

THE FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

THE FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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THE FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST
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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

D Bailey
P Bibby
Dr L Bryant
J Deane
M Fryer
M King
E de la Motte

Governors

E de la Motte, Chair²
R Kershaw, Vice Chair (resigned 31 July 2023)¹
J Briggs, Head Teacher^{1,2}
Dr L Bryant^{1,2}
G Buchanan¹
M Fryer^{1,2}
A Gibbs (appointed 18 May 2023)
S Howe (resigned 18 May 2023)²
N Little¹
N McDowell²
A Phillips (appointed 18 May 2023)
C Stow-Smith²

¹ Audit and Finance Committee

² Teaching & Learning Committee

Company registered number

07699775

Company name

The Federation of Abbey Schools Academy Trust

Principal and registered office

The Federation Of Abbey Schools (Infant Building)
Cleveland Terrace
Darlington
County Durham
DL3 8JA

Company secretary

Oakwood Corporate Secretary Limited

Senior leadership team

J Briggs, CEO, Head Teacher and Accounting Officer
V Folkes, Deputy Head Teacher
J Neasham, Deputy Head Teacher
N Carbert, SENCO

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

Independent auditors

Clive Owen LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
140 Coniscliffe Road
Darlington
County Durham
DL3 7RT

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
21-23 Northgate
Darlington
County Durham
DL1 1TL

Solicitors

Wrigleys Solicitors LLP
19 Cookridge Street
Leeds
LS2 3AG

THE FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST
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GOVERNORS' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Directors present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The trust operates an academy for pupils aged 4 to 11 serving the West End area in Darlington. The academy trust has a pupil capacity of 630 and had a roll of 613 in the school census on 6 October 2022. Pupils are admitted via Darlington Borough Council Admissions.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. The trustees of the Federation of Abbey Schools Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as the Federation of Abbey Schools.

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

Directors' Indemnities

The academy trust has purchased insurance to protect Governors from claims arising against negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The term of office for any director shall be four years, save that this time limit shall not apply to the headteacher or any post held ex officio. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of trustee, any director may be re-appointed or re-elected.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new trustees depends on their existing experience. Where necessary induction and training is provided on charity, educational, legal and financial matters. All new trustees are given a tour of the academy and the chance to meet staff and students. All trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as directors. As there are normally only one or two trustees a year, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual.

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

Structure, governance and management (continued)

Organisational Structure

During the year the academy continued to operate a unified management structure. The structure consists of three levels: the Governors, the Senior Leadership Team and the TLR Team (Middle Leaders). The aim of the leadership structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Governors are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual development plan and budget monitoring for the academy by the use of regular reports and making major decisions about the direction of the academy, capital expenditure and some senior staff appointments.

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) includes the headteacher and two deputy headteachers, who are responsible for the day to day operation of the academy, in particular organising the teaching staff, facilities and pupils. The Special Needs Coordinator (SENCO) is also a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

The TLR Team consists of nine, seven team leaders, one from each year group, who each lead a year group and a curriculum subject. The other 2 TLR positions have specific school improvement projects.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Academy uses Performance Management to determine whether a member of staff progresses to the next pay increment and it uses the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD) as a framework. The school uses an external consultant for the Headteacher's performance review and the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team review all other staff.

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

The Academy was part of the Swaledale Schools Alliance, this ended on 31 August 2023.

Objectives and activities

The principal object and activity of the charitable company is the operation of the Federation of Abbey Schools to provide education for pupils of different abilities between the ages of four and eleven.

In accordance with the articles of association the charitable company has adopted a "Scheme of Government" approved by the Secretary of State for Education. The Scheme of Government specifies, amongst other things, the basis for admitting students to the academy, the catchment area from which the students are drawn, and that the curriculum should comply with the substance of the national curriculum.

The main aims of the academy during the year ended 31 August 2023 are summarised below:

Mission Statement - To provide a high quality, relevant educational community which enables children to achieve their best in a safe, creative and exciting environment. All are valued and inspired to flourish and grow as individuals, leaving us believing anything is possible!

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

Objectives and activities (continued)

“Aim High, Work Hard, Achieve Together”– is the school motto.

Aims

Our aims reflect our beliefs, values and represent our vision and what we want to achieve as a school community. We endeavour to move the school forward and meet the challenges of an ever changing world.

Aim High

DYNAMIC & INNOVATIVE

We deliver a dynamic and innovative curriculum that challenges, excites and inspires children to achieve their best and instil in everyone a love of learning.

CELEBRATE SUCCESS

We nurture, support and challenge everyone to perform at their best and feel proud of what they have achieved.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS

We set high expectations to enable pupils to become effective, enthusiastic, independent learners who behave in a way to make parents and school proud.

Work Hard

WELL ORGANISED AND SYSTEMATIC

We will ensure the effective day-to-day running of the school and support strategic leadership and management.

ACCOUNTABLE AT ALL LEVELS

We have a collective responsibility for raised standards and improved pupil outcomes.

COMMUNITY ORIENTATED

We help children develop an understanding of citizenship and empower them to make valuable contributions locally.

Achieve Together

INCLUSION

We treat children and adults fairly, equitably, and with dignity and respect, to maintain an inclusive school culture.

VALUES CENTRED

We foster positive attitudes to all.

LEARNING CENTRED

We will challenge their thinking, help them strive for continuous improvement and are committed to life-long learning and developing a growth mindset.

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

Objectives and activities (continued)

CARING AND SUPPORTIVE

We will create a happy, caring and supportive environment based on a spirit of co-operation between the school and the local community. We will ensure that the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children is at the heart of the school.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The aims of the academy focus on the core purpose of the school, educating children to be successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens. The school improvement plan 2022– 23 covered four main areas

1. **Leadership and Management** - To ensure that effective senior and middle leadership has a positive impact on the quality of education and pupil outcomes.
2. **Quality of Education** - To refine and improve the current curriculum with a focus on those who are off track or below age related expectations.
3. **Behaviour, attitudes, personal development and wellbeing** - To ensure that the school's provision for personal development and behaviour supports good physical and mental health and wellbeing.
4. **Engagement and partnership** - To develop collaborations which improve the quality of leadership and management and the quality of education across school.

Public benefit

The academy's aims and achievements are set out within this report and have been undertaken to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit. The trustees have complied with the duty under Section 4 of the Charities act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and the trustees have considered this guidance in deciding what activities the academy should undertake.

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

Strategic Report

Achievement and Performance

The academy's academic performance was varied across 3 key stages this year due to the impact of COVID on the younger children. In Early Years 72% of children reached a good level of development which was the same as the previous year. The Little Wandle Reading phonics programme had a positive impact, especially for lower ability readers. In KS1 89% achieved the pass mark for phonics, which was amazing considering the impact of COVID and the number of children with additional needs.. In KS1 the results were impacted by COVID with the expected standard in maths and reading slightly lower than last year at 79% and 69% respectively. Writing was down to 49%. In KS2 results returned to pre COVID levels with percentage of children achieving the following expected standard, reading 87%, writing 80% and maths 82%. Greater depth scores were excellent and slightly up on last year. The Trust was pleased with the performance.

The facilities lead has continued to search for best value and has worked with the local business managers network so now the academy is more proactive than reactive which is already starting to bring down costs. The Early Years toilets have been upgraded, 2 cloakrooms have been turned into teaching areas and half of the lighting in the junior building has been upgraded to LED

The Academy has made some minor capital investments with its surplus.

The school governors have also worked well in order to set a 3 year budget that will have minimal impact on teaching and learning in the first year. The budget is breakeven in the first year but following years are in deficit mainly due to increases in costs particularly energy and pay rises that have to be partially paid out of the school budget.

The focus on staff performance through tight performance targets and CPD has remained and subject leadership has improved.

Key Performance Indicators

The attainment at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 has been excellent and reflects the amount of effort and resourcing that has been given to Teaching and Learning to ensure that the children make as much progress as possible. Attendance across the site is down due to the effects of COVID but still well above the national average. The school has a good reputation in Darlington. The junior school is rated as good by Ofsted in June 2023 and the infant school good in November 2022.

Some other key performance indicators are listed below

- Total income per pupil - £5,447
- Total GAG income per pupil - £4,237
- Staff costs per pupil - £4,651
- Total costs per pupil - £5,468
- Staff costs as % of total costs - 85.1 %
- Staff costs as % of total income - 85.4 %
- Pupil to teacher ratio - 18 %

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

Strategic Report (continued)

(continued)

Going concern

The Governors assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the academy trust to continue as a going concern. The Governors make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements, however the governors are actively looking at joining a multi academy trust during 2024. This therefore creates an uncertainty about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern. Should the merger not go ahead the Governors have no concerns over the trust's ability to continue to operate as a going concern and for that reason the financial statements continue to be prepared on a going concern basis.

Financial review

Most of the academy's income is obtained from the Department of Education (DfE) via the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE/ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The academy also received grants for fixed assets from the DfE/ESFA. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), such grants are shown under the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, total expenditure of £3,585,000 was in excess of recurrent grant funding from DfE/ESFA together with other incoming resources. The excess of income over expenditure for the year (before transfers and actuarial gains, excluding fixed asset funds and pension reserve movements) was £30,000.

All of the expenditure shown in the Statement of Financial Activities is in furtherance of the academy trust's objectives.

At 31 August 2023 net book value of fixed assets was £3,302,000 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 14 to the Financial Statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the students of the academy.

The provisions of Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 have been applied in full in respect of LGPS pension scheme, resulting in a deficit of £82,000 recognised on the Balance Sheet.

The academy trust held fund balances as at 31 August 2023 of £3,532,000 comprising £- of restricted general fund, £3,329,000 of restricted fixed asset funds, a pension deficit of £(82,000) and £285,000 of unrestricted funds.

Reserves Policy

The academy holds restricted and unrestricted funds (the attached financial statements detail these funds). Unrestricted funds are held:

- To provide funds which can be designated to specific areas
- To cover ongoing costs in relation to the running of the academy including catering provisions, school trips and uniform costs

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GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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The level of reserves is reviewed by trustees regularly throughout the year. The minimum level of reserves for the ongoing needs of the academy is reviewed by the trustees on an annual basis. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Governors therefore consider it prudent to hold unrestricted reserves in the general fund in the form of free reserves (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds) of £200,000

This is considered sufficient to cover any unexpected large capital or staffing cost.

The academy trust's current level of free reserves are in surplus by £285,000 and therefore are considered to be above the level of reserves required for the ongoing needs of the academy trust. The Trustees continue to consider additional activities related to the academy trust's objectives to which the excess reserves may be applied including:

- a) Replacing lighting
- b) Recommendations from Health and Safety or Fire Audits

Investment Policy

The academy invests surplus funds through money market accounts. Interest rates are reviewed prior to each investment. This policy maximises investment return whilst minimising risks to the principal sum.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks and uncertainties are centered on changes in the level of funding from DfE/ESFA. In addition, the academy is a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), which results in the recognition of significant deficit on the academy balance sheet.

The trustees have assessed the major risks, to which the academy is exposed, in particular those relating specifically to teaching provision of facilities and other operational areas of the academy, and its finances. The trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the school faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety and school visits) and in relation to the control of finance. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The academy has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement.

The academy has fully implemented the requirements of the Safe Recruitment Procedures and all staff have received training in this area in addition to training on Child Protection.

The academy is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties in common with other academies. The academy has in place procedures to identify and mitigate financial risks. The Academy uses RPA.

The academy undertook surveys regarding RAAC. No RAAC was found in the areas surveyed but a further survey has been planned to access those areas in the junior building that the surveyor was unable to access.

The academy is undergoing due diligence with the Melrose Learning Trust, as part of the due diligence there has been a thorough health and safety and electrical and mechanical audit.

Reports from our external health and safety advisor have been positive and the estate is in good working order.

Fundraising

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

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

Plans for Future Periods

The school improvement priorities for the academic year 2023-24 are set out in the school development action plans, they are:

Priority 1 – Leadership and Management

To ensure that effective senior and middle leadership has a positive impact on the quality of education and pupil outcomes.

- To embed the school values into the school vision of Aim High, Work Hard and Achieve Together
- To continue to develop subject and middle leadership, with a focus on whole school monitoring and assessment
- Ensure all pupils who are off track have gaps in learning identified and support put in place.
- To identify gaps in learning and provide support, links to assessment
- To ensure that safeguarding and health and safety arrangements remain fully compliant
- To improve writing outcomes – the difference between reading and writing outcomes in each year group reduces by 5%

Priority 2 - Quality of Education – to refine and improve the current curriculum with a focus on those who are off track or below age related expectations

- To ensure that the curriculum offer demonstrates a clear progression of knowledge and skills over time responsive to on-going pupil need and articulation of retention of essential knowledge is clearly communicated by leaders – use reduced assessment focus
- To prioritise writing (including handwriting) in order to reduce the difference in attainment between reading and writing
- To develop the teaching of problem solving and reasoning in maths
- To train and support new curriculum leaders.
- To further develop subject curriculums through peer review support and evidenced based good practice.
- To ensure gaps are identified quickly, interventions are put in place and monitored.
- To develop pupils' learning so that it has a greater impact on their long term memory.

Priority 3 - Behaviour, attitudes, personal development and wellbeing With increasing needs across school ensure that behaviour is consistently managed and to ensure that the school's provision for personal development supports good physical and mental health and wellbeing.

- To ensure expectations of behaviour are as high in all areas of school as they are in the classroom.
- To continue to support and develop the wellbeing of staff and pupils.
- Through training enable teachers and TA's to better support children with mental health/wellbeing issues and their impact on behaviour.

Priority 4 – Engagement and partnership

To develop collaborations which improve the quality of leadership and management and the quality of education across school.

- To continue to develop collaborations to support and challenge leaders at all levels.
- Further strengthen engagement between school, parents and the community as well as continue to collaborate with the school's work with the Melrose Trust, the Darlington Peer Review group and other Darlington schools– Governors Strategic Priority
- To complete due diligence with the Melrose Learning Trust to enable a smooth transition - Governors Strategic Priority

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GOVERNORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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Auditor

Insofar as the Governors are aware:

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

The Governors' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Governors, as the company directors, on 29 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Emma de la Motte
Chair

THE FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

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

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Headteacher, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform to the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between The Federation of Abbey Schools 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 Governors' Report and in the Statement of Governors' Responsibilities. The Board of Governors has formally met 7 times during the period.

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

Governor	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
E de la Motte, Chair	7	7
R Kershaw, Vice Chair (resigned 31 July 2023)	5	7
J Briggs, Head Teacher	7	7
Dr L Bryant	7	7
G Buchanan	6	7
M Fryer	7	7
Mrs A Gibbs (appointed 18 May 2023)	2	2
S Howe (resigned 18 May 2023)	2	5
N Little	6	7
Mrs N McDowell	6	7
Mr A Phillips (appointed 18 May 2023)	2	2
C Stow-Smith	6	7

The Board of Governors has the strategic responsibility for the effective management of the school, acting within the framework set by national legislation and with due consideration to the policies of the academy trust. The work of the Board is outlined in our scheme of delegation.

Audit & Finance Sub-Committee

Attendance at the Audit & Finance Sub-Committee in the 2022/23 Academic Year was as follows:

Governor	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
M Fryer	3	3
L Bryant (Chair)	3	3
J Briggs	2	3
R Kershaw (resigned 31 July 2023)	3	3
G Buchanan	3	3
N Little	3	3

To provide guidance, review and advise the Headteacher and Board on all matters relating to: budget setting and finance, internal scrutiny and external audit, financial management and reporting and risk management. Employees of the Trust are not involved in audit matters, considerations or recommendations, however the Accounting Officer and Chief Financial Officer can attend the Audit & Finance Committee to provide information and participate in the discussions.

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

Teaching & Learning Sub-Committee

Attendance at the Teaching & Learning Sub-Committee in the 2022/23 Academic Year was as follows:

Governor	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
E de la Motte, Chair	1	1
L Bryant , Vice -Chair	1	1
M Fryer	1	1
C Stow-Smith	1	1
J Briggs	1	1
S Howe (resigned 18 May 2023)	1	1
N McDowell	1	1

To provide guidance and assistance to the Headteacher and Board in all matters relating to the curriculum, pupil progress, achievement, behaviour and attendance.

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

- Internal audits
- Tenders for phones and toilet refurbishments
- Reviewing contracts
- Health and safety audits

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

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

Capacity to Handle Risk

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

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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 Governors
- Regular reviews by the Audit and Finance 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
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties
- Identification and management of risks

The Board of Governors has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint Azets as internal auditor.

Azets were chosen due to their sector expertise. The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems.

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

- School Number Data
- Register of Pecuniary Interests
- Whistle Blowing Policy
- New Governor Induction Pack
- School Trust Development Plan
- GAG income
- Website Review
- Financial Accounts, Records and Systems
- Data Protection and GDPR
- Financial Competencies
- Monthly Management Reporting and KPIs
- Benchmarking
- Procurement
- Data Security
- Capital Expenditure
- Related Party Transactions
- VAT

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The Risk and Control Framework (continued)

On a termly basis the auditor reports to the board of directors, through the finance committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of directors' financial responsibilities and on a monthly basis to the Chair and the Headteacher. On an annual basis the internal auditor 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. The internal auditor has delivered the schedule of work and all actions have been addressed.

The external auditors have delivered their schedule of work as planned and no material control issues have arisen as a result of their work.

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer, the Headteacher has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the period in question the review has been informed by:

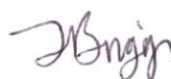
- the work of the internal auditor
- the work of the external auditors
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the finance committee and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Governors on 29 November 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



E de la Motte
Chair



J Briggs
Accounting Officer

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STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As Accounting Officer of The Federation of Abbey Schools Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust Board of Governors and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

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

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



J Briggs
Accounting Officer
Date: 29 November 2023

THE FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



E de la Motte
Chair

Date: 29 November 2023

THE FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST**

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Material uncertainty related to going concern

We draw attention to note 1.4 in the financial statements, which indicates that the governors are actively looking at joining a multi academy trust during 2024. As stated in note 1.4, these events or conditions, along with the other matters as set forth in note 1.4, indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

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

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

THE FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)**

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of Governors

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

In preparing the financial statements, the Governors are responsible for assessing the academy 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 Governors either intend to liquidate the academy trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

THE FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)**

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Our audit must be alert to the risk of manipulation of the financial statements and seek to understand the incentives and opportunities for management to achieve this.

We undertake the following procedures to identify and respond to these risks of non-compliance:

- Understanding the key legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the academy. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. We determined the most significant of these to be the regulations set out by the DfE/ESFA. Our audit focuses on financial matters as set out in our regularity opinion. Other key laws and regulations included safeguarding, Health & Safety, GDPR and employment law
- Enquiry of Governors and management as to policies and procedures to ensure compliance and any known instances of non-compliance
- Review of board minutes and correspondence with regulators
- Enquiry of Governors and management as to areas of the financial statements susceptible to fraud and how these risks are managed
- Challenging management on key estimates, assumptions and judgements made in the preparation of the financial statements. These key areas of uncertainty are disclosed in the accounting policies
- Identifying and testing unusual journal entries, with a particular focus on manual journal entries.

Through these procedures, we did not become aware of actual or suspected non-compliance.

We planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards but owing to the inherent limitations of procedures required in these areas, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected a material misstatement in the accounts. The further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve concealment, collusion, forgery, misrepresentations, or override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

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

THE FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)**

Use of our report

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



Kevin Shotton BA BFP FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

Clive Owen LLP

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditors

140 Coniscliffe Road

Darlington

County Durham

DL3 7RT

29 November 2023

THE FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE
FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING
AGENCY**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 16 September 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Federation of Abbey Schools Academy Trust during the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of The Federation of Abbey Schools Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Federation of Abbey Schools Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 29 July 2011 and the academy trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

THE FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE
FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING
AGENCY (CONTINUED)**

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Review of governing body and committee minutes;
- Review of termly Internal Assurance reports;
- Completion of self assessment questionnaire by Accounting Officer;
- Review documentation provided to Governors and Accounting Officer setting out responsibilities;
- Obtain formal letters of representation detailing the responsibilities of Governors;
- Review of payroll, purchases and expenses claims on a sample basis;
- Confirmation that the lines of delegation and limits set have been adhered to;
- Evaluation of internal control procedures and reporting lines;
- Review cash payments for unusual transactions;
- Review of credit card transactions;
- Review of registers of interests;
- Review related party transactions;
- Review of borrowing agreements;
- Review of land and building transactions;
- Review of potential and actual bad debts;
- Review an instance of gifts/hospitality to ensure in line with policy;
- Review whistleblowing procedures;
- Review pay policy and factors determining executive pay;
- Review of staff expenses;
- Review other income to ensure is in line with funding agreement;
- Review Governance structure and number of meetings held; and
- Review whether there is a risk register in place.

THE FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE
FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING
AGENCY (CONTINUED)**

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 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.

Clive Owen *cf*

Clive Owen LLP
Reporting Accountant

140 Coniscliffe Road
Darlington
County Durham
DL3 7RT

Date: 29 November 2023

THE FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	48	48	32
Other trading activities		164	-	-	164	150
Investments	6	3	-	-	3	1
Charitable activities		91	3,102	-	3,193	2,999
Total income		<u>258</u>	<u>3,102</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>3,408</u>	<u>3,182</u>
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities		228	3,159	198	3,585	3,633
Total expenditure		<u>228</u>	<u>3,159</u>	<u>198</u>	<u>3,585</u>	<u>3,633</u>
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains		30	(57)	(150)	(177)	(451)
Other recognised gains:						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	23	-	388	-	388	1,495
Net movement in funds		<u>30</u>	<u>331</u>	<u>(150)</u>	<u>211</u>	<u>1,044</u>
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		255	(413)	3,479	3,321	2,277
Net movement in funds		30	331	(150)	211	1,044
Total funds carried forward		<u>285</u>	<u>(82)</u>	<u>3,329</u>	<u>3,532</u>	<u>3,321</u>

The notes on pages 28 to 56 form part of these financial statements.

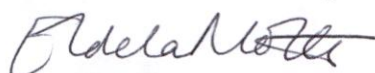
THE FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 07699775

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

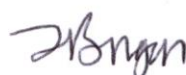
	Note	2023 £000	2022 £000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	3,302	3,463
		<u>3,302</u>	<u>3,463</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	15	271	260
Cash at bank and in hand		310	270
		<u>581</u>	<u>530</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(269)	(259)
Net current assets		<u>312</u>	<u>271</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>3,614</u>	<u>3,734</u>
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>3,614</u>	<u>3,734</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	23	(82)	(413)
Total net assets		<u><u>3,532</u></u>	<u><u>3,321</u></u>
Funds of the academy trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	17	3,329	3,479
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	17	<u>3,329</u>	<u>3,479</u>
Pension reserve	17	(82)	(413)
Total restricted funds	17	<u>3,247</u>	<u>3,066</u>
Unrestricted income funds	17	285	255
Total funds		<u><u>3,532</u></u>	<u><u>3,321</u></u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements on pages 25 to 56 were approved by the Governors, and authorised for issue on 29 November 2023 and are signed on their behalf, by:



E de la Motte
Chair



J Briggs
Accounting Officer

THE FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £000	2022 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	19	26	63
Cash flows from investing activities	20	14	(4)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		40	59
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		270	211
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	21, 22	<u>310</u>	<u>270</u>

The notes on pages 28 to 56 form part of these financial statements

THE FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

1. Accounting policies

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.

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (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 Federation of Abbey Schools academy trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Income

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

• **Grants**

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

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

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

• **Donations**

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

• **Other income**

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

• **Donated fixed assets (excluding transfers on conversion or into the academy trust)**

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

THE FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Expenditure

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

• **Charitable activities**

Expenditure on charitable activities are costs incurred on the academy trust's educational operations, including support costs and those costs relating to the governance of the academy trust appointed to charitable activities

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.4 Going concern

The Governors assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the academy trust to continue as a going concern. The Governors make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements, however the governors are actively looking at joining a multi academy trust during 2024. This therefore creates an uncertainty about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern. Should the merger not go ahead the Governors have no concerns over the trust's ability to continue to operate as a going concern and for that reason the financial statements continue to be prepared on a going concern basis.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

The premises are held on a 125 year lease from Darlington Borough Council. As the risks and rewards have transferred to the academy trust, the asset has been recognised within tangible fixed assets. The initial acquisition was recognised at existing use valuation by DTZ, on behalf of the Education and Skills Funding Agency. The Governors consider that the cost of obtaining an additional valuation would outweigh the benefit.

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.

THE FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

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 over its expected useful life, as follows:

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Leasehold buildings	- over 22.33/22.75 years
Leasehold land	- over 125 years
Furniture and equipment	- 20% straight line
Computer equipment	- 33.33% straight line

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

1.6 Operating leases

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

1.7 Taxation

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

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

1.8 Liabilities and provisions

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

THE FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.9 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 16. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.10 Pensions

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. TPS is 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 Governor administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each Balance Sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

1.11 Fund accounting

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

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

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

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2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or 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 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Goodwin - The case related to male spouse or civil partner of a female member is treated in the same way as a same-sex spouse or civil partner. Survivor benefits will be calculated using service from 1 April 1972, or 6 April 1978 if the marriage or civil partnership took place after the last day of pensionable service. This change will apply for deaths in respect of female members which occurred from 5 December 2005, which is the date that the same-sex civil partnerships were introduced. This case was brought against the Teachers' Pension Scheme. Actuaries have estimated that the impact of Goodwin indexation to be less than 0.1% of total liabilities. Based on this estimate it would increase liabilities by £2,474 which has been assessed to be immaterial to the financial statements.

Depreciation - Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its residual value, over the economic life of that asset. An estimate of the useful life of assets is detailed in the depreciation accounting policy. The value of depreciation charge during the year was £198,000.

Critical areas of judgement:

Land – Land is held under a 125 year lease from Darlington Borough Council. These assets are included on the balance sheet of the academy trust due to the significant risks and rewards of ownership belonging to the academy trust, the lease term being the major part of the economic life of the assets and the assets being of such a specialised nature that only the academy trust could use them without major modification.

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3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Donations	-	-	-	17
Capital Grants	-	48	48	15
	<u>-</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>32</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>32</u>
Total 2022	<u>17</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>32</u>	

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4. Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Academy's educational operations				
DfE/ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	2,613	2,613	2,541
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
Pupil Premium	-	92	92	80
PE and Sport Premium	-	37	37	37
UFSM	-	109	109	98
Rates	-	9	9	9
Other	-	3	3	30
Supplementary Grant	-	71	71	-
Mainstream Schools Grant	-	36	36	-
	-	2,970	2,970	2,795
Other Government grants				
SEN	-	89	89	70
Local Authority grants	-	5	5	2
Other Government grants	-	19	19	6
	-	113	113	78
Other income from the academy trust's academy's educational operations	91	-	91	100
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)				
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	10	10	13
	-	10	10	13
COVID-19 additional funding (non- DfE/ESFA)				
Other COVID-19 funding	-	9	9	13
	-	9	9	13
	91	3,102	3,193	2,999
	91	3,102	3,193	2,999
Total 2022	100	2,899	2,999	

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5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Income from facilities and services	123	123	110
Rental and Lettings income	21	21	20
Other Income	20	20	20
	<u>164</u>	<u>164</u>	<u>150</u>
Total 2022	<u>150</u>	<u>150</u>	

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Bank interest	3	3	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	
Total 2022	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	

7. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2023 £000	Premises 2023 £000	Other 2023 £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Academy's educational operations:					
Direct costs	2,465	-	101	2,566	2,540
Allocated support costs	405	316	298	1,019	1,093
	<u>2,870</u>	<u>316</u>	<u>399</u>	<u>3,585</u>	<u>3,633</u>
Total 2022	<u>2,903</u>	<u>321</u>	<u>409</u>	<u>3,633</u>	

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7. Expenditure (continued)

In 2023, of the total expenditure, £228,000 (2022 - £276,000) was to unrestricted funds and £3,159,000 (2022 - £3,155,000) was to restricted funds.

There were no individual transactions exceeding £5,000 for:

- Compensation payments
- Gifts made by the academy trust
- Fixed asset losses
- Stock losses
- Unrecoverable debts
- Cash losses

There were no ex-gratia payments in the year.

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £000	Support costs 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Academy's educational operations	2,566	1,019	3,585	3,633
Total 2022	2,540	1,093	3,633	

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8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Staff costs	2,465	2,447
Educational supplies	100	93
Supply insurance	1	-
	<u>2,566</u>	<u>2,540</u>

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Net interest cost on pension scheme	13	27
Staff costs	405	456
Depreciation	198	202
Staff development	7	10
Technology costs	32	36
Staff expenses	1	1
Maintenance of premises	46	52
Cleaning	7	10
Other premises costs	25	24
Energy	64	48
Rent and rates	9	9
Insurance	13	12
Operating lease rentals	3	3
Catering	92	80
Other costs	92	112
Governance costs	12	11
	<u>1,019</u>	<u>1,093</u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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9. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Operating lease rentals	3	3
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	198	202
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	8	7
- other services	1	1
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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10. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Wages and salaries	2,132	2,039
Social security costs	184	178
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	499	672
	<u>2,815</u>	<u>2,889</u>
Agency staff costs	55	14
	<u>2,870</u>	<u>2,903</u>

Included in operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes is a debit of £44,000 (2022: £242,000) relating to the pension deficit actuarial adjustment.

b. Staff numbers

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Teachers	24	25
Administration and support	82	78
Management	3	4
	<u>109</u>	<u>107</u>

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10. Staff (continued)

c. Higher paid staff

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	2	-
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	1
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust trust comprise the Governors and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £274,000 (2022: £291,000).

11. Central services

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

- financial services
- human resources
- technology support services
- educational support services

The academy trust trust charges for these services on the following basis:

allocation based on pupil numbers

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Abbey Infant School	18	20
Abbey Junior School	26	26
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total	<u>44</u>	<u>46</u>

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12. Governors' remuneration and expenses

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

		2023 £000	2022 £000
J Briggs, Head Teacher	Remuneration	75 - 80	70 - 75
	Pension contributions paid	15 - 20	15 - 20
C Stow Smith	Remuneration	20 - 25	20 - 25
	Pension contributions paid	5 - 10	0 - 5

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

During the year, no Governors received any benefits in kind (2022 - £NIL)

13. Governors' and Officers' insurance

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

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14. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £000	Furniture and equipment £000	Computer equipment £000	Total £000
Cost or valuation				
At 1 September 2022	4,667	601	189	5,457
Additions	-	30	7	37
At 31 August 2023	4,667	631	196	5,494
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2022	1,372	453	169	1,994
Charge for the year	130	54	14	198
At 31 August 2023	1,502	507	183	2,192
Net book value				
At 31 August 2023	3,165	124	13	3,302
At 31 August 2022	3,295	148	20	3,463

15. Debtors

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	-	1
VAT recoverable	10	11
Prepayments and accrued income	55	45
Short term cash investments	206	203
	271	260

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16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Trade creditors	36	42
Other taxation and social security	42	41
Other creditors	58	49
Accruals and deferred income	133	127
	<u>269</u>	<u>259</u>
	2023 £000	2022 £000
Deferred income		
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	63	76
Resources deferred during the year	72	63
Amounts released from previous periods	(63)	(76)
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	<u>72</u>	<u>63</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds in relation to the Universal Infant Free School Meals grant, out of school club income and the School meals income Parentmail which straddle the academic year.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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17. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £000
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted funds	255	258	(228)	-	285
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	2,613	(2,613)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	92	(92)	-	-
Other DfE / ESFA	-	265	(265)	-	-
SEN	-	89	(89)	-	-
Other government grants	-	24	(24)	-	-
COVID – 19 additional funding (ESFA/DfE grant)	-	10	(10)	-	-
Other COVID-19 funding	-	9	(9)	-	-
Pension reserve	(413)	-	(57)	388	(82)
	<u>(413)</u>	<u>3,102</u>	<u>(3,159)</u>	<u>388</u>	<u>(82)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Legacy Assets	2,950	-	(106)	-	2,844
Devolved Formula Capital	37	48	(35)	-	50
Academies Capital Maintenance Fund	123	-	(10)	-	113
Capital expenditure from GAG	330	-	(23)	-	307
Pupil Premium	2	-	-	-	2
Condition Improvement Fund	33	-	(21)	-	12
ESFA Donations	4	-	(3)	-	1
	<u>3,479</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>(198)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,329</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>3,066</u>	<u>3,150</u>	<u>(3,357)</u>	<u>388</u>	<u>3,247</u>
Total funds	<u><u>3,321</u></u>	<u><u>3,408</u></u>	<u><u>(3,585)</u></u>	<u><u>388</u></u>	<u><u>3,532</u></u>

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17. Statement of funds (continued)

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

The General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running of the academy trust including salaries and related costs, overheads, repairs and maintenance, and insurance.

Pupil Premium is additional funding to be spent as the school sees fit to support deprived students.

SEN relates to special education needs funding from the local authority.

Other DfE/ESFA Grants included Universal Infant Free School Meals grant to provide free school meals for infants, and PE and sport premium grant to promote PE and sport. Other DfE/ESFA Grants included the Supplementary Grant.

Other Government grants include ILS funding to support students with additional educational needs.

Other Covid-19 funding (DfE/ESFA) includes the recovery premium which is used to fund specific activities to support the pupils' education recovery. This also includes School-led tutoring grant which is used to support disadvantaged pupils in catch up learning.

Other Covid-19 funding relates to funding received from the local authority for the purchase of free school meal vouchers.

The pension reserves is the liability due to the deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme. Further details are shown in note 23.

The restricted fixed asset funds represent monies received to purchase fixed assets. Depreciation is charged against each fund over the useful economic life of the associated assets.

Unrestricted funds include the income from uniform sales, school trips and catering with the relevant costs allocated accordingly.

A transfer of £Nil has been made to capital expenditure from GAG to reflect those items included within fixed assets which have been purchased using GAG monies.

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

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17. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £000
Unrestricted funds						
Unrestricted funds	263	268	(276)	-	-	255
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	2,541	(2,528)	(13)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	80	(80)	-	-	-
Other DfE / ESFA	-	174	(174)	-	-	-
SEN	-	70	(70)	-	-	-
Other government grants	-	8	(8)	-	-	-
COVID – 19 additional funding (ESFA/DfE grant)	-	13	(13)	-	-	-
Other COVID-19 funding	-	13	(13)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,639)	-	(269)	-	1,495	(413)
	(1,639)	2,899	(3,155)	(13)	1,495	(413)
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Legacy Assets	3,056	-	(106)	-	-	2,950
Devolved Formula Capital	38	15	(16)	-	-	37
Academies Capital Maintenance Fund	132	-	(9)	-	-	123
Capital expenditure from GAG	372	-	(55)	13	-	330

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17. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £000
Universal Infant Free School Meals	1	-	(1)	-	-	-
Pupil Premium	2	-	-	-	-	2
Condition Improvement Fund	45	-	(12)	-	-	33
ESFA Donations	7	-	(3)	-	-	4
	<u>3,653</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>(202)</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,479</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>2,014</u>	<u>2,914</u>	<u>(3,357)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,495</u>	<u>3,066</u>
Total funds	<u><u>2,277</u></u>	<u><u>3,182</u></u>	<u><u>(3,633)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>1,495</u></u>	<u><u>3,321</u></u>

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17. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Abbey Infant School	115	97
Abbey Junior School	170	158
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	285	255
Restricted fixed asset fund	3,329	3,479
Pension reserve	(82)	(413)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	3,532	3,321
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £000	Other support staff costs £000	Educational supplies £000	Other costs excluding depreciation £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Abbey Infant School	1,083	168	31	169	1,451	1,518
Abbey Junior School	1,393	237	69	237	1,936	1,913
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Academy Trust	2,476	405	100	406	3,387	3,431
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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18. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	3,302	3,302
Current assets	290	264	27	581
Creditors due within one year	(5)	(264)	-	(269)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(82)	-	(82)
Total	285	(82)	3,329	3,532

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £000	Restricted funds 2022 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	3,463	3,463
Current assets	259	255	16	530
Creditors due within one year	(4)	(255)	-	(259)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(413)	-	(413)
Total	255	(413)	3,479	3,321

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19. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(177)	(451)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	198	202
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(48)	(15)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	44	242
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	13	27
Debtors movement	(11)	28
Increase in creditors	11	31
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(4)	(1)
Net cash provided by operating activities	26	63

20. Cash flows from investing activities

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	3	1
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(37)	(20)
Capital grants from DfE Group	48	15
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	14	(4)

21. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Cash in hand and at bank	310	270
Total cash and cash equivalents	310	270

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22. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022 £000	Cash flows £000	At 31 August 2023 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	270	40	310
Liquid investments	203	3	206
	<u>473</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>516</u>

23. Pension commitments

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £50,000 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022 - £47,000) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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23. Pension commitments (continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 5 March 2019. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £263,000 (2022 - £252,000).

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

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The academy 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 pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £248,000 (2022 - £218,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £194,000 (2022 - £171,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 54,000 (2022 - £47,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 19.7% for employers and 5.5 to 12.5% for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy 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.

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2023 %	2022 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.60	3.70
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.60	2.70
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.10	4.10
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.60	2.70
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	85.00	85.00

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23. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2023 Years	2022 Years
Retiring today		
Males	21.7	22.1
Females	23.9	24.2
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	22.9	23.2
Females	25	25.7

Sensitivity analysis

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Discount rate +0.1%	(49)	(63)
Discount rate -0.1%	49	63
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	(64)	(74)
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	64	74
CPI rate +0.1%	47	56
CPI rate -0.1%	(45)	(56)

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23. Pension commitments (continued)

Share of scheme assets

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

	At 31 August 2023 £000	At 31 August 2022 £000
Equity instruments	1,217	1,222
Corporate bonds	225	98
Property	179	187
Cash	48	31
Multi asset credit	366	323
Government bonds	254	252
Other	103	118
Total market value of assets	2,392	2,231

The actual return on scheme assets was £(23,000) (2022 - £(227,000)).

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

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Current service cost	(238)	413
Interest income	95	40
Interest cost	(108)	(67)
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	(251)	386

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

	2023 £000	2022 £000
At 1 September	2,644	3,919
Current service cost	238	413
Interest cost	108	67
Employee contributions	54	47
Actuarial gains	(506)	(1,762)
Benefits paid	(64)	(40)
At 31 August	2,474	2,644

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23. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2023 £000	2022 £000
At 1 September	2,231	2,280
Expected return on assets	95	40
Actuarial losses	(118)	(267)
Employer contributions	194	171
Employee contributions	54	47
Benefits paid	(64)	(40)
At 31 August	<u>2,392</u>	<u>2,231</u>

24. Operating lease commitments

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

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Amounts payable:		
Within 1 year	3	3
Between 1 and 5 years	7	9
Total	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>

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25. Related party transactions

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

Expenditure related party transactions

James Rochester Heating and Plumbing - a company in which C Rochester's (Chief Financial Officer) husband has a majority interest:

The academy trust purchased heating and plumbing services from James Rochester Heating and Plumbing totalling £1,405 (2022: £2,383) during the period. There were no amounts outstanding at 31 August 2023 (2022: £nil).

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

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