve in line with the trust's risk register and the demands of the ESFA. Together with their monitoring of Finance and HR, the established local governing bodies and other trust board committees monitor student progress, assessment, attendance and curriculum provision. The data analysis includes that of disadvantaged students as well as other vulnerable groups of students at Key Stage 4 and 5. The data is gathered from internal monitoring as well as external examinations and is stored on individual school management systems but is drawn together using Alps, 4Matrix Fusion and Pastoral Genie together with our own analysis systems for trust level analysis. The data is used to compare internal data across the trust against national data sets and gives the Board of Trustees and Local Governors a clear picture of performance over time; there are clear reports for trust boards and local governing boards provided by senior leaders and the trust's data team. It should be noted that trends over time will become very challenging to monitor over the next few years owing to the problems with national testing and examinations as a result of the period of lockdown and its impact.

Attendance at trust board meetings in the year 2022-23 was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr S Curzon	2	2
Dr L Franks, Vice Chair	5	6
Mr N Howe	5	6
Mr P Lee	6	6
Ms S Mackenzie, Chair	6	6
Ms E Plane	6	6
Mr S Shaw	3	6
Ms S Thorne	5	6
Mr D Hawkley	0	0
Mr J Duggan	0	0
Mr P Simpson	0	0
Mr T Cooper	0	0
Mr T Roberts	0	0
Mr N Wellington	0	0

* Finance and Audit Committee
The CEO, Angelo Goduti, attended all the trust board meetings and Finance & Audit Committee meetings.

Governance (continued)

A full, external review of governance took place during the summer term. As a result, the board has assurance of good practice and systems and an action plan for further improvement. These actions have been incorporated into the strategic plan. A further skills audit will take place in 2023-24 following the joining of Avocet Academy Trust, when the number of trustees will increase to 12. A full review of governance structure took place in the summer term and as a result there will be a change from 3 to 4 committees for 2023-24. They will be Finance and HR, Education, Estates and IT, Audit and Risk.

The local governing bodies have conducted skills audits and self-review, and their makeup has evolved as terms of office have come to an end.

Conflicts of interests for members, trustees, local governors and staff are managed in the following ways:

- An annual declaration form is completed, and the summary is published on the trust's website and on schools' websites for local governors
- Meetings have a declaration of interests on the agenda at the beginning of meetings
- An individual is expected to remove themselves (or instructed to) from the meeting for the item declared or stand down if the interest is over a longer term in nature
- The trust has a Conflict of Interests Policy which is reviewed regularly

The Finance and Audit Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to assist the decision making of the board of trustees, by enabling more detailed consideration to be given to the best means of fulfilling the Board of Trustees' responsibility to ensure sound management of trust's finance and resources including staffing, through proper planning, monitoring and probity. The committee met six times. The CEO, Angelo Goduti, attended all meetings.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
S Curzon	2	2
S Mackenzie (invited)	4	4
E Plane	7	7
S Shaw	7	7
S Thorne	6	7
N Wellington	6	7

Review of value for money

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

The accounting officer considers how the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data or by using a framework where appropriate. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year.

Examples include:

Maximising Income Generation

The trust explores every opportunity to generate income through the hire of facilities and bids for targeted grants. Condition Improvement Fund grants were used to invest in replacement roofing and windows helping to reduce expenditure in the longer term.

Kesgrave made a successful Condition Improvement Fund bid for a new roofing project. An Energy efficiency grant was awarded to Farlingaye, Kesgrave and Bungay. Kesgrave assigned these funds to replace the external doors. Farlingaye are planning to replace the lighting with LED . Bungay have replaced their LEV system and carried out some LED lighting upgrades.

Health and Safety Expertise

The trust appointed a health and safety consultancy service to ensure best practice across all schools in this essential area. This has supported the trust in its continued drive towards excellence with regards to its estates management ensuring it has the highest quality learning and working environments. The trust is committed to ensuring that the highest levels of expertise, from both within and outside of the trust, informs its approach.

Estates Consumables Review

The trust carried out a review of cleaning and caretaking supplies across all schools to explore the highest quality of resources using value for money principles. Cleaning consumable costs of the in-house cleaning team at Farlingaye were reviewed with potential suppliers. Greater effectiveness and efficiency led to a trust wide process and 'roll-out' offering significant savings.

In addition to financial considerations, the trust considered service quality, aims, effectiveness and timeliness, bringing together the combined knowledge and experience of the schools to get the best overall arrangements. The trust has also invested in systems, yet to be embedded, to support the organisation of contracts and how best to ensure effective management across the trust, especially as it grows with the addition of five primary schools in November 2023.

The purpose of the system of internal control

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

Capacity to handle risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees has the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees
- regular reviews by the Finance and Audit Committee and local governing bodies 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
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties
- rigorous recruitment procedures for staff with financial responsibility
- adherence to the trust Finance Policy, including delegation of responsibility for all purchasing
- identification and management of risks
- finance induction for finance staff and board of trustees
- attendance for relevant staff to the trust's Business Network to reinforce financial procedures

The Board of Trustees has decided to employ Schools' Choice as internal auditor.

This option was chosen because of the expertise required to competently review the areas that the trust had identified as areas of exploration.

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

Income controls and risk management
External safeguarding reviews – part of trust cycle
External Review of Governance

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The risk and control framework (continued)

The Internal Auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned, covering the operation of income controls and fraud risk management. There were no significant control issues identified as a result of their work. Equally, both the external safeguarding review and external review of governance provided excellent feedback, positive findings and sensible areas for consideration. On an annual basis, the auditor prepares a summary report for the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

Future plans include a review of employer contracts (a different provider will be used as Schools' Choice provide the payroll service), invoice processing and charge cards in the new year.

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer, the CEO 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 Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- the work of the external auditors;

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

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

.....
S Mackenzie
Chair of Trustees
Date: 20 December 2023

.....
A Goduti
Accounting Officer

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

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

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

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

A Goduti
Accounting Officer
Date: 20 December 2023

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

.....

Ms S Mackenzie
(Chair of Trustees)
Date: 20 December 2023

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF EAST ANGLIAN SCHOOLS TRUST LTD

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

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

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

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Due to the field in which the Company operates, we identified the areas most likely to have a direct material impact on the financial statements as compliance with tax legislation, accounting standards and requirements, including Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022, the Companies Act 2006 and charity law. In addition, we considered the provisions of other laws and regulations which whilst not having a direct impact on the financial statements, are fundamental to the Company's ability to operate, including Academies Financial Handbook 2021, funding agreements, safeguarding requirements, health and safety, employment law, data protection and compliance with various other regulations relevant to the conduct of the Company's operations.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risk of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, included the following:

- Enquiries with management, the Accounting Officer and the Trustees about any known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations, accidents in the workplace, safeguarding breaches, data breaches, potential litigation or claims and fraud;
- Considering the conclusion of our assurance report on regularity to the Company and the Education and Skills Funding Agency;
- Reviewing the Accounting Officer's Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance;
- Review the findings of the Company's internal scrutiny;
- Reviewing legal and professional fees to confirm matters where the Company engaged lawyers during the year;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Reviewing board and finance committee minutes and any relevant correspondence with external authorities, including regulators;
- Challenging assumptions and judgments made by management in their significant accounting estimates, particularly around the actuarial assumptions used to estimate the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit obligation; and
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

Due to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF EAST ANGLIAN SCHOOLS TRUST LTD (CONTINUED)

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Academy Trust'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 Trust'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 Trust and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Giles Kerkham FCA DChA (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of
Larking Gowen LLP

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors

1 Claydon Business Park

Great Blakenham

Ipswich

IP6 0NL

Date:

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO EAST ANGLIAN SCHOOLS TRUST LTD AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 24 September 2020 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by East Anglian Schools Trust Ltd during the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of East Anglian Schools Trust Ltd's Accounting Officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of East Anglian Schools Trust Ltd's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 21 March 2011 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO EAST ANGLIAN SCHOOLS TRUST LTD AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

Approach

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

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

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

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

In planning and conducting our work we had due regard to professional guidance, including the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023. The work undertaken to draw our conclusion, includes, but is not limited to:

- Enquiry of senior management and the Academy Trust’s Trustees;
- Review of the results of the Academy Trust’s process of independent checking of financial controls, systems, transactions and risks;
- Inspection and review of the accounting records, meeting minutes, internal control procedures, management representations and declarations of interest;
- Observation and re-performance of the financial controls; and
- Review of governance arrangements.

Conclusion

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

Reporting Accountant
Larking Gowen LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors

Date:

EAST ANGLIAN SCHOOLS TRUST LTD

(A company limited by guarantee)

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	*Total funds 2022 £*
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	**72,247**	**74,928**	**3,791,107**	**3,938,282**	*9,237,912*
Other trading activities		**161,604**	**-**	**-**	**161,604**	*159,572*
Investments	7	**89,800**	**45,000**	**-**	**134,800**	*2,474*
Charitable activities:	4					
Academy Trust educational operations		**1,218,544**	**31,361,109**	**-**	**32,579,653**	*29,273,946*
School Centred Initial Teacher Training		**-**	**369,860**	**-**	**369,860**	*246,200*
Total income		**1,542,195**	**31,850,897**	**3,791,107**	**37,184,199**	*38,920,104*
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
Academy Trust educational operations		**771,841**	**30,815,297**	**1,973,501**	**33,560,639**	*32,304,354*
School Centred Initial Teacher Training		**-**	**369,860**	**-**	**369,860**	*246,200*
Total expenditure		**771,841**	**31,185,157**	**1,973,501**	**33,930,499**	*32,550,554*
Net income		**770,354**	**665,740**	**1,817,606**	**3,253,700**	*6,369,550*
Transfers between funds	21	**-**	**(514,073)**	**514,073**	**-**	*-*
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains		**770,354**	**151,667**	**2,331,679**	**3,253,700**	*6,369,550*
Other recognised gains:						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	29	**-**	**220,000**	**-**	**220,000**	*11,519,000*
Net movement in funds		**770,354**	**371,667**	**2,331,679**	**3,473,700**	*17,888,550*

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	*Total funds 2022 £*
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		**1,914,402**	**2,707,511**	**45,838,160**	**50,460,073**	*32,571,523*
Net movement in funds		**770,354**	**371,667**	**2,331,679**	**3,473,700**	*17,888,550*
Total funds carried forward		**2,684,756**	**3,079,178**	**48,169,839**	**53,933,773**	*50,460,073*

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 42 to 77 form part of these financial statements.

EAST ANGLIAN SCHOOLS TRUST LTD

(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 07667407

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note		2023 £		*2022 £*
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	15		**47,929,024**		*46,023,530*
			47,929,024		*46,023,530*
Current assets					
Stocks	16	**-**		*5,024*	
Debtors	17	**1,310,392**		*1,041,408*	
Investments	18	**2,000,000**		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		**5,540,373**		*6,738,847*	
		8,850,765		*7,785,279*	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	**(2,503,308)**		*(2,932,335)*	
Net current assets			**6,347,457**		*4,852,944*
Total assets less current liabilities			**54,276,481**		*50,876,474*
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	20		**(342,708)**		*(416,401)*
Total net assets			**53,933,773**		*50,460,073*
Funds of the Academy Trust					
Restricted funds:					
Fixed asset funds	21	**48,169,839**		*45,838,160*	
Restricted income funds	21	**3,079,178**		*2,707,511*	
Total restricted funds	21		**51,249,017**		*48,545,671*
Unrestricted income funds	21		**2,684,756**		*1,914,402*
Total funds			**53,933,773**		*50,460,073*

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

The financial statements on pages 37 to 77 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:

.....

Ms S Mackenzie
(Chair of Trustees)
Date: 20 December 2023

The notes on pages 42 to 77 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £	*2022 £*
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	23	**1,507,073**	*2,228,912*
Cash flows from investing activities	25	**(625,854)**	*(558,762)*
Cash flows from financing activities	24	**(79,693)**	*(24,694)*
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**801,526**	*1,645,456*
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		**6,738,847**	*5,093,391*
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	26, 27	**7,540,373**	*6,738,847*

The notes on pages 42 to 77 form part of these financial statements

1. Accounting policies

East Anglian Schools Trust Ltd is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales, registered number 07667407. The registered office is Framlingham Technology Centre, Station Road, Framlingham, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 9EZ.

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the Academy Trust, 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 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

East Anglian Schools Trust Ltd meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements are presented in Sterling (£) and rounded to the nearest £.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Income

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

- **Grants**

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

  General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of financial activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the 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.

  The Academy Trust is benefiting from the ESFA's Free School Building Programme. The funding for the programme is not recognised as a capital grant until there is unconditional entitlement from costs being incurred, and the development occurring on a site where the Academy Trust controls through lease the site where a development is occurring. The expenditure is capitalised in assets under construction until the project is complete.

- **Donations**

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

- **Other income**

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

- **Donated fixed assets (excluding transfers on conversion or into the Academy Trust)**

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

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 Trust's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the Academy Trust apportioned to charitable activities.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £3,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. 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, 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 bases:

Leasehold buildings	- 10 - 50 years
Leasehold land	- 125 years
Furniture and equipment	- 10 years
Plant and equipment	- 5 years
Computer equipment	- 3 years
Motor vehicles	- 10 years

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.6 Interest receivable

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

1.7 Operating leases

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

1.8 Debtors

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

1.9 Liabilities

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

1.10 Provisions

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

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

1.11 Financial instruments

The Academy Trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the Academy Trust and their measurement 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 notes 19 and 20. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.12 Taxation

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

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

1.13 Pensions

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

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

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme, and the assets are held separately from those of the Academy Trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each Balance sheet date. The amounts charged to 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.

If the present value of the LGPS defined benefit obligation at the reporting date is less than the fair value of plan assets, the plan has a surplus. A defined benefit plan surplus is recognised as an asset to the extent that the Academy Trust is able to recover the surplus either through reduced future contributions or through refunds from the plan.

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

1.14 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. Accounting policies (continued)

1.15 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.

1.16 Fund accounting

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

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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.

1.17 Agency arrangements

The Academy Trust acts as an agent in the administering of 16-19 Bursary Funds from ESFA. Related payments received from the ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities to the extent that the Academy Trust does not have a beneficial interest in the individual transactions. The allowance of 5% as a contribution to administration costs is however recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. Where funds have not been fully applied in the year then an amount will be included in amounts due to the ESFA.

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit asset 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 29, 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 2023 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions asset 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension asset.

The impairment assessment on buildings at Farlingaye High School includes estimates of the capital costs of bringing the affected buildings back into use and of their depreciated replacement cost. The reinstatement costs were informed by the ongoing commissioning process. The depreciated replacement cost was derived from a DfE desktop valuation at 31 August 2021, as adjusted for subsequent inflation in construction costs and for depreciation. The desktop valuation used DfE datasets to generate floor areas and building ages, supplemented by online research. The review concluded that the buildings are not materially impaired.

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	72,247	74,928	2,964,578	**3,111,753**
Grants	-	-	826,529	**826,529**
	72,247	74,928	3,791,107	**3,938,282**

3. Income from donations and capital grants (continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2022	*Restricted funds 2022*	*Restricted fixed asset funds 2022*	*Total funds 2022*
	£	*£*	*£*	*£*
Donations	*45,819*	*16,256*	*8,587,178*	*8,649,253*
Grants	*-*	*-*	*588,659*	*588,659*
	45,819	*16,256*	*9,175,837*	*9,237,912*

2021/2022 donations of £8,587,178 into Restricted fixed asset funds consist of the leasehold of the Castle East site valued at £8,469,478 and building works carried out by Suffolk County Council at Bungay High School at a cost to them of £117,700.

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023	**Restricted funds 2023**	**Total funds 2023**
	£	**£**	**£**
Educational operations	1,218,544	31,361,109	**32,579,653**
School Centred Initial Teacher Training	-	369,860	**369,860**
	1,218,544	31,730,969	**32,949,513**

	Unrestricted funds 2022	*Restricted funds 2022*	*Total funds 2022*
	£	*£*	*£*
Educational operations	*729,234*	*28,544,712*	*29,273,946*
School Centered Initial Teacher Training	*-*	*246,200*	*246,200*
	729,234	*28,790,912*	*29,520,146*

5. Funding for the Academy Trust's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Educational operations			
DfE/ESFA grants			
General Annual Grant	-	26,789,266	**26,789,266**
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
Pupil Premium	-	773,499	**773,499**
Rates Relief	-	129,694	**129,694**
Free school meals supplementary grant	-	680,099	**680,099**
Student Loans Company grants	-	341,375	**341,375**
Mainstream schools additional grant	-	203,662	**203,662**
Recovery premium	-	322,155	**322,155**
Teachers' pension employer contributions grant	-	214,845	**214,845**
Other DFE Grants	-	223,853	**223,853**
	-	29,678,448	**29,678,448**
Other Government grants			
LA Grants - Special Educational Needs	-	1,510,962	**1,510,962**
LA Grants - Start-up Grants	-	171,699	**171,699**
	-	1,682,661	**1,682,661**
Other income from the Academy Trust's educational operations			
Other income	329,854	-	**329,854**
Catering income	150,662	-	**150,662**
Trips and visits	738,028	-	**738,028**
	1,218,544	-	**1,218,544**
	1,218,544	31,361,109	**32,579,653**

5. Funding for the Academy Trust's charitable activities (continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	*Restricted funds 2022 £*	*Total funds 2022 £*
Educational operations			
DfE/ESFA grants			
General Annual Grant	-	*25,365,000*	*25,365,000*
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
Pupil Premium	-	*723,844*	*723,844*
Rates Relief	-	*127,874*	*127,874*
Student Loans Company grants	-	*369,100*	*369,100*
Teachers' pension employer contributions grant	-	*193,052*	*193,052*
Other DFE Grants	-	*405,081*	*405,081*
	-	*27,183,951*	*27,183,951*
Other Government grants			
LA Grants - Special Educational Needs	-	*1,034,938*	*1,034,938*
Other Government grants	-	*86,209*	*86,209*
	-	*1,121,147*	*1,121,147*
Other income from the Academy Trust's educational operations			
Other income	*243,895*	*15,369*	*259,264*
Catering income	*110,231*	-	*110,231*
Trips and visits	*375,108*	-	*375,108*
	729,234	*15,369*	*744,603*
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)			
Catch-up Premium	-	*118,326*	*118,326*
Other DFE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	*105,919*	*105,919*
	-	*224,245*	*224,245*
	729,234	*28,544,712*	*29,273,946*

6. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	*Total funds 2022 £*
Items sold	41,421	**41,421**	*32,877*
Hire of facilities	120,183	**120,183**	*126,695*
	161,604	**161,604**	*159,572*

7. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Investment income	89,800	-	**89,800**
Pension income	-	45,000	**45,000**
	89,800	45,000	**134,800**

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2022 £*
Investment income	*2,474*	*2,474*

8. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2023 £	Premises 2023 £	Other 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Educational operations:				
Direct costs	21,341,214	1,634,939	2,417,944	**25,394,097**
Allocated support costs	3,930,433	3,224,690	1,011,419	**8,166,542**
School Centred Initial Teacher Training	-	-	369,860	**369,860**
	25,271,647	4,859,629	3,799,223	**33,930,499**

	Staff Costs 2022 £	*Premises 2022 £*	*Other 2022 £*	*Total 2022 £*
Educational operations:				
Direct costs	*20,737,940*	*1,555,165*	*2,337,321*	*24,630,426*
Allocated support costs	*3,614,696*	*3,246,112*	*813,120*	*7,673,928*
School Centred Initial Teacher Training	*-*	*-*	*246,200*	*246,200*
	24,352,636	*4,801,277*	*3,396,641*	*32,550,554*

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Educational operations	25,394,097	8,166,542	**33,560,639**
School Centred Initial Teacher Training	369,860	-	**369,860**
	25,763,957	8,166,542	**33,930,499**

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £	*Support costs 2022 £*	*Total funds 2022 £*
Educational operations	*24,630,426*	*7,673,928*	*32,304,354*
School Centred Initial Teacher Training	*246,200*	-	*246,200*
	24,876,626	*7,673,928*	*32,550,554*

Analysis of support costs

	Educational operations 2023 £	**Total funds 2023 £**	*Total funds 2022 £*
Staff costs	3,930,433	**3,930,433**	*3,614,696*
Staff recruitment and support	199,149	**199,149**	*157,700*
Maintenance of premises and equipment	935,021	**935,021**	*1,871,622*
Other support costs	227,484	**227,484**	*174,910*
General premises expenses	2,289,669	**2,289,669**	*1,374,490*
Suppliers, printing and telephone	362,906	**362,906**	*268,448*
Legal costs - conversion	164,976	**164,976**	*103,477*
Legal costs - other	9,582	**9,582**	*50,017*
Governance costs	47,322	**47,322**	*58,568*
	8,166,542	**8,166,542**	*7,673,928*

10. Net income

Net income for the year includes:

	2023 £	*2022* *£*
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	**1,634,938**	*1,555,165*
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	**21,075**	*18,750*
- other services	**9,725**	*8,700*

11. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	*2022* *£*
Wages and salaries	**18,780,220**	*17,298,811*
Social security costs	**1,853,927**	*1,705,040*
Pension costs	**4,417,616**	*5,181,445*
	25,051,763	*24,185,296*
Agency supply teacher costs	**219,884**	*167,340*
	25,271,647	*24,352,636*

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	2023 £	*2022* *£*
Severance payments	**19,194**	*28,278*
Other restructuring costs	**-**	-
	19,194	*28,278*

11. Staff (continued)

b. Severance payments

The Academy Trust paid 1 severance payments in the year *(2022 - 3)*, disclosed in the following bands:

	2023 No.	*2022* *No.*
£0 - £25,000	**1**	*3*

c. Special staff severance payments

Included in wages and salaries are non-statutory severance payment amounting to £Nil (2022 - £18,900).

d. Staff numbers

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

	2023 No.	*2022* *No.*
Teachers	**370**	*311*
Administration and support	**214**	*243*
Management	**30**	*30*
Casual staff	**61**	*63*
	675	*647*

e. Higher paid staff

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

11. Staff (continued)

e. Higher paid staff (continued)

	2023	*2022*
	No.	*No.*
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	**18**	*11*
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	**1**	*2*
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	**3**	*4*
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	**3**	*-*
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	**-**	*2*
In the band £120,001 - £130,000	**3**	*1*

11. Staff (continued)

f. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £994,834 *(2022 - £859,418).*

12. Central services

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

- Payroll
- Finance
- Human Resources
- Pensions
- Recruitment
- Union facilities
- Insurance
- Legal
- Governance and policies
- Audit (internal & external)
- Data systems
- Central staff & leadership
- Central subscriptions

The Academy Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

4.20% of GAG topslice was charged to the academies.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023	*2022*
	£	*£*
Bungay High School	**222,884**	*179,742*
Farlingaye High School	**436,227**	*366,500*
Kesgrave High School	**430,192**	*353,565*
Castle East	**48,720**	*27,360*
Total	**1,138,023**	*927,167*

13. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

During the year ended 31 August 2023, no Trustee expenses have been incurred *(2022 - £NIL)*.

14. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim. The cost of this cover is included within the general cover provided to the Academy and it is not possible to separate the specific amount paid in respect of Trustees' indemnity for the years ended 31 August 2022 and 31 August 2023.

15. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost or valuation						
At 1 September 2022	**50,807,218**	**1,038,725**	**371,599**	**1,402,140**	**94,933**	**53,714,615**
Additions	**3,160,205**	**153,479**	**3,665**	**186,788**	**36,295**	**3,540,432**
At 31 August 2023	**53,967,423**	**1,192,204**	**375,264**	**1,588,928**	**131,228**	**57,255,047**
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2022	**5,958,340**	**461,937**	**226,350**	**988,602**	**55,856**	**7,691,085**
Charge for the year	**1,257,988**	**90,460**	**25,646**	**252,341**	**8,503**	**1,634,938**
At 31 August 2023	**7,216,328**	**552,397**	**251,996**	**1,240,943**	**64,359**	**9,326,023**
Net book value						
At 31 August 2023	**46,751,095**	**639,807**	**123,268**	**347,985**	**66,869**	**47,929,024**
At 31 August 2022	*44,848,878*	*576,788*	*145,249*	*413,538*	*39,077*	*46,023,530*

16. Stocks

	2023 £	*2022 £*
Finished goods and goods for resale	**-**	*5,024*

17. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	**59,225**	*51,174*
Other debtors	**163,569**	*121,267*
Prepayments and accrued income	**1,087,598**	*868,967*
	1,310,392	*1,041,408*

18. Current asset investments

	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed term deposits	**2,000,000**	-

Current asset investments comprise of fixed terms deposits with a maturity greater than three months.

19. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other loans	**73,726**	*79,726*
Trade creditors	**311,971**	*493,037*
Other taxation and social security	**446,732**	*419,556*
Other creditors	**633,538**	*559,680*
Accruals and deferred income	**1,037,341**	*1,380,336*
	2,503,308	*2,932,335*

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income		
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	**647,641**	*383,442*
Resources deferred during the year	**556,667**	*647,641*
Amounts released from previous periods	**(647,641)**	*(383,442)*
	556,667	*647,641*

19. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year (continued)

	2023	2022
	£	£

At the balance sheet date the academy Trust was holding funds received in advance in respect of grants where the academy Trust does not yet have entitlement to the income, music tuition taking place in the Autumn Term 2023 and trips taking place in the 23/24 school year.

See note 20 for details of the loan balance.

20. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other loans	**342,708**	*416,401*

20. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year (continued)

£

Loans of £496,106 are from the Condition Improvement Fund which are provided on the following terms.

A loan of £247,521 is being repaid in equal installments over ten years and will be fully repaid in the year to 31 August 2029. Interest is being charged at 1.85%. The loan outstanding at 31 August 2023 is £148,513 (2022 - £173,265).

A loan of £175,000 is being repaid in equal installments over ten years and will be fully repaid in the year to 31 August 2030. Interest is being charged at 2.29%. The loan outstanding at 31 August 2023 is £122,500 (2022 - £140,000).

A loan of £30,000 is being repaid in equal installments over five years and will be fully repaid in the year to 31 August 2023. Interest is being charged at 1.15%. The loan outstanding at 31 August 2023 is £Nil (2022 - £6,000).

A loan of £70,000 is being repaid in equal installments over five years and will be fully repaid in the year to 31 August 2024. Interest is being charged at 1.15%. The loan outstanding at 31 August 2023 is £14,000 (2021 - £28,000).

A loan of £52,000 is being repaid in equal installments over ten years and will be fully repaid in the year to 31 August 2031. Interest is being charged at 2.22%. The loan outstanding at 31 August 2023 is £41,600 (2022 - £46,800).

A loan of £27,990 is being repaid in equal installments over 10 years and will be fully repaid in the year to 31 August 2031. Interest is being charged at 1.15%. The loan outstanding at 31 August 2023 is £22,400 (2021 - £25,200).

A loan of £35,789 is being repaid in equal installments over 8 years and will be fully repaid in the year to 31 August 2028. No interest is being charged. The loan outstanding at 31 August 2023 is £22,368 (2022 - £26,842).

A loan of £50,000 is being repaid in equal installments over 10 years and will be fully repaid in the year to 31 August 2032. Interest is being charged at 2.07%. The loan outstanding at 31 August 2023 is £45,000 (2022 - £50,000).

21. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds						
AGP Fund	**105,936**	**-**	**-**	**120,000**	**-**	**225,936**
General funds						
General Funds	**1,808,466**	**1,542,195**	**(771,841)**	**(120,000)**	**-**	**2,458,820**
Total Unrestricted funds	**1,914,402**	**1,542,195**	**(771,841)**	**-**	**-**	**2,684,756**
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	**1,896,740**	**26,625,465**	**(25,564,865)**	**(514,073)**	**-**	**2,443,267**
Pupil Premium	**80,837**	**776,783**	**(801,746)**	**-**	**-**	**55,874**
Rates Relief	**18,164**	**147,805**	**(165,969)**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Special Educational Needs	**190,276**	**1,510,962**	**(1,701,238)**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Other	**283,845**	**1,268,283**	**(1,192,026)**	**-**	**-**	**360,102**
Supplementary funding	**75,895**	**680,099**	**(755,994)**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Donations	**44,443**	**165**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**44,608**
Teaching school	**117,311**	**426,475**	**(368,459)**	**-**	**-**	**175,327**
SCITT	**-**	**369,860**	**(369,860)**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Pension reserve	**-**	**45,000**	**(265,000)**	**-**	**220,000**	**-**
	2,707,511	**31,850,897**	**(31,185,157)**	**(514,073)**	**220,000**	**3,079,178**

21. Statement of funds (continued)

Restricted fixed asset funds	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Transfer from local authority on conversion	7,461,592	-	(265,050)	-	-	7,196,542
Donated assets	36,891,113	2,914,578	(1,310,441)	-	-	38,495,250
Capital expenditure post conversion	1,981,584	876,529	(398,010)	434,378	-	2,894,481
CIF loan	(496,129)	-	-	79,695	-	(416,434)
	45,838,160	3,791,107	(1,973,501)	514,073	-	48,169,839
Total Restricted funds	48,545,671	35,642,004	(33,158,658)	-	220,000	51,249,017
Total funds	50,460,073	37,184,199	(33,930,499)	-	220,000	53,933,773

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

The General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State the academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023.

The Pension reserve represents the Academy's net liability/asset in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

The Pupil Premium income represents an additional grant to support those students on free school meals and who are from service families. Costs incurred for this purpose such as additional teaching and support staff expenses have been set off against this income.

Special Educational Needs funding is High Needs Tariff funding received to support students with significant special educational needs beyond mainstream schooling.

Rates Relief represents funding received via the ESFA to cover a proportion of the Academy Trust's expenditure on rates.

Other restricted funds represents other grants for restricted purposes.

Teaching school funds represents grants received for the teaching school.

SCITT represents funds for School Centred Initial Teacher Training.

Donations represents donations received for restricted purposes.

Supplementary funding represents grants received to support the costs of the Health and Social Care Levy and wider costs.

21. Statement of funds (continued)

CIF loan represents the balance owing to the DfE on the CIF loan. The loan will be repaid from the General Annual Grant (GAG).

Assets transferred from the local authority on conversion represent the net book value of leasehold land and buildings and other assets transferred from the predecessor school upon becoming an academy.

Donated assets represents the restricted fixed asset funds of Bungay High School and Kesgrave High School on transfer the the MAT and any other donated fixed assets.

Capital expenditure post-conversion represents fixed assets purchased from that grant funding.

AGP Fund represents a fund designated by the Trustees out of unrestricted funds to fund replacement of the artificial grass pitch.

Transfers

£79,695 was transferred from GAG to CIF loan in relation to the loan repayments.

£434,378 was transferred out of GAG funds to fixed asset funds to represent tangible fixed assets acquired out of GAG funds.

£120,000 was transferred out of unrestricted general funds to designated funds to go towards replacement of the Artificial Grass Pitch.

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

21. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Transfers in/out £*	*Gains/ (Losses) £*	*Balance at 31 August 2022 £*
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds						
AGP Fund	*95,936*	*-*	*-*	*10,000*	*-*	*105,936*
General funds						
General Funds	*1,739,855*	*937,099*	*(720,050)*	*(148,438)*	*-*	*1,808,466*
Total Unrestricted funds	1,835,791	*937,099*	(720,050)	*(138,438)*	*-*	*1,914,402*

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Transfers in/out £*	*Gains/ (Losses) £*	*Balance at 31 August 2022 £*
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	*934,235*	*25,364,999*	*(24,222,519)*	*(179,975)*	*-*	*1,896,740*
Pupil Premium	*89,805*	*723,844*	*(732,812)*	*-*	*-*	*80,837*
Rates Relief	*19,632*	*127,874*	*(129,342)*	*-*	*-*	*18,164*
Special Educational Needs	*95,860*	*1,034,936*	*(940,520)*	*-*	*-*	*190,276*
Other	*488,516*	*638,161*	*(1,812,040)*	*969,208*	*-*	*283,845*
Supplementary funding	*-*	*284,548*	*(208,653)*	*-*	*-*	*75,895*
Donations	*75,449*	*16,256*	*(47,262)*	*-*	*-*	*44,443*
Teaching school	*57,046*	*370,350*	*(310,085)*	*-*	*-*	*117,311*
SCITT	*-*	*246,200*	*(246,200)*	*-*	*-*	*-*
Pension reserve	*(10,027,000)*	*-*	*(1,492,000)*	*-*	*11,519,000*	*-*
	(8,266,457)	*28,807,168*	*(30,141,433)*	*789,233*	*11,519,000*	*2,707,511*

21. Statement of funds (continued)

Restricted fixed asset funds						
Transfer from local authority on conversion	*7,856,273*	*-*	*(394,681)*	*-*	*-*	*7,461,592*
Donated assets	*29,545,572*	*8,587,178*	*(1,241,637)*	*-*	*-*	*36,891,113*
Capital expenditure post conversion	*2,121,165*	*588,659*	*(52,753)*	*(675,487)*	*-*	*1,981,584*
CIF loan	*(520,821)*	*-*	*-*	*24,692*	*-*	*(496,129)*
	39,002,189	*9,175,837*	*(1,689,071)*	*(650,795)*	*-*	*45,838,160*
Total Restricted funds	*30,735,732*	*37,983,005*	*(31,830,504)*	*138,438*	*11,519,000*	*48,545,671*
Total funds	*32,571,523*	*38,920,104*	*(32,550,554)*	*-*	*11,519,000*	*50,460,073*

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	2023 **£**	*2022* *£*
Farlingaye High School	**1,601,930**	*1,481,412*
Bungay High School	**807,345**	*549,798*
Kesgrave High School	**1,300,329**	*1,593,475*
Castle EAST School	**1,159,387**	*417,338*
Teaching School	**259,237**	*117,311*
Central MAT	**635,706**	*462,579*
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	**5,763,934**	*4,621,913*
Restricted fixed asset fund	**48,169,839**	*45,838,160*
Total	**53,933,773**	*50,460,073*

21. Statement of funds (continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2023 £
Farlingaye High School	8,101,262	1,587,039	687,533	1,216,957	**11,592,791**
Bungay High School	3,863,895	853,798	337,763	1,037,546	**6,093,002**
Kesgrave High School	8,064,515	1,087,707	583,898	2,207,964	**11,944,084**
Castle EAST School	838,107	79,580	96,508	158,649	**1,172,844**
Teaching School	68,862	34,369	119,675	432,368	**655,274**
Central MAT	184,689	287,940	140,556	224,380	**837,565**
Academy Trust	21,121,330	3,930,433	1,965,933	5,277,864	**32,295,560**

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	*Other support staff costs £*	*Educational supplies £*	*Other costs excluding depreciation £*	*Total 2022 £*
Farlingaye High School	*8,106,039*	*1,452,648*	*666,842*	*1,069,108*	*11,294,637*
Bungay High School	*3,835,566*	*837,665*	*311,004*	*1,148,768*	*6,133,003*
Kesgrave High School	*7,800,690*	*1,057,047*	*520,617*	*2,044,352*	*11,422,706*
Castle EAST School	*565,635*	*37,165*	*94,696*	*118,145*	*815,641*
Teaching School	*67,526*	*42,325*	*103,458*	*43,747*	*257,056*
Central MAT	*176,303*	*187,846*	*161,111*	*413,180*	*938,440*
Academy Trust	*20,551,759*	*3,614,696*	*1,857,728*	*4,837,300*	*30,861,483*

22. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	47,929,024	**47,929,024**
Current assets	2,563,594	5,523,502	763,669	**8,850,765**
Creditors due within one year	121,162	(2,444,324)	(180,146)	**(2,503,308)**
Creditors due in more than one year	-	-	(342,708)	**(342,708)**
Total	2,684,756	3,079,178	48,169,839	**53,933,773**

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	*Restricted funds 2022 £*	*Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £*	*Total funds 2022 £*
Tangible fixed assets	*-*	*-*	*46,023,530*	*46,023,530*
Current assets	*2,681,605*	*4,792,917*	*310,757*	*7,785,279*
Creditors due within one year	*(767,203)*	*(2,085,406)*	*(79,726)*	*(2,932,335)*
Creditors due in more than one year	*-*	*-*	*(416,401)*	*(416,401)*
Total	*1,914,402*	*2,707,511*	*45,838,160*	*50,460,073*

23. Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income for the year (as per Statement of financial activities)	**3,253,700**	*6,369,550*
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	**1,634,938**	*1,689,073*
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	**265,000**	*1,316,000*
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	**(45,000)**	*176,000*
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	**5,024**	*(798)*
Increase in debtors	**(268,984)**	*392,358*
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	**(423,027)**	*873,907*
Donated assets	**(2,914,578)**	*(8,587,178)*
Net cash provided by operating activities	**1,507,073**	*2,228,912*

24. Cash flows from financing activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash inflows from new borrowing	**-**	*50,000*
Repayments of borrowing	**(79,693)**	*(74,694)*
Net cash used in financing activities	**(79,693)**	*(24,694)*

25. Cash flows from investing activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**(625,854)**	*(558,762)*
Net cash used in investing activities	**(625,854)**	*(558,762)*

26. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	*2022 £*
Cash in hand and at bank	**7,540,373**	*6,738,847*
Total cash and cash equivalents	**7,540,373**	*6,738,847*

27. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	Other non-cash changes £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	**6,738,847**	**(1,198,474)**	**-**	**5,540,373**
Current asset investments	**-**	**2,000,000**	**-**	**2,000,000**
Debt due within 1 year	**(79,726)**	**85,693**	**(79,693)**	**(73,726)**
Debt due after 1 year	**(416,401)**	**(6,000)**	**79,693**	**(342,708)**
	6,242,720	**881,219**	**-**	**7,123,939**

28. Capital commitments

	2023 £	*2022 £*
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	**129,197**	*177,370*

29. Pension commitments

The Academy Trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Suffolk 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 2019.

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

29. Pension commitments (continued)

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

- employer contribution rates currently set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy) will increase by 5% from 1 April 2024
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £38,900 million

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £3,555,616 *(2022 - £3,090,445)*.

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2023/10/valuation-result

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

29. Pension commitments (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £1,128,000 *(2022 - £995,000)*, of which employer's contributions totalled £862,000 *(2022 - £775,000)* and employees' contributions totalled £266,000 *(2022 - £220,000)*. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 21.5 per cent for employers and variable per cent for employees.

As described in note 2 the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Academy Trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Academy Trust at the balance sheet date.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2023	*2022*
	%	*%*
Rate of increase in salaries	**4.00**	*3.75*
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	**3.00**	*3.05*
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	**5.20**	*4.25*

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

	2023	*2022*
	Years	*Years*
Retiring today		
Males	**20.7**	*21.9*
Females	**24.7**	*24.3*
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	**21.9**	*22.9*
Females	**25.9**	*26.1*

29. Pension commitments (continued)

Sensitivity analysis

	2023 £000	*2022 £000*
Discount rate +0.1%	**(355)**	*(394)*
Discount rate -0.1%	**355**	*394*
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	**676**	*713*
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	**(676)**	*(713)*
CPI rate +0.1%	**327**	*366*
CPI rate -0.1%	**(327)**	*(366)*

For sensitivity purposes the Actuary has advised that they estimate that a one year increase in life expectancy would increase the Employers Defined Benefit Obligation by 3-5%, but that in practice the actual cost would depend on the structure of the revised assumption. The table above discloses the monetary impact of a 4% change.

Share of scheme assets

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

	At 31 August 2023 £	*At 31 August 2022 £*
Equities	**13,541,000**	*12,921,000*
Property	**1,641,000**	*1,900,000*
Cash and other liquid assets	**205,000**	*-*
Debt instruments	**5,129,000**	*4,180,000*
Total market value of assets	**20,516,000**	*19,001,000*

The actual return on scheme assets was £1,169,000 *(2022 - £158,000)*.

The amounts recognised in the Statement of financial activities are as follows:

	2023 £	*2022 £*
Current service cost	**(1,127,000)**	*(2,091,000)*
Interest income	**823,000**	*310,000*
Interest cost	**(778,000)**	*(486,000)*
Total amount recognised in the Statement of financial activities	**(1,082,000)**	*(2,267,000)*

29. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2023 £	*2022 £*
At 1 September	**17,816,000**	*28,478,000*
Current service cost	**1,127,000**	*2,091,000*
Interest cost	**778,000**	*486,000*
Employee contributions	**266,000**	*220,000*
Actuarial gains	**(2,745,000)**	*(13,172,000)*
Benefits paid	**(354,000)**	*(287,000)*
At 31 August	**16,888,000**	*17,816,000*

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

	2023 £	*2022 £*
At 1 September	**19,001,000**	*18,451,000*
Interest income	**823,000**	*310,000*
Actuarial losses	**(82,000)**	*(468,000)*
Employer contributions	**862,000**	*775,000*
Employee contributions	**266,000**	*220,000*
Benefits paid	**(354,000)**	*(287,000)*
Asset ceiling adjustment	**(3,628,000)**	*(1,185,000)*
At 31 August	**16,888,000**	*17,816,000*

The actuarial valuation on the Plan for accounting purposes showed a net surplus of £3,628,000 as at 31 August 2023. FRS 102 allows a plan surplus to be recognised as a defined benefit plan asset only to the extent that an entity is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan. The Trust notes advice from the Scheme Actuary that the prevailing view held by LGPS practitioners is that employers have no unconditional right to a refund in the LGPS and that a minimum funding requirement for future service exists in the LGPS. In line with calculations received from the Actuary of the the extent to which the surplus could be recovered through future contributions where there is a minimum funding requirement for future service, the Trust has concluded that none of the surplus can be be recognised as an asset.

30. Operating lease commitments

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

	2023 £	*2022 £*
Not later than 1 year	**64,302**	*45,063*
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	**131,173**	*121,230*
Later than 5 years	**262**	*4,630*
	195,737	*170,923*

31. Other financial commitments

At the year end there is a financial commitment of £525,300 (2022 - £171,862) in relation to ongoing roof repairs.

32. 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 £NIL for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

33. Related party transactions

No related party transactions took place in the period of account.

34. Post balance sheet events

On the 1 November 2023 Avocet Academy, made up of 5 primary schools, tranferred their operations assets and liablities into East Anglian Schools Trust Ltd.

Farlingaye High School has been found to contain RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) in some areas, which have been assessed to be unsafe to use. Costs have been incurred in relocation of students. Substantial further costs are anticipated in rectifying the affected areas to bring them back into use. The Trust has received assurances from DfE that they will fund both emergency mitigation work and the necessary refurbishment or rebuilding projects to rectify RAAC affected properties.

35. Agency arrangements

The Academy Trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. In the year it received £89,548 (2022 - £72,603), and disbursed £38,207 (2022 - £37,936). An amount of £86,007 (2022 - £34,667) is repayable to ESFA at 31 August 2023 and is included in other creditors. £Nil (2022 - £Nil) has been recognised in income and expenditure in the Statement of financial activities.

36. Controlling party

There is no ultimate controlling party.