

Registration number: 07933749

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Forrester Boyd
Chartered Accountants
66-68 Oswald Road
Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire
DN15 7PG

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

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Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Reference and administrative details

Members	L M Read R D Law L Taylor P Wilson
Trustees (Directors)	D Clark K Arundale H Batty R Beigel R Gora (resigned 22 November 2022) L Read F Robinson (resigned 23 March 2023) L Taylor E Cobbold R Law P Wilson J Wheat M Neill K Grewal-Joy (accounting officer) M Dunbar S Ayres (resigned 26 September 2022) J Headey I Sibbald A James (appointed 3 October 2022) F Newton (appointed 6 February 2023) B Anderson (appointed 22 February 2023) C Levett (appointed 2 October 2023) S Shaw (appointed 26 September 2023)
Company Secretary	K Elliott
Senior Management Team	K Grewal-Joy K Elliott S P Bacon T Woodward
Principal and Registered Office	Dyche Lane Sheffield South Yorkshire S8 8BR
Company Registration Number	07933749

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Reference and administrative details (continued)

Auditors Forrester Boyd
Chartered Accountants
66-68 Oswald Road
Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire
DN15 7PG

Bankers Lloyds
High Street
Sheffield
S1 1HP

Solicitors Browne Jacobson LLP
Mowbray House
Castle Meadow Road
Nottingham
NG2 1BJ

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

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

The academy trust operates an academy for pupils aged 11 to 19 serving a catchment area in South Sheffield. It has a pupil capacity of 1950 and had a roll of 1913 in the school census on 19th May 2023.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and is an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. The company registration number is 07933749. The governors act as trustees of Meadowhead School Academy Trust and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as Meadowhead School Academy Trust.

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

Members' liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the 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 cease to be a member.

Trustees' indemnities

Trustees are covered by the School's Insurers for liability arising from negligent acts, errors and omissions committed in good faith.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The management of the academy is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association. The appointment of parent and staff trustees are conducted through nominations and where necessary ballots.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

It is expected that newly appointed trustees will attend induction training provided by the school. The training includes the main governing body and subcommittee roles, strategic leadership role, the school's vision, being a critical friend, planning, monitoring and evaluating the work of the school, accountability and how the governing body communicates.

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Organisational structure

Finance Structure

MSAT has defined the responsibilities of each person involved in the administration of academy finances to avoid the duplication or omission of functions and to provide a framework of accountability for Trustees and staff. The financial reporting structure is illustrated below:-

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Accounting Officer
↓
Governing Body
↓
Finance & Resources Committee
↓
Chief Financial Officer
↓
Finance Team
↓
Budget Holders
  
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The organisation of MSAT encourages regular interaction between those making financial decisions and those affected by them through the passing of information regarding any proposed actions through the reporting lines indicated above.

Role of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees has overall responsibility for the administration of MSAT finances. The main responsibilities of the Board of Trustees are prescribed in the Funding Agreement between MSAT and the Secretary of State for Education. The main responsibilities include:

- ensuring that any grant from the DFE is used only for the purposes intended;
- the approval of the annual budget;
- the approval of delegated financial powers.

The Board of Trustees also recognises key roles set out in the DFE documents, 'Governance Handbook 2023' and 'Competency Framework for Governance 2021', these being:

- to be strategic, including ensuring that the School has clear aims and values, to raise standards of achievement and to ensure that the School's resources are directed to through the School Improvement Plan (SIP).
- to act as a critical friend, including identifying where the School is and is not achieving and supporting and challenging proposals of the School
- to be accountable, including the promotion of standards and educational achievement and the School's overall performance.

Trustees act with integrity, objectivity and honesty and in the best interests of the School and are prepared to explain their decisions and actions, if required.

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Schedule of Financial Delegation

MSAT has a detailed Schedule of Financial Delegation that sets out the financial responsibilities retained by the Board of Trustees as well as the delegation to the Finance and Resources Committee, Headteacher and to other members of staff within the School. In addition to the Schedule of Financial Delegation, Trustees are made aware of the Academy funding Agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook as part of their induction training. The School has adopted these documents and incorporated them into its Schedule of Financial Delegation.

The School also maintains individual job descriptions for the Headteacher, Finance Director and all others involved in the financial management of the school, setting out clearly defined levels of financial responsibility, including their relationship with the Board of Trustees.

Financial Policies

The Board of Trustees is responsible for ensuring that a number of policies are in place and regularly reviewed. All staff and Trustees are made aware of these policies through their induction training.

Review of Financial Procedures

Trustees periodically, or following any significant changes to the financial practices being operated, will review this finance procedures manual. Approval of the manual will be reflected within the board of trustee minutes. The manual is held within the policies file and is available to staff and Trustees. It is also brought to their attention through the induction process. This Finance Manual should be read in conjunction with:

Anti-Fraud & Corruption Policy
Safer Recruitment Policy
Charging & Remissions Policy
Data Protection Policy

Role of the Finance & Resources Committee

Although there is no requirement for schools to have committees, the Board of Trustees has agreed that it will fulfil some of its responsibilities through the Finance & Resources Committee. The Board of Trustees as a whole decides the membership of each committee

The tasks that are carried out by the Finance & Resources Committee are as follows:-

- Provide advice and offer recommendations to the Board of Trustees on all financial matters.
- Scrutinise the drafts of the annual budget and the rolling five-year budget and make recommendations for their approval by the Board of Trustees.
- Monitor income and expenditure against the annual budget and all other day to day financial issues within the limits of the Schedule of Delegation.
- Monitor the financial regulations maintained by the School and the effectiveness of the School's financial procedures as set out in the finance handbook for staff.
- Ensure the annual accounts are produced in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the DFE guidance issued to academies;
- Receive reports and monitor the professional development activities of the School.
- Monitor financial areas of the School Plan on behalf of the Board of Trustees.
- Review financial policies and recommend for approval to the full Board of Trustees. Monitor the implementation of such policies.
- Review the reports of the Responsible Officer on the effectiveness of the financial procedures and controls and report on these to the full Board of Trustees.

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Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Reporting Financial Updates to Trustees

The School ensures that the Board of Trustees is kept fully informed about financial issues and developments at meetings of the Finance & Resources Committee by recording the details in the minutes. Following discussion, any issues of a significant nature are then fed back to the full Board of Trustees.

Role of the Head Teacher

Within the framework of MSAT's development plan and schedule of Delegation as approved by the Board of Trustees the Headteacher has overall executive responsibility for MSAT activities including financial activities. Much of the financial responsibility has been delegated to the Finance Director and to Designated Budget Holders but the Headteacher still retains responsibility for:

- Authorising contracts between £10,000 and £50,000 in conjunction with the Chair of the Finance & Resources Committee where appropriate
- The overall integrity of the School's finances and the effective operation of the School's financial systems and controls;
- Ensuring that the Designated Budget Holders discharge their responsibilities effectively.

Role of Designated Budget Holders

The role of the Designated Budget Holder is to:

- Ensure that all commitment and expenditure against his/her Approved Budget is within budget limits and within the limit of his/her delegated authority;
- Liaise with the Finance Director of any potential overspend or variation to Approved Budget;
- Complete and authorise a Purchase Order for all commitments;
- Ensure that invoices for expenditure against his/her budget are for goods or services properly ordered, have been received, confirm to specification and are of satisfactory standard. If so, to authorise the invoice for payment.

Role of the Responsible Officer

The Responsible Officer (RO) is appointed by the Board of Trustees and provides Trustees with an independent oversight of MSAT's financial affairs. The main duties of the RO are to provide the Board of Trustees with independent assurance that:

- the financial responsibilities of the Board of Trustees are being properly discharged;
- resources are being managed in an efficient, economical and effective manner;
- sound systems of internal financial control are being maintained and
- financial considerations are fully taken into account in reaching decisions.

The Responsible Officer will undertake a termly programme of reviews to ensure that financial transactions have been properly processed and that controls are operating as laid down by the Board of Trustees. A report of the findings from each visit will be presented to the Finance & Resources Committee.

Role of the Finance Director

Working with the Headteacher, the Finance Director prepares the initial draft annual budget for the School, which is submitted to the Finance & Resources Committee, for discussion and then the Board of Trustees for the final approval.

The Finance Director also provides specific expertise in long-term financial management and is responsible for:

- budgeting
- providing financial advice
- accountancy
- generating and monitoring income
- arranging and checking insurance
- costing projects undertaken by the School (building works, contracts, etc.)
- developing financial policy.

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Role of Other Staff in Financial Management and Administration

In order for the financial system to operate well, staff with financial responsibilities must act with competence and integrity. As part of the interview and selection process, the School specifies the qualifications, experience and personal qualities desired for the post within the person specification. All staff with financial responsibilities are requested to complete the competencies matrix. The Headteacher reviews these and, where appropriate, training to support the members of staff is considered. Staff are also encouraged to review any training sessions offered both internally and by external providers in order to expand the knowledge that they already hold or to bring them up to date with current practices and expectations.

Academy Accounts Return, Budget Forecast Return, Budget Forecast Return Outturn.

The Finance Director is responsible for completing the annual AAR, the BFR and the BFRO for its submission by the ESFA deadline each year.

Register of Pecuniary (Business) Interests

It is important for anyone involved in spending public money to demonstrate that they do not benefit personally from the decisions they make. To avoid any misunderstanding that might arise all MSAT Trustees and staff with significant financial or spending powers are required to declare any financial interests they have in companies or individuals from whom MSAT may purchase goods or services. The register is open to public inspection.

The register includes all business interests such as directorships, shareholdings or other appointments of influence within a business or organisation which may have dealings with MSAT. The disclosures also include business interests of relatives such as a parent or spouse or business partner where influence could be exerted over a trustee or a member of staff by that person.

The existence of a register of business interests does not detract from the duties of Trustees and staff to declare interests whenever they are relevant to matters being discussed by the Board of Trustees or a committee. Where an interest has been declared, Trustees and staff should not attend that part of any committee or other meeting.

The register is retained by the Clerk to the Board of Trustees and shows:-

- the name of the Trustee / staff member (including close family members).
- the nature of the business or personal interest.
- the name of the organisation or person which gives rise to the interest.
- an indication of the circumstances in which a conflict might arise (if this is not already obvious).

No trustee or member of staff accepts gifts or hospitality from current or potential suppliers, unless appropriate approval is obtained.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The school pay policy is reviewed annually to reflect statutory changes and on the advice of an independent HR advisor. The Trust follows the national School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document that covers guidance on teachers' pay and conditions; the national teachers' pay scales include leadership pay scales. A committee of trust members advised by the external School Improvement Partner appraises the Headteacher against pre-agreed targets. Remuneration and pay progression for the Senior Leadership Team is considered annually as part of the appraisal process. Annual pay rises and increments are awarded in line with national and local guidance for both teaching and support staff.

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
2	186

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time

1%-50%

Number of employees

2

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Provide the total cost of facility time

Provide the total pay bill

2023

1,950

9,749,713

Paid trade union activities

2023

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours calculated as: (total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period ÷ total paid facility time hours) x 100

-

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Meadowhead School Academy Trust is a member of Meadowhead Community Learning Trust.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The principal objective and activity of the Academy Trust is the operation of Meadowhead School to provide education for students between the ages of 11 and 19. The main objectives of Meadowhead School during the year ended 31 August 2023 are summarised below:

- to raise the standard of educational achievement of all students
- to ensure that every student enjoys the same high quality education
- to continually improve the effectiveness of the school
- to comply with all statutory requirements
- to provide value for money for all funds expended
- to conduct the school's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness.

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Objectives, strategies and activities

As a "Good" rated Ofsted School, there is a relentless and uncompromising drive for school improvement at all levels of leadership. All at Meadowhead are in pursuit of excellence. There is a focus on every child and a belief that every child matters and that every child will achieve and make progress. We look to achieve this by developing:

- high quality teaching, learning and assessment that engages and meets the needs of all learners;
- a staffing structure that allows school leaders to focus on the strategic direction of the school and allows teachers to focus on teaching, learning and assessment;
- a high quality CPD and staff support programmes that support staff pedagogy and practice resulting in strong recruitment and retention;
- a broad, balanced and engaging curriculum that challenges every student and allows them to follow the pathway that is most appropriate for them;
- strong links with industry, higher education and the community that allow students to contextualise their learning;
- outstanding support, care and guidance through a well-trained and highly skilled pastoral team;
- excellent relationships with and amongst staff and students;
- strong lines of communication to ensure that staff and student voices are heard and listened to;
- a wide range of extra-curricular activities and student leadership programmes to enrich the learning experience;
- a positive contribution to and relationship with the community;
- a supportive working partnership with home.
- a National Tutoring Programme to support catch-up development of those who lost education through the lockdown periods.

Public benefit

The Board of Trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives. All our charitable activities are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

Equal Opportunities Policy

The Board of Trustees recognise that equal opportunities should be an integral part of the good practice within the workplace. Meadowhead School aims to establish equal opportunities in all areas of its activities including a working environment in which the contributions and needs of all people are valued.

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance

Charitable activities

The key student success measures for a school are based on:-

- 1) Student Progress and Achievement
- 2) Student Attendance and Behaviour

1. Student Progress and Achievement

Key stage 4

Headline Figures	2023	2022	2021 (TAG)	2020 (CAG)	2019	2018
Cohort Size	327	329 (317)	307	313	316	313
KS2 Prior Attainment	4.74	4.85	4.82	4.82	4.75	4.71
Progress 8	0	0.43*	0.29*	0.26*	0.10	-0.04
Attainment 8	45.4	52.02	49.86	49.66	47.23	45.62

Strong Passes (5+)

Headline Figures	2023	2022	2021 (TAG)	2020 (CAG)	2019	2018
% of pupils achieving a grade 5+ in E & M (Basics 9 – 5)	43%	57%	51%	50%	42%	44%
% of pupils achieving a grade 5+ in English	56%	68%	68%	62%	57%	61%
% of pupils achieving a grade 5+ in Maths	47%	64%	55%	55%	49%	49%

Standard Passes (4+)

Headline Figures	2023	2022	2021 (TAG)	2020 (CAG)	2019	2018
% of pupils achieving a grade 4+ in E & M (Basics 9 – 4)	62%	75%	71%	71%	66%	65%
% of pupils achieving a grade 4+ in English	70%	81%	81%	78%	75%	73%
% of pupils achieving a grade 4+ in Maths	68%	79%	74%	75%	72%	69%

1+ Qualification	97%	98.5%	100%	98.4%	99.4%	97.8%
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English Baccalaureate Measures

Headline Figures	2023	2022	2021 (TAG)	2020 (CAG)	2019	2018
% of students entered for EBacc	24%	31%	33%	29%	46%	50%
% of cohort achieved EBacc (Strong)	14%	23%	20%	17%	19%	20%
% of cohort achieved EBacc (Standard)	19%	29%	27%	21%	29%	34%

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

By Disadvantage

	Disadvantaged					
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Cohort Size	93	82	89	97	82	68
KS2 Prior Attainment	4.42	4.53	4.47	4.56	4.38	4.31
Progress 8	-0.9	0.07*	-0.37*	-0.14*	-0.21	-0.74
Attainment 8	30.04	40.72	35.61	39.69	36.16	30.19
Average AB Grade	2.39	4.07	3.56	3.97	3.62	3.09

Other					
2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
234	247	218	214	234	242
4.85	4.95	4.96	4.93	4.88	4.83
0.33	0.54*	0.55*	0.46*	0.21	0.20
51.51	55.78	55.68	54.54	51.11	50.26
4.37	5.58	5.57	5.45	5.11	5.02

Strong Passes (5+)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
% achieving a grade 5+ in EM (Basics 9 – 5)	16%	35%	26%	25%	15%	20%
% of pupils achieving a grade 5+ in English	26%	48%	43%	42%	32%	28%
% of pupils achieving a grade 5+ in Maths	22%	44%	29%	31%	24%	27%

2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
53%	64%	61%	61%	51%	51%
68%	75%	79%	72%	66%	71%
56%	70%	66%	69%	57%	55%

Standard Passes (4+)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
% achieving a grade 4+ in EM (Basics 9 – 4)	30%	50%	40%	53%	44%	32%
% of pupils achieving a grade 4+ in English	37%	62%	56%	65%	52%	38%
% of pupils achieving a grade 4+ in Maths	42%	56%	44%	58%	54%	39%

2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
75%	84%	84%	79%	74%	75%
83%	87%	91%	85%	83%	84%
78%	86%	86%	82%	78%	77%

A – Level Headline Figures	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Cohort Size	114	104	106	75	68	120	122
Value Added	0				0.21	-0.20	-0.22
Average Grade Per Entry (best 3 qualifications)	B=	A=	B	C+	C+	C+	C+
Average Points Per Entry (best 3 qualifications)	B=	45.82	39.21	33.93	33.93	31.77	32.12
% students achieving at least AAB with at least 2 facilitating	24.3	44.1%			13.3%	9%	11.8%
Average Points Per Entry	39.06	43.31	37.57	31.72	32.80	31.11	29.74
% A* – A	31.4	42.2	31.4	16.7	17.6	17.8	17.4
% A* – B	64.3	74.9	47.0 (65.4)	52	43 (51.6)	33.2 (52.7)	43.6 (52.9)
% A* – C	88.2	94.4	88.1 (87.5)	77.3	75 (75.8)	64.7 (76.8)	69.1 (77.3)
% A* – E	99.6	100	100 (99.7)	100	100 (97.6)	98.6 (97.6)	95.3 (97.9)
Applied General Headline Figures	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Cohort Size	73	60	51	57	34	43	44
Value Added (new examination regimes)	0.17				0.49	0.09	0.44
Average Grade Per Entry	D=	Dis+	D+	D+	Dis-	Dis-	Dis-
Average Points Per Entry	36.59	38.47	41.10	37.27	30	30.71	44.53

Figures in brackets refer to national results

Note: BTEC courses changed to 2016 specification from 2018 results onwards. TAG and CAG (2019 and 2020) only contain attainment, no V.A

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

2) Student Attendance and Behaviour

For the academic year ending 2023, Meadowhead School has had an overall attendance Y7 -11 of 90.1%. The team are very proud that Meadowhead was one of three schools in Sheffield who improved attendance overall and reduced persistent absence.

This year has also started promisingly with attendance higher than it was a year ago and the gaps between pupil premium and non-pupil premium, SEN and no SEN, FSM and Non FSM narrowing by just over 3%.

The offer to parents and students remains the same, early intervention to reduce patterns of behaviour and targeted multi agency support for those at risk of persistent or severe absence. We will build on the success achieved last year by further embedding how attendance is everyone's business and every day matters.

We have high expectations of our students and parents and will continue to protect every student's right to an education.

3) Progression

Y11

End-October destinations data from the local authority shows 95% (310 of 328) Y11 leavers in confirmed positive destinations. Once again, Meadowhead Sixth form is the most popular choice for Y11 leavers, followed by Sheffield College.

Y13

By mid-October, 98% of Y13 leavers were confirmed in positive destinations. Three-quarters of the year group opted for higher education straight from sixth form. 10.5% (13 students) secured an apprenticeship, 2 of which were at higher or degree level.

Going concern

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

Financial review

The school premises and equipment are included in its balance sheet at cost which is shown in note 11 to the accounts.

The Statement of Financial Activities for the period ending 31st August 2023 shows a deficit before pension adjustments of £143,978 (2022: £51,755 surplus) on unrestricted funds and a deficit of £325,890 (2022: £44,343) on restricted general funds i.e. a total deficit on revenue activities of £469,868 (2022: £7,412 surplus). Following the actuary's valuation of Local Government Pension Scheme, there was a decrease to the academy's pension liability (see note 23 for details) to £335,000 (2022: £1,303,000). Most of the school's income is in the form of recurring grants from the Department for Education (DfE) which are provided under the funding agreement with the Trust. The use of this income is restricted to particular purposes. The DfE grants received by the trust for the period ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. The school also received capital formula grants of £105,395 which has been spent during the year. In accordance with the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice (the SORP) Accounting and Reporting by Charities FRS 102, such grants 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 in accordance with the school's accounting policy, over the asset's expected useful life. On 31 August 2023 the net book value of fixed assets including the land and buildings was £32,545,198 (2022: £33,197,337).

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Reserves policy

A key objective for Meadowhead School Academy Trust is to maintain a structure of prudent financial management. The aim of the Academy's reserve policy is to:

-ensure fluctuations in income or unexpected expenditure are managed effectively and enable a programme for the renewal and replacement of the schools assets to be developed and maintained.

The Academy Trust held balances at 31 August 2023 of £33,449,258 (2022: £33,654,347) comprising £32,494,116 of restricted fixed asset funds (which can only be realised by disposing of tangible fixed assets), £190,011 of restricted general funds, £1,100,131 of unrestricted general funds (of which £51,082 can only be realised by disposing of tangible fixed assets) and a pension reserve deficit of £335,000. The finance and resources committee will agree a value of reserves to be created in a year as part of the budget approval process. The aim is to maintain minimum reserves of £1million or 10% of GAG funding. This is currently being achieved.

Steps are being taken to eliminate the pension scheme deficit as contributions have increased since converting to an academy. It is possible that the deficit can have an effect on the cashflow of the Academy, as it may mean the contributions will have to change again in the future.

The level of free reserves as at 31 August 2023 is £1,239,060 (2022: £1,760,010).

Investment policy

The Trust's Articles of Association restrict any decisions on the investment of school funds to the Trustees. Trustees may only invest funds after taking advice from a financial expert, as defined under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. Investments are currently restricted to interest on the schools accounts. All interest is returned to the school as unrestricted income. Funds held on deposit during the year were placed in a 6 Month Term Deposit Account with its existing bankers.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The School has undertaken work during the period to establish the system of internal control, including financial operation and risk management that is designed to protect the school's assets and reputation. The School's Risk Register contains the details of risks to which our organisation is exposed, the likelihood of those risks occurring and their potential impact on the school. Risks are assessed through a consistent scoring system and the register identifies the actions being taken to mitigate the risks. All proposed new activities are assessed for risk.

The academy is not generally exposed to significant uncertainty in relation to financial instruments. The key issue is the pension scheme liability, which is included in the accounts based on actuarial advice and inevitably will be subject to fluctuations in the future.

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Ofsted Report

Inspection of Meadowhead School Academy Trust: 7th and 8th June 2022

Overall effectiveness - Good
The quality of education - Good
Behaviour and attitudes - Good
Personal development - Good
Leadership and management - Good
Sixth-form provision - Good

Previous inspection grade Requires improvement

What is it like to attend this school?

Meadowhead School Academy is an inclusive and welcoming school, with a popular sixth form. Pupils are happy and safe. They care about each other and treat each other with respect. They respect the differences between people. Pupils reported that, if bullying occurs, staff deal with it quickly. There is a growing sense of ambition among pupils and staff at the school.

Pupils behave very positively. They are lively, confident, interested and kind. This is because everyone wants them to be successful.

Leaders prioritise pupils' personal development, and this supports the work of the school to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain. Pupils find this highly motivating.

The personal development curriculum actively supports pupils' welfare and wellbeing. They enjoy opportunities to develop their leadership through volunteering for the student parliament. Pupils have a voice at this school.

Sixth-form students are positive role models for younger pupils. Students who attend the sixth form are taking up places at university in increasing numbers. There is a well-planned programme of careers education, information, advice and guidance on offer. The vast majority of parents and carers are very positive about the school. Many said that the school has improved since the previous inspection.

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

Leaders and trustees have brought about considerable improvement since the previous inspection. They have improved most aspects of the school's work. Pupils benefit from a broad and ambitious curriculum that meets the needs of all learners, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

In most subjects, leaders have thought carefully about the knowledge they want pupils to gain and the order in which they should learn this content. This helps pupils achieve well across key stages 3 and 4 and in the sixth form. However, leaders know that there is some more work to do to ensure that this level of curriculum detail is consistent across every subject. At times, teachers are less consistently clear about what essential knowledge pupils must know and this stops pupils from deepening their knowledge over time.

The curriculum is ambitious. Subject leaders and teachers have received high-quality training to enhance their plans in the very large majority of subjects. Teachers have strong subject knowledge. Most teachers use this knowledge to question pupils and check levels of understanding. Teachers use a range of methods to check the depth of pupils' learning.

Leaders ensure that the needs of pupils with SEND are identified accurately. All teachers are involved in reviewing the learning profiles of pupils with SEND. This assists them in providing more effective support for pupils with SEND in the classroom. The special educational needs coordinator works closely with teachers and teaching assistants to make sure that these pupils access the curriculum. This allows pupils with SEND to learn alongside their peers and achieve well.

Teaching in the sixth form is highly effective. Teachers use a variety of approaches to encourage students to think deeply, to make connections and to support their views and ideas. Sixth-form students are wonderful ambassadors for the school.

They willingly support younger pupils and have led the school's 'never okay' strategy that promotes safer relationships awareness. Younger pupils value the school's reading programme. Staff encourage them to read widely. Pupils said that they enjoy the challenge of the reading programme and that time is made available to read together with other pupils in lessons.

Leaders' work to promote personal development is a strength of the school. Teachers help to nurture rounded, open-minded and conscientious young people. Pupils value respect and diversity. Teachers plan personal, social and health education well. These lessons help pupils to understand themes such as healthy relationships and to identify possible risks to their well-being, including harmful sexual behaviours. Leaders ensure that they look after pupils with protected characteristics well and that these pupils feel safe in school. A group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender pupils is helping to raise greater awareness about diversity. The school provides effective careers guidance that meets the requirements of the Baker Clause, which requires schools to provide pupils in Years 8 to 13 with information about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships. Pupils find this useful and discuss their future plans knowledgeably.

Students in the sixth form benefit from expert support that helps them to make decisions about their next steps.

Staff feel valued and supported by leaders and governors. They enjoy working at the school and morale is high. Staff know that leaders consider their workload and wellbeing when deciding to make changes at the school.

Trustees are proud of the school. They recognise the considerable improvements that have been brought about by leaders. They are committed to providing a safe environment in which pupils' education and experiences give them a broad range of options for their future. Trustees are effective in holding leaders to account.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. A positive culture of safeguarding is very well established throughout the school. Safeguarding leaders are knowledgeable and effective. Leaders act quickly to seek advice from external agencies when a pupil or family needs extra help. Staff are well trained and know how to spot the signs that a pupil might be at risk of harm.

There are rigorous checks on all new staff. They fully understand the school's safeguarding expectations before they join the school. Pupils are well trained on how to keep themselves safe. They are aware of the main concerns in the local area and know whom to go to when they need help.

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Fundraising

The academy trust does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the Trustees.

Plans for future periods

School Improvement Planning

Meadowhead School will continue to strive to deliver and provide the highest quality education for all its students. There are a number of key strategic priorities for the next three years of our development:

- Developing confident, independent, resilient learners through quality teaching, support, challenge, assessment and feedback
- Improving outcomes for particular groups: Post 16/Disadvantaged/Prior low attainers /SEND
- Supporting students who have fallen behind due to the effects of lockdown through the National Tutoring Scheme
- Improving attendance for all students with particular attention on disadvantaged students
- Strengthening leadership at all levels
- Ensuring the curriculum meets the needs of all students
- Developing student personal development

Employment of disabled persons

Lifts, ramps and disabled toilets are installed and door widths are adequate to enable wheelchair access to all the main areas of the school. The policy of Meadowhead School is to support recruitment and retention of students and staff members with disabilities. The school does this by adapting the physical environment, by making support resources and through training and development.

Auditor

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a Strategic Report, was approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees, as company directors, on 20 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:


.....

L Taylor
Trustee

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Governance statement

Scope of responsibility

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

As 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 K Grewal-Joy, Trustee, 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 Meadowhead School Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 3 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
L Taylor	3	3
L M Read	2	3
P Wilson	3	3
K Grewal-Joy	3	3
D Clark	2	3
E Cobbold	1	3
M Dunbar	3	3
R D Law	2	3
M Neill	3	3
K Arundale	3	3
H Batty	2	3
J Wheat	3	3
R Gora (resigned 22 November 2022)	1	1
F Robinson (resigned 23 March 2023)	2	2
R Beigel	2	3
S Ayres (resigned 26 September 2022)	0	0
J Headey	0	3
I Sibbald	3	3
A James (appointed 3 October 2022)	1	2
F Newton (appointed 6 February 2023)	1	1
B Anderson (appointed 22 February 2023)	1	1

During the first term of 2022-2023 resignations were received from S Ayres and R Gora. During the second term of 2022-2023 resignations were received from F Robinson. New governor appointments in the academic year were A James, F Newton and B Anderson.

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Governance statement (continued)

The Finance and Resources Committee is a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees. Its purposes and key areas of focus are:

- Finance & Resources, to ensure sound management of the academy's finances and resources, including proper planning, monitoring and probity in line with the ESFA guidelines in the Academy Trust handbook and Accounts Direction documents
- Premises and Health & Safety, to ensure sound management of the academy's premises through the PFI contract and to consider plans for future development of the premises. Advising the Board of Trustees on all issues relating to Health, Safety and Security
- Staff and Personnel Issues to ensure sound management of the academy's personnel and compliance with the nationally agreed frameworks of the conditions of service for teachers and support staff
- Audit, one member of this committee (not including the Chair or the Headteacher) must review the risks to internal financial control at the trust and must agree a programme of work that will address these risks, to inform the governance statement that accompanies the trust's annual accounts and, so far as is possible, provide assurance to the external auditors and the Board of Trustees regarding the sound management and control of the school finances and resources.

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
R D Law	2	3
K Grewal-Joy	3	3
M Neill	0	3
L Taylor	3	3
K Arundale	2	3
I Sibbald	3	3
R Gora (resigned 22 November 2022)	0	0
J Wheat	2	2
B Anderson (appointed 22 February 2023)	2	2

Effective oversight of funds

The Finance and Resources Committee appointed a named audit trustee to have oversight of financial discipline and control. This helps to ensure the highest standards of regularity, propriety and efficiency are maintained. The Academy had three internal audit visits throughout the year. Each visit generates a report that is evaluated by the audit trustee who then reports the findings and makes recommendations to the committee.

Conflicts of interest

The academy completes annually a conflicts of interest register which contains information from all trustees and financial decision making staff. The register details any potential conflicts that the board may have with any of the school's suppliers. It also highlights any other involvement that the trustees or board may have with regards any related transactions. This register is used to monitor any potential conflicts that may arise and regular reviews of the register is completed. The school operates Meadowhead School Community Trust which is a charity set up to support our feeder primary schools and it's local community. All related transactions are highlighted annually in the financial accounts.

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Governance statement (continued)

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the Headteacher has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received. The Accounting Officer considers how the trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

Meadowhead consistently strives to achieve the best possible outcomes for all students by offering an affordable, sustainable curriculum that delivers the best possible outcomes for all students, both attainment and progress

Value for money is usually defined in terms of the "three E's" - economy, efficiency and effectiveness. At Meadowhead we define these as follows:

- Economy - careful use of resources to save costs, time or effort
- Efficiency- delivery of a consistent service level for less cost, time or effort
- Effectiveness - improving the service and getting better outcomes for the same cost, time or effort

The school seeks to ensure value for money in all areas whilst delivering on the key priorities.

The school improvement plan reflects the schools' key aims within the four priority areas and all planning is considered within the scope of these definitions. The school's purchasing policies and procedures should ensure "best value". In 2022-23 specific examples of this included:

- An external review completed by an appointed auditor to consider cost savings available through our curriculum as well as through our direct expenditure costs.
- Attendance at virtual DfE webinars to support the power of "best value" purchasing.
- The employment of additional teaching assistants to support our SEND students.
- A review of our services and annual contracts to support cost savings where appropriate.
- Use of the Crown Commercial Service to agree a new supply contract

Contracts reviewed within the period include:

- School System Back up facilities
- Football Scholarship
- SIMS Support
- Class Charts
- CER Supply Services - Crown Commercial Services
- Page One SMS
- Access Financial System
- My School Portal
- Capita Pay 360
- TES Management Services

The purpose of the system of internal control

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

Capacity to handle risk

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

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Governance statement (continued)

The risk and control framework

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

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

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the internal audit function during the year and have appointed a separate fully independent internal auditor, Jon Sale sourced through ASCL (Association of School and College Leaders). Internal audit reports have been reviewed by the audit trustee and are presented to the Finance & Resources Committee each term.

The internal audit checks carried out within the period included:

- Payroll
- Procurement
- Budgeting

A program of work for the following year has been agreed and the internal auditor will provide reports to the Board of Trustees on a termly basis.

On a quarterly basis, the reports to the Board of Trustees, through the audit committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees's financial responsibilities and annually prepares an annual summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

There were no material control or other issues reported by the Internal Auditor to date.


Review of effectiveness

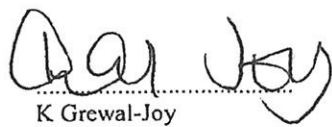
As Accounting Officer, K Grewal-Joy, Trustee has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- 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 auditor;

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the 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 on 20 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:


L Taylor
Trustee


K Grewal-Joy
Trustee

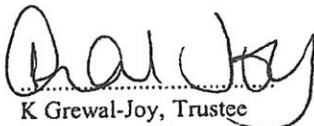
Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance

As Accounting Officer of Meadowhead School Academy Trust 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 received by the academy trust including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement in place 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 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.



K Grewal-Joy, Trustee
Accounting officer

20 November 2023

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who acts as governors and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the 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 apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in 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; and
- 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 on 20 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



L. Taylor
Trustee

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Meadowhead School Academy Trust (the 'Academy') for the year ended 31 August 2023, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2023, Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 August 2023, Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2023 and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 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; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and 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 Auditor's 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 UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In 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 original financial statements were 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 (covers the Reference and administrative details, the Trustees' report and Strategic Report and the Governance statement)

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the 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.

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Meadowhead School Academy Trust (continued)

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' report (which includes the Strategic Report and Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and Directors' Report included within the Trustees' 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 Strategic Report and Directors' Report, included within the Trustees' Report.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Directors' 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 [set out on page 22], the Trustees (who are also directors of the Academy Trust for the purpose 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.

Auditor Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Discussions with management, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance held.
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made within significant accounting estimates and judgements such as depreciation and the local government pension scheme liability.
- Testing of income, bank, purchases and payroll, systems and controls and providing conclusions on the regularity of samples chosen.
- Identification of key laws and regulations central to the academy's operations and review of compliance with such laws including a review of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022 and correspondence with solicitors to identify any on-going litigation.
- Testing of journal entries and potential override of systems.

Because of 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. The 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.

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Meadowhead School Academy Trust (continued)

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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 auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Academy Trust and the Academy Trust's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:

Carrie Jensen

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Carrie Anne Jensen, ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Forrester Boyd

Chartered Accountants
66-68 Oswald Road
Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire
DN15 7PG

20 November 2023

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Meadowhead School Academy Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 21 August 2023 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Meadowhead School Academy Trust during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of the Meadowhead School Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of the Meadowhead School Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 August 2012 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 from 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.

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Evaluating the systems and control environment;
- Assessing the risk of irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance;
- Ensuring that the activities of the Academy Trust are in keeping with the Academy's framework and the charitable objectives;
- Obtaining representations from the Accounting Officer and Key Management Personnel.

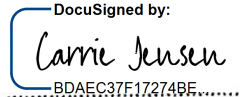
Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year from 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.

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

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

DocuSigned by:


BDAEC37F17274BE.....

Carrie Anne Jensen, ACA, Reporting Accountant
For and on behalf of Forrester Boyd, Chartered Accountants

Chartered Accountants
66-68 Oswald Road
Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire
DN15 7PG

20 November 2023

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	7,393	5,577	105,395	118,365	151,776
Other trading activities	4	14,832	40,857	-	55,689	54,615
Investments	5	14,698	-	-	14,698	639
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	-	13,206,049	-	13,206,049	11,886,084
Total		36,923	13,252,483	105,395	13,394,801	12,093,114
Expenditure on:						
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
Academy trust educational operations	7	8,844	13,833,430	808,616	14,650,890	13,108,973
Total		8,844	13,833,430	808,616	14,650,890	13,108,973
Net income/(expenditure)		28,079	(580,947)	(703,221)	(1,256,089)	(1,015,859)
Transfers between funds		(172,057)	172,057	-	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	23	-	1,051,000	-	1,051,000	4,896,000
Net movement in (deficit)/funds		(143,978)	642,110	(703,221)	(205,089)	3,880,141
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2022		1,244,109	(787,099)	33,197,337	33,654,347	29,774,206
Total funds/(deficit) carried forward at 31 August 2023		1,100,131	(144,989)	32,494,116	33,449,258	33,654,347

Comparative figures are stated on page 29.

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2022
(including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2021/22 Total £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	2	25,114	5,330	121,332	151,776
Other trading activities	4	26,001	28,614	-	54,615
Investments	5	639	-	-	639
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	-	11,886,084	-	11,886,084
Total		51,754	11,920,028	121,332	12,093,114
Expenditure on:					
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Academy trust educational operations	7	-	12,300,692	808,281	13,108,973
Net income/(expenditure)		51,754	(380,664)	(686,949)	(1,015,859)
Transfers between funds		-	(214,679)	214,679	-
Other recognised gains and losses					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	23	-	4,896,000	-	4,896,000
Net movement in funds/(deficit)		51,754	4,300,657	(472,270)	3,880,141
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2021		1,192,355	(5,087,756)	33,669,607	29,774,206
Total funds/(deficit) carried forward at 31 August 2022		1,244,109	(787,099)	33,197,337	33,654,347

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

(Registration number: 07933749)
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	32,545,198	33,197,337
Current assets			
Stocks	12	3,820	3,820
Debtors	13	323,443	338,919
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,706,909</u>	<u>1,881,216</u>
		2,034,172	2,223,955
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(795,112)</u>	<u>(463,945)</u>
Net current assets		<u>1,239,060</u>	<u>1,760,010</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>33,784,258</u>	<u>34,957,347</u>
Net assets excluding pension liability		33,784,258	34,957,347
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	23	<u>(335,000)</u>	<u>(1,303,000)</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>33,449,258</u></u>	<u><u>33,654,347</u></u>
Funds of the Academy:			
Restricted funds			
Restricted general fund	15	190,011	515,901
Restricted fixed asset fund	15	32,494,116	33,197,337
Other restricted fund	15	<u>(335,000)</u>	<u>(1,303,000)</u>
		32,349,127	32,410,238
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted general fund	15	<u>1,100,131</u>	<u>1,244,109</u>
Total funds		<u><u>33,449,258</u></u>	<u><u>33,654,347</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 28 to 52 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 20 November 2023 and signed on their behalf by:


L. Taylor
Trustee

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	18	(129,079)	419,564
Cash flows from investing activities	19	<u>(45,228)</u>	<u>(304,029)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(174,307)	115,535
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		<u>1,881,216</u>	<u>1,765,681</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	20	<u><u>1,706,909</u></u>	<u><u>1,881,216</u></u>

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

1 Accounting policies

General Information

The academy trust is a private company limited by guarantee and incorporated in the United Kingdom.

The address of its registered office is:
Meadowhead School Academy Trust
Dyche Lane
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S8 8BR

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board on 20 November 2023.

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

Basis of preparation

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

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the company and have been rounded to the nearest pound.

Meadowhead School Academy Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements cover the individual entity, Meadowhead School Academy Trust.

Going concern

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

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.

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Grants

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

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

Capital grants are recognised in full when there is an 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 spent on capital projects in line with the terms and conditions of the grant. Capital grants are recognised when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended.

Donations

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

Other income

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

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.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing more than £1,000 or where collective value exceeds £5,000 (i.e. bulk purchases of computers, projectors etc.) or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, per the table below. Where an asset comprises of two or more components which have substantially different useful lives, each component is depreciated separately over its useful economic life.

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.

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Freehold property	60 years straight line basis
Furniture and equipment	5 years straight line basis
Computer equipment	5-10 years straight line basis
Assets under construction	Nil

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.

Leased assets

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

Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at cost. 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 cost. 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.

Stock

Unsold uniforms and catering stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Taxation

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

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

Pension benefits

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

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 of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

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

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

Fund accounting

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

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

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 23, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31/08/2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Agency accounting

The academy trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The trust can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the statement of financial activities. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 25.

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Capital grants	-	-	105,395	105,395	36,277
Other donations	7,393	5,577	-	12,970	30,444
Donated fixed assets	-	-	-	-	85,055
	<u>7,393</u>	<u>5,577</u>	<u>105,395</u>	<u>118,365</u>	<u>151,776</u>

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

3 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Restricted General Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Educational operations			
DfE/ESFA revenue grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	10,000,142	10,000,142	9,500,287
Other ESFA Grants	237,160	237,160	315,408
Pupil Premium	531,760	531,760	356,385
Teachers Pay and Pension Grants	61,604	61,604	66,379
ESFA Supplementary Grant	466,215	466,215	128,269
ESFA Programme Funding	1,424,906	1,424,906	1,179,926
	<u>12,721,787</u>	<u>12,721,787</u>	<u>11,546,654</u>
Other government grants			
Local authority grants	174,903	174,903	123,594
Non-government grants and other income			
Trips Income	168,393	168,393	113,670
Covid-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)			
Covid 19 Catch up Premium	140,966	140,966	102,166
	<u>13,206,049</u>	<u>13,206,049</u>	<u>11,886,084</u>
Total grants			

The academy received £140,966 (2022: £102,166) of funding for catch-up premium and costs incurred in respect of this funding totalled £140,966 (2022: £102,166).

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Income from other charitable activities	-	20,670	20,670	22,220
Income from ancillary trading activities	14,832	20,187	35,019	32,395
	<u>14,832</u>	<u>40,857</u>	<u>55,689</u>	<u>54,615</u>

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Short term deposits	14,698	14,698	639

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

6 Expenditure

	Non Pay Expenditure			2022/23	2021/22
	Staff costs	Premises	Other costs	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Academy's educational operations					
Direct costs	9,211,036	-	2,940,345	12,151,381	11,097,770
Allocated support costs	937,320	1,195,391	366,798	2,499,509	2,011,203
	<u>10,148,356</u>	<u>1,195,391</u>	<u>3,307,143</u>	<u>14,650,890</u>	<u>13,108,973</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Operating leases	21,761	23,810
Depreciation	817,460	808,281
Fees payable to auditor - audit	8,500	7,765
Fees payable to auditor - other audit services	1,300	1,205
(Gain)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	4,935

7 Charitable activities

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Direct costs - educational operations	12,151,381	11,097,770
Support costs - educational operations	2,499,509	2,011,203
	<u>14,650,890</u>	<u>13,108,973</u>
	Educational operations	2022/23
	£	Total
		£
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	937,320	701,275
Depreciation	817,460	808,281
Technology costs	59,379	27,991
Premises costs	377,931	205,606
Other support costs	307,419	268,050
Total support costs	<u>2,499,509</u>	<u>2,011,203</u>

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

8 Staff

Staff costs

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	7,427,526	6,593,626
Social security costs	769,379	688,274
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	1,604,406	1,848,945
	9,801,311	9,130,845
Agency staff costs	318,983	196,659
Staff restructuring costs	28,062	-
	<u>10,148,356</u>	<u>9,327,504</u>
		2022/23 £

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Severance payments	<u>28,062</u>
--------------------	---------------

Severance payments

The Academy trust paid 1 severance payments in the year disclosed in the following bands:

	2022/23 £
£25,001 - £50,000	<u>1</u>

Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £28,062 (2022: £Nil). Individually, the payments were:

Non-contractual payments £28,062

Staff numbers

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

	2022/23 No	2021/22 No
Teachers	136	135
Administration and support	81	82
Management	4	4
	<u>221</u>	<u>221</u>

Higher paid staff

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

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

8 Staff (continued)

	2023 No	2022 No
£60,001 - £70,000	6	6
£70,001 - £80,000	2	2
£100,001 - £110,000	-	1
£110,001 - £120,000	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

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 £443,763 (2022: £419,527).

9 Related party transactions - trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from employment with the academy trust. The principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their role as trustees. The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

K. Grewal-Joy (Headteacher, Accounting Officer and trustee):

Remuneration: £110,000 - £115,000 (2022 - £105,000 - £110,000)

Employer's pension contributions: £25,000 - £30,000 (2022 - £25,000 - £30,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2023, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £48 (2022 - £35) were reimbursed or paid directly to 3 trustees (2022 - 2).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 24.

10 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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 occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £1,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £850 (2022 - £850). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	2022/23 Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2022	38,624,426	162,918	969,073	50,990	39,807,407
Additions	-	35,708	129,613	-	165,321
At 31 August 2023	38,624,426	198,626	1,098,686	50,990	39,972,728
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	6,018,801	88,539	478,935	23,795	6,610,070
Charge for the year	626,062	24,617	156,583	10,198	817,460
At 31 August 2023	6,644,863	113,156	635,518	33,993	7,427,530
Net book value					
At 31 August 2023	31,979,563	85,470	463,168	16,997	32,545,198
At 31 August 2022	32,605,625	74,379	490,138	27,195	33,197,337

On conversion to academy status FHP property consultants were appointed to carry out a valuation of the land and buildings transferred to the academy. The valuation was carried out on 14 October 2013.

The majority of furniture used by the school is provided through the PFI agreement (see note 17) and will be inherited by the academy at the expiration of that contract.

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

12 Stock

	2023 £	2022 £
Stock	3,820	3,820

13 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	10,682	5,802
VAT recoverable	118,393	161,954
Other debtors	34,944	-
Prepayments	57,135	86,277
Accrued grant and other income	102,289	84,886
	<u>323,443</u>	<u>338,919</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	62,094	59,771
Other taxation and social security	368,084	30,775
Other creditors	14,263	9,578
Accruals	304,805	309,384
Deferred income	45,866	54,437
	<u>795,112</u>	<u>463,945</u>
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£

Deferred income

Deferred income at 1 September 2022	54,437	37,238
Resources deferred in the period	45,866	54,437
Amounts released from previous periods	<u>(54,437)</u>	<u>(37,238)</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	<u>45,866</u>	<u>54,437</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy was holding funds relating to British council grants totalling £Nil (2022: £10,690), A hardship fund has been deferred within the year totalling £16,057 (2022: £Nil). £31,358 (2022: £37,038) relating to income from student activities which relate to following years and has increased due to including trips money this year. At the year end £Nil (2022: £6,000) relating to HeppSY funding grants was received and £Nil (2022: £709) relating to Staff tea and coffee.

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

15 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted funds					
<i>Restricted general funds</i>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	429,934	10,000,142	(10,602,133)	172,057	-
Pupil Premium	84,886	531,760	(521,208)	-	95,438
Overseas Trips	-	168,393	(145,408)	-	22,985
School Fund	922	-	(922)	-	-
Other	-	40,857	(39,167)	-	1,690
Charity Fund	159	5,577	(5,736)	-	-
Other government grants	-	174,903	(153,713)	-	21,190
Other ESFA Grants	-	378,126	(329,418)	-	48,708
Teachers Pay and Pension grant	-	61,604	(61,604)	-	-
ESFA Supplementary grant	-	466,215	(466,215)	-	-
ESFA Programme funding	-	1,424,906	(1,424,906)	-	-
Total restricted general funds	<u>515,901</u>	<u>13,252,483</u>	<u>(13,750,430)</u>	<u>172,057</u>	<u>190,011</u>
<i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i>					
Restricted fixed asset funds	33,197,337	-	(808,616)	-	32,388,721
Capital Funding	-	105,395	-	-	105,395
Total restricted fixed asset funds	<u>33,197,337</u>	<u>105,395</u>	<u>(808,616)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,494,116</u>
<i>Other restricted funds</i>					
Pension reserve	(1,303,000)	-	(83,000)	1,051,000	(335,000)
Total restricted funds	<u>32,410,238</u>	<u>13,357,878</u>	<u>(14,642,046)</u>	<u>1,223,057</u>	<u>32,349,127</u>
<i>Unrestricted general funds</i>					
General funds	<u>1,244,109</u>	<u>36,923</u>	<u>(8,844)</u>	<u>(172,057)</u>	<u>1,100,131</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>1,244,109</u>	<u>36,923</u>	<u>(8,844)</u>	<u>(172,057)</u>	<u>1,100,131</u>
Total funds	<u><u>33,654,347</u></u>	<u><u>13,394,801</u></u>	<u><u>(14,650,890)</u></u>	<u><u>1,051,000</u></u>	<u><u>33,449,258</u></u>

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

15 Funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Restricted funds					
<i>Restricted general funds</i>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	331,591	10,680,213	(10,367,191)	(214,679)	429,934
Pupil Premium	-	484,654	(399,768)	-	84,886
Evening Language	2,588	-	(2,588)	-	-
Overseas Trips	7,868	-	(7,868)	-	-
School Fund	1,730	-	(808)	-	922
Other	212,872	155,857	(368,729)	-	-
Charity Fund	1,041	6,758	(7,640)	-	159
KA2 - Ready Steady Go	2,554	-	(2,554)	-	-
Other government grants	-	108,593	(108,593)	-	-
Other ESFA Grants	-	315,408	(315,408)	-	-
Teachers Pay and Pension grant	-	66,379	(66,379)	-	-
COVID Catch-up premium	-	102,166	(102,166)	-	-
Total restricted general funds	560,244	11,920,028	(11,749,692)	(214,679)	515,901
<i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i>					
Restricted fixed asset funds	33,669,608	85,055	(593,602)	36,276	33,197,337
Capital Funding	-	36,276	-	(36,276)	-
Capital expenditure from GAG	-	-	(214,679)	214,679	-
Total restricted fixed asset funds	33,669,608	121,331	(808,281)	214,679	33,197,337
<i>Other restricted funds</i>					
Pension reserve	(5,648,000)	-	(551,000)	4,896,000	(1,303,000)
Total restricted funds	28,581,852	12,041,359	(13,108,973)	4,896,000	32,410,238
<i>Unrestricted general funds</i>					
General funds	1,192,354	51,755	-	-	1,244,109
Total unrestricted funds	1,192,354	51,755	-	-	1,244,109
Total funds	29,774,206	12,093,114	(13,108,973)	4,896,000	33,654,347

The academy trust is not subject to GAG carried forward limits.

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

15 Funds (continued)

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

Restricted general funds

General Annual Grant (GAG) - The Academy's principal funding stream received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency. This must be used to fund the normal running costs of the Academy for the benefit of existing students.

Pupil Premium - DfE funding to target additional resources to address the disadvantage between children eligible for free school meals (FSM) and their peers.

Overseas Trips - The Overseas Trips Fund will be used to assist students in paying for enrichment trips abroad. To qualify a student must have an identifiable need. The fund will offer part payment based on individual circumstances.

School Fund - Funds received for activities and trips and through fundraising which will be paid to suppliers and charities.

Post 16 - Funding for post 16 students attending the sixth form at Meadowhead.

KA2 - Ready Steady Go relates to two Exchanges (German & Spanish) that the students at Meadowhead will go on.

KA2 Full STEAM ahead creating teenage ambassadors of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Maths and Languages across Europe - Working with school partners in Germany and Spain, this 3 year project aims to increase the uptake and raise the profile in schools of not only the traditional STEM subject but also the Arts and Languages in all 3 schools at KS4-5 and beyond. Through the engagement of local business partners in each city throughout, the project also aims to improve staff and student knowledge about the current job market and skills required to follow careers in STEAM areas of industry across Europe.

Pension reserve

The deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme has been recognised in restricted funds.

Restricted fixed asset funds

Assets donated to the academy on conversion by the local authority as well as further specific funding for capital items.

Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds represent funds available to the governors to apply for the general purposes of the Academy.

Transfer between funds

Transfers are made to restricted fixed asset funds where capital assets have been purchased using GAG funds.

A transfer has been made from unrestricted funds to support GAG expenditure.

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	51,082	-	32,494,116	32,545,198
Current assets	1,049,049	985,123	-	2,034,172
Current liabilities	-	(795,112)	-	(795,112)
Pension scheme liability	-	(335,000)	-	(335,000)
Total net assets	<u>1,100,131</u>	<u>(144,989)</u>	<u>32,494,116</u>	<u>33,449,258</u>

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

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	33,197,337	33,197,337
Current assets	1,244,109	979,846	-	2,223,955
Current liabilities	-	(463,945)	-	(463,945)
Pension scheme liability	-	(1,303,000)	-	(1,303,000)
Total net assets	<u>1,244,109</u>	<u>(787,099)</u>	<u>33,197,337</u>	<u>33,654,347</u>

17 Long-term commitments, including operating leases

Operating leases

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts due within one year	12,479	21,761
Amounts due between one and five years	<u>15,599</u>	<u>28,079</u>
	<u>28,078</u>	<u>49,840</u>

The amount of lease payments recognised as an expense during the year was £21,761 (2022: £23,810).

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

17 Long-term commitments, including operating leases (continued)

Long-term commitments (other contractual commitments)

At 31 August 2023 the academy was committed to making annual payments under PFI arrangements as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts due within one year	2,057,773	1,649,133
Amounts due between one and five years	6,173,319	4,947,399
Amounts due after five years	6,173,319	8,245,665
	<u>14,404,411</u>	<u>14,842,197</u>

The amount of contractual commitment payments recognised as an expense during the year was £1,949,147 (2022: £1,602,989).

The building is subject to a PFI contract between the Academy and local authority which covers the facilities management costs including: caretaking, cleaning, maintenance & repairs, water & sewerage, grounds maintenance and related insurance. The charge also covers the provision and renewal of fixtures and fittings. The same agreement also includes energy costs which are charged by the local authority to the Academy.

18 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Net expenditure	(1,256,089)	(1,015,859)
Depreciation	817,460	808,281
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(105,395)	(36,277)
Interest receivable	(14,698)	(639)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	15,476	(80,037)
Increase in creditors	331,167	188,160
Difference between pension charge and cash contributions	83,000	551,000
Loss on disposal	-	4,935
Net cash (used in)/provided by Operating Activities	<u>(129,079)</u>	<u>419,564</u>

19 Cash flows from investing activities

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	14,698	639
Purchase on tangible fixed assets	(165,321)	(340,944)
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	105,395	36,277
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(45,228)</u>	<u>(304,028)</u>

20 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand and at bank	1,706,909	1,881,216
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>1,706,909</u>	<u>1,881,216</u>

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

21 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash	1,881,216	(174,307)	1,706,909
	-	-	-
Total	<u>1,881,216</u>	<u>(174,307)</u>	<u>1,706,909</u>

22 Member 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 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 cease to be a member.

23 Pension and similar obligations

The academy trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by South Yorkshire Pension Fund. 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 to the period ended 31 March 2019.

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for 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 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 30 October 2023.

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

23 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million
- the SCAPE discount rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 1.7% above the rate of CPI, and is based on the Office for Budget Responsibility's forecast for long-term GDP growth.

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2027.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £1,226,622 (2022: £1,131,142).

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

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

Local government pension scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £442,000 (2022 - £336,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £331,000 (2022 - £242,000) and employees' contributions totalled £111,000 (2022 - £94,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 20.9% per cent for employers and 5.5% - 9.9% per cent for employees.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2023 %	2022 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.60	4.10
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.00	3.10
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	<u>5.20</u>	<u>4.30</u>

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

	2023	2022
Retiring today		
Males retiring today	20.60	22.60
Females retiring today	23.60	25.40
Retiring in 20 years		
Males retiring in 20 years	21.40	24.10
Females retiring in 20 years	<u>25.00</u>	<u>27.30</u>

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

23 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Sensitivity analysis

	2023	2022
	£	£
Discount rate -0.1%	131,000	151,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	219,000	252,000
CPI rate +0.1%	120,000	120,000
Salary increase rate +0.1%	<u>14,000</u>	<u>32,000</u>

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

	2023	2022
	£	£
Equities	3,550,740	3,496,500
Government bonds	1,080,660	999,000
Property	463,140	449,550
Cash and other liquid assets	<u>51,460</u>	<u>49,950</u>
Total market value of assets	<u>5,146,000</u>	<u>4,995,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was (£182,000) (2022 - (£83,000)).

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

23 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Current service cost	358,000	693,000
Interest income	(219,000)	(84,000)
Interest cost	275,000	184,000
	<u>414,000</u>	<u>793,000</u>
Total amount recognised in the SOFA		

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
At start of period	6,298,000	10,471,000
Current service cost	358,000	693,000
Interest cost	275,000	184,000
Employee contributions	111,000	94,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(1,452,000)	(5,063,000)
Benefits paid	(109,000)	(81,000)
	<u>5,481,000</u>	<u>6,298,000</u>
At 31 August		

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
At start of period	4,995,000	4,823,000
Interest income	219,000	84,000
Actuarial gain/(loss)	(401,000)	(167,000)
Employer contributions	331,000	242,000
Employee contributions	111,000	94,000
Benefits paid	(109,000)	(81,000)
	<u>5,146,000</u>	<u>4,995,000</u>
At 31 August		

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

24 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. The following related party transactions took place in the financial period.

Income related party transactions

During the year the academy made the following related party transactions:

Meadowhead Community Learning Trust

(The Academy Trust is a member of the Meadowhead Community Learning Trust.)

During the period the academy trust received income of £2,156 from that trust (2022: £54). There were £1,663 outstanding at 31 August 2023. (2022: £nil). This was made up entirely of resale items.

Expenditure incurred within the period totalled £2,156 (2022: £Nil). There was £Nil outstanding at 31 August 2023. (2022: £Nil).

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

25 Agency arrangements

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2023 the academy trust received £25,139 and disbursed £10,876 from the fund. An amount of £14,263 is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that is repayable to ESFA.

Comparatives for the accounting period ending 31 August 2022 are £18,673 received, £9,095 disbursed and £9,578 included in other creditors.