

Companies House

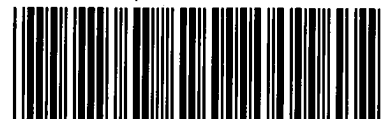
**Leigh
Academies
Trust**

**Annual Report and Financial
Statements**

31 August 2023

Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number 02336587
(England and Wales)

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COMPANIES HOUSE

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Reference and administrative information

Members	Sir G Leigh Mr A F X Green Cllr J Kite Mr R Race	Professor G Randsley de Moura Cllr R Gough Professor D Moore
Directors	Mr A F X Green (Chairman) Mr S P Beamish Cllr Sir P Carter Mr M Costello Mrs T Davies	Mr K Ellis Mrs H Esmonde Mr J Nicholson Dr J Wetherall Dr J Wales
Secretary	Mr N Willis	
Trust Executives	Mr S P Beamish Ms F Reizopoulou Mr P Whittall Mr S Vernoux Mr R Taylor Mrs D Biggenden Mrs T Trusler Mrs E Elwin	Chief Executive Chief Financial Officer Estates Director Chief Information Officer People & Communications Director Academies Director Academies Director Academies Director
Registered office	Strood Academy Carnation Road Rochester ME2 2SX	
Company registration number	02336587 (England and Wales)	
External Auditor	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL	

Reference and administrative information

Bankers	HSBC plc 38 High Street Dartford Kent DA1 1DG	NatWest Bank County Gate 2 Stacey's Street Maidstone ME14 1ST
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Lloyds Bank plc
78 New Road
Gravesend
Kent
DA11 0AR

Solicitors	T G Baynes Baynes House Market Street Dartford Kent DA1 1DB
	Stone King LLP 16 St John's Lane London EC1M 4BS

Actuaries	Barnett Waddingham Cheapside House 138 Cheapside London EC2V 6BW
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The Directors present their report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the period from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purpose of both a Trustees' report and a Directors' report under company law.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 50 to 56 of the attached financial statements and comply with the Trust's Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable laws and 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Background and constitution

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are its primary governing documents. The Trustees are also Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Leigh Academies Trust (LAT).

Members of the company are nominated by the sponsors, Sir Geoffrey Leigh, Kent County Council, the University of Kent and the University of Greenwich.

Since February 2008, LAT has been a multi-academy Trust with Master Funding Agreements (MFA) and separate Supplemental Funding Agreements (SFA) to govern each academy.

LAT Academies

There were 31 academies within the Trust on 31 August 2023 as shown below. Leigh Academy Bexley (an 11-19 Secondary School, formerly known as King Henry School) joined the Trust on 1 June 2023.

- ◆ Bearsted Primary Academy (a 3-11 Primary School and Nursery)
- ◆ Cherry Orchard Primary Academy (a 3-11 Primary School and Nursery)
- ◆ Dartford Primary Academy (a 3-11 Primary School and Nursery)
- ◆ Eastcote Primary Academy (a 3-11 Primary School and Nursery)
- ◆ Ebbsfleet Academy (an 11-19 Secondary School)
- ◆ The Halley Academy (an 11-19 Secondary School)
- ◆ Hartley Primary Academy (a 3-11 Primary School and Nursery)
- ◆ Hayesbrook Academy (an 11-19 Secondary School)

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

LAT Academies (continued)

- ◆ High Halstow Primary Academy (a 4-11 Primary School)
- ◆ Horsmonden Primary Academy (a 4-11 Primary School)
- ◆ The Hundred of Hoo Academy (a 4-19 all-through School)
- ◆ Langley Park Primary Academy (a 3-11 Primary School and Nursery)
- ◆ The Leigh Academy (an 11-19 Secondary School)
- ◆ Leigh Academy Bexley (an 11-19 Secondary School)
- ◆ Leigh Academy Blackheath (an 11-19 Secondary School)
- ◆ Leigh Academy Rainham (an 11-19 Secondary School)
- ◆ The Leigh UTC (an 11-19 free school with a licence from the Baker Dearing Trust to operate as a University Technical College)
- ◆ Longfield Academy (an 11-19 Secondary School)
- ◆ Marden Primary Academy (a 4-11 Primary School)
- ◆ Mascalls Academy (an 11-19 Secondary School)
- ◆ Milestone Academy (a 3-19 Special School)
- ◆ Molehill Primary Academy (a 3-11 Primary School and Nursery)
- ◆ Oaks Primary Academy (a 3-11 Primary School and Nursery)
- ◆ Paddock Wood Primary Academy (a 4-11 Primary School)
- ◆ Peninsula East Primary Academy (a 3-11 Primary School and Nursery)
- ◆ Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School (an 11-19 Grammar School)
- ◆ Snowfields Academy (an 11-19 Special School)
- ◆ Stationers' Crown Woods Academy (an 11-19 Secondary School)
- ◆ Strood Academy (an 11-19 Secondary School)
- ◆ Tree Tops Primary Academy (a 3-11 Primary School and Nursery)
- ◆ Wilmington Academy (an 11-19 Secondary School)

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Members' liability

Each Member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Trust 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

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Trust has purchased insurance to protect directors, governors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £10 million on any one claim.

Directors

The Articles of Association require the appointment of at least three Directors (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution). Directors are appointed to the Board by the Members. Governors are appointed to Academy Boards by the Directors.

The training and induction provided for new Directors depends on their existing experience. Where necessary, induction provides training on charity, education, legal and finance matters. All Directors are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents to undertake their role as Directors.

The following Directors served throughout the period from 1 September 2022:

Director	Appointed/Retired	Committees
Mr S P Beamish	Retired 13 Dec 2022	Resources
Cllr Sir P Carter		
Mr G Clewes		Standards (Chairman) Resources (Chairman), Audit Audit (Chairman) Standards
Mr M Costello		
Mrs T Davies (Vice Chair)		
Mr K Ellis		
Mrs H Esmonde		
Mr A F X Green (Chairman)	Appointed 23 Mar 2023	Resources
Mr J Nicholson		
Dr J Wetherall		Standards
Dr J Wales		

During the year under review the Trust Board held four full meetings and nine committee meetings.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Organisational Structure

The Board of Directors governs the activities of the Trust and oversees the work of the Academy Boards. It is also ultimately responsible for the strategic direction of the Trust and its overarching policies. Each Academy Board governs the work and outcomes of its assigned academies. Individual Academy Board governors are directly attached to a secondary or primary academy; they carry out regular visits to monitor progress at the Academy and report their findings to the next available meeting. The Trust's Scheme of Delegation sets parameters for decision-making by executives and approvals by governors.

The senior managers of the Trust are the CEO, Chief Financial Officer, three Academies Directors, Estates Director, Chief Information Officer and People & Communications Director. They lead and manage the Trust, setting strategy and implementing policy in conjunction with the Board. Principals lead and manage the individual academies.

Subsidiary companies

The Trust has three wholly owned subsidiary companies:

- ◆ LAT Enterprises C.I.C, a community interest company incorporated in February 1991.
 - ◇ The objects of the C.I.C. are to carry on activities which benefit the community and in particular by making available sporting and other facilities to individuals and community groups. Proceeds from the hiring of facilities to the community are gift-aided to academies within LAT for the benefit of students.
- ◆ The Hundred of Hoo Nursery and Kids Club, a company limited by guarantee incorporated in October 2007.
 - ◇ The objects of the company are to advance education by the provision of a full childcare service and nursery for children from the age of 0 to 11. The Nursery and Kids Club is located on the site of The Hundred of Hoo Academy and its activities are closely aligned with those of the academy.
- ◆ LAT Apprenticeships C.I.C, a community interest company incorporated in October 2019.
 - ◇ The objects of the Company are to carry on activities which benefit the community and in particular to provide training opportunities, including apprenticeships, for members of the community. Many apprentices on the C.I.C's training programmes are employees of LAT and the trust governs its activities.

The financial results of the subsidiary companies are included in the notes to the financial statements.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The pay and remuneration of key management personnel are set by the Senior Pay Committee which comprises the Chairman of the Trust Board, the Chairman of the Resources Committee and the Chief Executive Officer. The key management personnel comprise the Executive Directors and Academy Principals. The pay and remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer is determined by the Chairman of the Trust Board and the Chairman of the Resources Committee.

Trade union facility time

The following information is provided in accordance with the provisions of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publications Requirements) Regulations 2017.

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
19	18.4

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	0
1%-50%	19
51%-99%	0
100%	0

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Provide the total cost of facility time	£53,452
Provide the total pay bill	£126,067,000
Provide the percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (total cost of facility time ÷ total pay bill) ×100	0.04%

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

No Director received any remuneration in respect of their services during the year, nor for any other work undertaken on behalf of the Trust, with the exception of Mr S P Beamish in his capacity as an employee of the Trust. Governors of individual academies are from sponsoring organisations, employers, local authorities or other organisations, some of which from time to time have dealings with the Trust in the course of their usual work. All transactions between these organisations and the Trust were carried out at arm's length and all material transactions were at standard rates.

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

As a Trust we believe that engaging with our workforce is a fundamental aspect of day-to-day operations and accordingly we have the following mechanisms in place:

- ◆ Operate a Joint Consultative Committee with trade unions to consult on all key matters relating to the employment of teaching and support staff.
- ◆ We undertake staff engagement pulse surveys six times a year which are sent to all staff with the results forming key action plans by academy.
- ◆ We have a staff portal that contains news and policies as well as details of any initiatives for wellbeing and other projects.
- ◆ We operate a number of staff network groups to ensure that staff from specific communities have a voice and are able to be involved in the direction of the Trust.
- ◆ We also regularly publish documents on the future direction of the Trust, its vision and goals for the year ahead as well as the long-term future.

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

The Trust meets regularly with all of its principal suppliers in the spirit of cooperation and mutual interest. The Trust's academies work in partnership with suppliers at local level on the day-to-day delivery of services and Trust Executives engage with regional or national representatives to address contract management and value for money. Through its wholly owned subsidiary, LAT Enterprises C.I.C. the Trust maintains a strong dialogue with customers in the community who use academy facilities. This engagement is led by a dedicated team within the C.I.C.

The Trust and its academies engage fully with parents and guardians of our students. This engagement ranges from termly newsletters to specific, issue-based communications at academy level and through parent/guardian consultation events which address the progress of students.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and Aims

The objects of LAT are summarised as follows:

- ◆ To advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, by establishing, maintaining, running, managing and developing schools which offer a broad and balanced curriculum or are specifically organised to make special educational provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs; and
- ◆ To promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the areas in which the Academies are located and the surrounding areas the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The Trust's *Vision 2030* sets out an Excellence Charter which establishes the context for the LAT Performance Agreement. The Charter commits the Trust to do the following:

- ◆ We will ensure excellent teaching so that young people achieve their ambitions.
- ◆ We will ensure outstanding leadership to drive improvement in our own academies and across the sector.
- ◆ We will ensure an exceptional International Baccalaureate curriculum.
- ◆ We will ensure a world class digital strategy for education.
- ◆ We will ensure a highly developed and engaged workforce who make a difference.
- ◆ We will ensure a small school model of education that delivers high quality pastoral care.
- ◆ We will ensure disruption-free learning and a wide personal development programme.
- ◆ We will ensure targeted support for those who need it so that they can succeed.

Public Benefit

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

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievements and performance

Overview

On 1 June 2023, King Henry School joined the Trust following its transfer from The Odyssey Trust for Education (OTE). On joining LAT, the school's name changed to Leigh Academy Bexley. This brought the total number of academies within the Trust to 31.

International Baccalaureate

LAT is committed to providing all of its pupils with an outstanding educational experience that gives them the knowledge, skills and personal attributes they need to be successful lifelong learners. It is for this reason that LAT took the ground-breaking decision to introduce International Baccalaureate (IB) programmes across all phases of education in its academies. IB programmes are delivered in 150 countries worldwide and participation in the development of the IB programmes has given our staff the opportunity to engage with the best research and training from around the world.

All academies are either fully accredited International Baccalaureate World Schools or, for the schools newest to LAT, candidate World Schools.

Primary Years Programme (PYP) World Schools	Middle Years Programme (MYP) World Schools	Career-related Programme (CP) Diploma Programme [DP]
Bearsted Primary Academy	The Halley Academy	Leigh Academy Bexley CP (candidate)
Cherry Orchard Primary Academy	Hundred of Hoo Academy (Secondary)	Wilmington Academy CP
Dartford Primary Academy	The Leigh Academy	The Halley Academy CP
Eastcote Primary Academy	Leigh Academy Blackheath	Leigh UTC CP
Hartley Primary Academy	The Leigh UTC	Leigh Academy Blackheath CP/DP
High Halstow Primary Academy	Longfield Academy	Strood Academy CP
Hundred of Hoo Academy (Primary)	Mascalls Academy	The Leigh Academy CP
Horsmonden Primary Academy	Stationers' Crown Woods Academy	
Langley Park Primary Academy	Strood Academy	
Molehill Primary Academy	Wilmington Academy	
Oaks Primary Academy	Leigh Academy Rainham (Candidate)	
Paddock Wood Primary Academy	Ebbsfleet Academy (Candidate)	
Peninsula East Primary Academy	Hayesbrook Academy (Candidate)	
Tree Tops Primary Academy	Snowfields Academy (Candidate)	
Marden Primary Academy (Candidate)	Leigh Academy Bexley (Candidate from January 2024)	
Milestone Academy (Candidate)		

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

The Leigh Institute

The LAT organisations Thames Gateway Teaching School Hub (TGTSH), Kent and Medway Maths Hub (KMMH), Kent and Medway Training (KMT) and LAT Apprenticeships collectively work with over 400 schools and academies across Kent and Medway. They oversee teacher training, development and apprenticeships providing professional qualifications inside and outside of education. Each organisation has its own funding arrangements, governance structure and personnel - but there are more similarities than differences.

The Leigh Institute is a new umbrella organisation which was established during the year, bringing the four separate organisations under a single point of leadership so that we can maximise the benefits of collaboration and teamwork. Strategic oversight of all existing bodies now becomes the responsibility of the Director of The Leigh Institute simplifying the direction, finance and governance whilst enhancing the delivery of all four. Whilst each organisation, part of The Leigh Institute, holds its own reputation, The Leigh Institute will become the preeminent brand for teacher development, training and apprenticeships in Kent and Medway utilising the strength of each organisation to provide a *curriculum for life* spanning from reception through public examinations, apprenticeships and professional qualifications. A child in reception can remain with LAT all the way through to employment and beyond.

Key achievements during the year:

TGTSH – more than 800 Early Career Teachers (ECT) worked with the hub this year as part of their induction period; 580 were recruited and supported to access the hub's full suite of NPQs. A pass rate of 98% or above for all NPQ courses has been maintained.

KMMH – the hub has worked with 250 primary and secondary schools this year, bringing the total number to 510 schools across Kent and Medway, more than three quarters of all schools in the region.

KMT – nearly 200 associate teachers achieved Qualified Teacher Status this year and will be beginning their careers across our partner schools. More than 240 new trainees have been recruited to start with KMT next year.

LAT Apprenticeships – during the year 74 learners have benefited from the seven apprenticeship programmes on offer. OFSTED visited for a full graded inspection after the initial monitoring visit in the previous year. Inspectors were impressed with how much progress has been made in such a short space of time and graded the provision good across the board.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

OFSTED inspections

During the year, eleven academies received an OFSTED inspection and all achieved excellent judgements.

Academy	Ofsted judgement	Date of inspection	Ofsted judgement on joining LAT
Leigh Academy Blackheath	Outstanding in all areas	Dec 2022	First inspection
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School	Outstanding in all areas	Mar 2023	Outstanding
Snowfields Academy	Outstanding in all areas	Jun 2023	First inspection
Wilmington Academy	Outstanding in all areas	May 2023	Inadequate
High Halstow Primary Academy	Outstanding in all areas	Jun 2023	Good
Bearsted Primary Academy	Outstanding in all areas	Jan 2023	First inspection
Molehill Primary Academy	Inspection converted to a graded inspection within 1-2 years because inspectors believe that the academy may be outstanding overall	Jun 2023	Requires Improvement
Hayesbrook Academy	Good with outstanding Behaviour and Attitudes	Dec 2022	Good
Stationers' Crown Woods Academy	Good	Jan 2023	Good
The Leigh Academy	Good	Apr 2023	Good
Marden Primary Academy	Good with outstanding Leadership and Management, Personal Development and Behaviour and Attitudes	Feb 2023	Good

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

OFSTED inspections (continued)

During the year, LAT Apprenticeships and Kent Medway Training also received an OFSTED inspection and both achieved excellent judgements.

Training Provider	Ofsted judgement	Date of inspection	Ofsted judgement on joining LAT
LAT Apprenticeships	Good with the quality of education, Behaviour and attitudes, Personal development, Leadership and management	May 2023	Good
Kent and Medway Training (KMT)	Good with the quality of education, Training, Leadership and management for both primary age -phase and secondary age-phase	May 2022	Good

These recent inspections take the total number of outstanding LAT academies to eleven. This is 38% of the total inspected so far and well above the national average of about 15%. Not only is this figure over twice the national average, but LAT has an outstanding academy across all school types.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

OFSTED inspections (continued)

The following tables show the current Ofsted ratings for each academy. The final column gives the overall effectiveness of the academy, whilst the other columns indicate the rating for various sub-categories evaluated through an inspection.

Primary Academies

	QofE	B&A	L&M	PD	EY	OE
DPA	<i>Converted to graded inspected for probable Outstanding</i>					
Hartley	1	1	1	1	1	1
Eastcote	1	1	1	1	1	1
High Halstow	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hoo	2	2	1	2	1	2
PEPA	2	2	1	2	2	2
COPA	1	1	1	1	1	1
Oaks	1	1	1	1	1	1
Molehill	<i>Converted to graded inspected for probable Outstanding</i>					
Tree Tops	2	2	1	2	2	2
Langley Park	2	1	1	1	1	2
Marden	2	1	1	1	2	2
Horsmonden	2	2	1	1	2	2
Paddock Wood	2	1	2	1	2	2
Bearsted	1	1	1	1	1	1

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

OFSTED inspections (continued)

Secondary Academies

	QofE	B&A	L&M	PD	6F	OE
The Leigh	2	2	2	2	2	2
Longfield	2	2	2	2	1	2
Wilmington	1	1	1	1	1	1
UTC	2	2	2	2	1	2
SCWA	2	2	2	2	2	2
LAB	1	1	1	1	NA	1
The Halley	2	2	1	1	1	2
Mascalls	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ebbsfleet ^a	2	2	2	2	3	2
LATon	2	1	2	2	2	2
SJWMS	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hoo	2	2	1	2	2	2
Strood	2	2	2	2	2	2
LA Bex	<i>Not yet inspected</i>					
LAR	<i>Not yet inspected</i>					

^a : Ebbsfleet Academy has not been inspected since joining LAT in September 2021.

Special Academies

	QofE	B&A	L&M	PD	EY	6F	OE
Milestone	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Snowfields	1	1	1	1	NA	NA	1

N.b.

Qof E : Quality of Education

B&A : Behaviour and Attitudes

L&M : Leadership and Management

PD : Personal Development

EY : Early Years

6F : Sixth Form

OE : Overall Effectiveness

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

People Strategy

Our People Strategy has been updated to meet the recruitment and retention challenges facing the schools' sector, whilst remaining aligned to the Trust's Vision 2030. At the heart of the strategy is the desire to increase a sense of belonging which we know is critical to long-term retention.

The new strategy has been carefully built so that it is also aligned with the DfE's descriptors of Trust Quality.

The new strategy covers various key areas:

- ◆ **Workload and Wellbeing:** Under the "Tackling Workload Together" programme, the strategy prioritises staff wellbeing through effective workload management.
- ◆ **Recruitment and Retention:** The strategy focuses on attracting and retaining quality staff through competitive compensation and benefits, fostering engagement, and promoting career progression. Part of this strategy is a complete overhaul of the candidate experience throughout recruitment and onboarding.
- ◆ **Working Environment:** The Trust is committed to creating a safe and empowering work environment. This involves implementing effective behaviour and attendance policies and leveraging the Trust structure for staff empowerment.
- ◆ **Developing New and Early Career Teachers:** The strategy involves nurturing new talent through high-quality training and support, under the Early Career Framework.
- ◆ **Continuing Professional Development:** The Trust will promote professional and personal development through a new Trust-wide learning platform "Thrive" that supports peer learning and collaboration.
- ◆ **Collaboration:** The Trust is dedicated to building a vibrant professional community by promoting and sharing expertise and evidence-based practice.
- ◆ **Line Management & Career Progression:** The strategy ensures effective line management and encourages career progression opportunities across the Trust via published career pathways.
- ◆ **Equality, Diversity & Inclusion:** The strategy is strongly committed to promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion, ensuring inclusive working environments and supporting flexible working arrangements.

Despite the huge challenges faced by staff and students again this year, there has been much to celebrate across LAT with students in all academies achieving success. It has again been a most extraordinary year and staff, who have done their utmost for our students, deserve congratulations. Students themselves have been hugely resilient and have shown great character beyond their years.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Primary Students' Performance

The results are summarised below. In all key categories, LAT primary pupils have performed better than the national average.

Primary Key Stage 2 SATs results 2023

	LAT 2022	LAT 2023	National 2023
Reading expected standard	78%	81%	73%
Writing expected standard	80%	80%	71%
Maths expected standard	79%	80%	73%
Combined expected standard	69%	70%	59%
GPAS expected standard	74%	75%	72%
Reading progress score	0.2	1.6	0
Writing progress score	1.4	1.6	0
Maths progress score	1.3	2.1	0

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Secondary Students' Performance

The results of Key Stage 4 and 5 students are summarised below:

Performance measure		National Average	LAT Average	
		2023*	2023	2019
GCSE	% of pupils achieving a grade 9-4 in English and maths	65	64	61
	% of pupils achieving a grade 9-5 in English and maths	45	42	36
Key Stage 4	Attainment 8	46.2	45.4	43.1
	Progress 8 (unvalidated)**	0.00	-0.05	-0.23
	EBacc APS	4.05	3.94	3.78
Key Stage 5	Average point score per Academic entry	39	32	30
	Average point score per Applied General entry	32	28	29
	Average point score per IB entry**		28	28

* We do not have the KS4/5 national data yet, we have been comparing it to 2019 currently due to the 2022 cohort data being affected by Covid.

** There is no similar national data for IB

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Directors have a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the statement of accounting policies.

Promoting the success of the Trust to achieve its charitable purposes

The Board of Directors consists of individuals with a wealth of experience in local government, primary, secondary and tertiary education, local business and national charities. The wide range of skills and experience enables the Board to understand the wider impact of its decisions on the local private and business communities. Trust Executives are challenged by Directors to maintain professional relationships in their day-to-day business with stakeholders and external organisations. Engagement with the wider community is a high priority for the Board and is underpinned by the Trust's values. Directors are cognisant of the diverse communities in which the academies are located and foster strong relationships with local academy boards to fully understand the impact the academies and the Trust has on local communities. The Directors have led and supported a number of initiatives which address staff wellbeing and operate in a manner which takes account of relationships with stakeholders.

Financial review

Financial report for the year

Most income is obtained from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants restricted to particular purposes. The grants received during 2022/23 and associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the ESFA and capital donations from commercial sponsors. In accordance with the Charities SORP, Accounting and Reporting by Charities, such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted fixed asset funds. The restricted fixed asset funds are reduced by transfers of amounts equivalent to any depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

The net movement in funds for the Trust for the year was an increase of £43,921,000 (2022 – £105,859,000), including depreciation and amortisation of £11,666,000 (2022 – £10,964,000), actuarial gains to the pension schemes of £12,727,000 (2022 – actuarial gain of £79,707,000) and income from donated assets of £315,000 (2022 - £33,001,000).

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Financial review (continued)

Financial report for the year (continued)

The operational result for the year before transfers was a surplus of £3,809,000 (2022 – surplus of £5,141,000). This excludes movement on the fixed assets fund, adjustments relating to the Local Government Pension Scheme and funds from schools joining the Trust. This can be summarised as follows:

	2022/23 £000	2021/22 £000
Net income after losses on defined benefit pension scheme	43,921	105,859
Net income attributable to the fixed assets fund	(28,740)	(37,914)
Revenue funds attributable to entities joining the Trust	(1,141)	(1,304)
LGPS adjustments	(10,231)	(61,500)
Operational surplus for the year before transfers to fixed asset fund	3,809	5,141

One of the Trust's subsidiaries, LAT Apprenticeships C.I.C., incurred an operational deficit during the year, attributable to the organisation being in its start-up phase. The Trust Board has agreed to stand behind the temporary deficit position using unrestricted funds, with the subsidiary expected to achieve a surplus in future years.

At 31 August 2023 the net book value of fixed assets was £379,808,000 (2022 – £349,704,000) and movements in fixed assets are shown in notes 13 and 14 to the accounts.

Financial position

The Trust held fund balances at 31 August 2023 of £384,922,000 (2022 – £341,001,000). This consists of unrestricted funds of £5,132,000 (2022 – £3,638,000), restricted general funds of £3,233,000 (2022 – £1,141,000), the Trust's fixed asset fund of £378,058,000 (2022 – £347,954,000) and the Trust's pension reserve liability of £1,501,000 (2022 – £11,732,000). The fund balances are currently adequate to fulfil the known obligations of the Trust and are in line with the reserves policy set out below.

The Trust is required to include the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit of £1,501,000 (2022 – £11,732,000) on its balance sheet although the Directors have no control over the management of the pension fund, its financial arrangements or investment decisions. The Trust is required to remain a member of the pension scheme. Additionally, the Trust will inherit the pension liability of any new schools that join the Trust, thus increasing the overall liability. The Trust accepts its financial responsibilities, subject to assurances received from the Department for Education, and has fully implemented the provisions of FRS102 relating to the Pension Scheme.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Financial review (continued)

Financial position (continued)

The Trust has received confirmation that in the unlikely event that the operation of an academy ceased altogether, the Department for Education would undertake discussions with the relevant pension authorities as to the best way in which the deficit could be dealt with, having regard for that academy's members of the scheme. These discussions would recognise that the Trust was never funded to meet any outstanding pension deficit. Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that in the event of academy closure, outstanding local government pension scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

Reserves policy and financial position

The Directors consider it essential to review each year the reserves target. The unrestricted reserves at the year-end stood at £5,132,000 (2022 - £3,638,000) and restricted income reserves at £3,233,000 (2022 – £1,141,000) . The Directors have determined that the target level of free reserves, not invested in tangible fixed assets or restricted or designated for specific projects, should be at least 5% of annual income. In the year we have achieved that target.

Some funding for essential building repairs comes from the DfE School Condition Allocation, but this does not cover all of the medium-term cost of maintaining the estate.

Although no further advances of funding were received during the year, the Trust is now repaying funds advanced from the DfE in previous years which have supported The Leigh UTC.

Individual Trust academies do not hold reserves, and surpluses are managed centrally for the benefit of academies. Fund balances at academy level are therefore zero (Note 20).

Tangible fixed assets are all held for use by the Trust.

In the next year, the Trust will continue to make strategic use of reserves in renewing IT networks and hardware, completing the programme to provide a Chromebook to every secondary-age student and in a range of measures to support improvement in educational outcomes. Funds will also have to be set aside to meet any unforeseen increase in gas and electricity costs in the next year.

Investment policy

The Trust invests surplus funds prudently to maximise interest returns with minimal risk.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trust has a rolling programme of risk assessment and management through which risks across all areas of the Trust's operations are identified and managed. The risk register is reviewed at least three times a year by Directors and key members of staff.

Principal risks on the risk register are:

- ◆ Failure of, or disruption to the IT network due to a firewall security breach, ransomware or dedicated denial of service attack - mitigated by reinforcement of network security and the use of Artificial Intelligence to detect sophisticated cyber threats.
- ◆ Reduction in real terms funding adversely impacting on the delivery of high-quality teaching and learning – mitigated by efficient delivery of educational and support services and regular Board review of budgets and long-term plans.
- ◆ Failure to recruit and retain high quality staff – mitigated by implementation of a funded recruitment and retention strategy, with staff wellbeing at its core.
- ◆ Insufficient capital investment in buildings maintenance causes buildings to become unsafe – mitigation strategy is set out below. Measures in place to ensure the estate is safe, well maintained and complies with relevant regulations:
- ◆ Health and Safety strategy. The Trust has established a Health and Safety Board which is chaired by a Board Director. This board is supported by a network of H&S committees at academy level and its key priorities are as follows:
 - ◇ Reviewing the H&S task dashboard using *Compliance Pod* specialist software to ensure compliance with regulations.
 - ◇ Considering any accident or incident data.
 - ◇ Reviewing any reports from enforcing authorities.
 - ◇ Reviewing any legislative changes affecting the trust.
 - ◇ Reviewing key discussions and outputs from academy H&S committee meetings.
- ◆ Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC). During the year, using DfE guidance, the Trust identified buildings which may have RAAC. Structural engineers carried out inspections of these buildings and tested core samples; all tests were negative for the presence of RAAC. The DfE plans to undertake follow-up surveys in due course.
- ◆ Asbestos. During the year new asbestos management surveys were carried out in all buildings containing asbestos, covering 16 academies. Asbestos management plans were updated and are in place.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

- ◆ Prioritisation of capital investment. Decisions on the allocation of School Condition funding provided by the DfE are based on the following priorities:
 - ◇ Keeping school buildings safe and in good working order
 - ◇ Health and safety
 - ◇ Compliance with building regulations
 - ◇ Energy efficiency

The Trust's Project Review Board meets quarterly to review the following information to populate a building condition risk register which informs funding allocations, based on the above priorities.

- ◇ Trust and DfE condition surveys
- ◇ Roof surveys
- ◇ Planned maintenance defect rates
- ◇ Health and Safety Executive and industry updates
- ◇ Legislative changes affecting compliance risk
- ◇ Decarbonisation strategies

Fundraising

During the year the academies received donations from The Tallow Chandlers Company, The Stationers' Company, Sir Joseph Williamson's Charitable Trust and others. There has been no active fundraising this year and the Trust has received no complaints to do with fundraising in the year.

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

UK energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions

The Trust is pleased to report its current UK based annual energy usage and associated annual greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions pursuant to the Companies (Directors' Report) and Limited Liability Partnerships (Energy and Carbon Report) Regulations 2018 ("the 2018 Regulations") that came into force 1 April 2019, and the relevant information is shown below.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (continued)

Organisational boundary

In accordance with the 2018 Regulations, the energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions are for those assets owned or operated within the UK only as defined by the operational control boundary, with the mandatory inclusion of scope 3 business travel in employee-owned or hire vehicles (grey fleet). This includes all schools controlled during the reporting period along with minibuses and grey fleet. This reporting year saw the addition of Leigh Academy Bexley, as well as High Weald being renamed to Snowfields Academy.

Reporting period

The annual reporting period is 1 September to 31 August each year and the energy and carbon emissions are aligned to this period.

Quantification and reporting methodology

The 2019 UK Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines and the GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (revised edition) were followed. The 2023 UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting were used in emission calculations. The report has been reviewed independently by Briar Consulting Engineers Limited.

Electricity, gas, oil, and minibus diesel consumption were compiled from invoice records. Mileage claims were used to calculate energy use and emissions associated with grey fleet. On site renewable solar photovoltaic electricity generation has been monitored via meter readings. Exported energy is not measured but estimated to be 50%. Due to currently unavailable data, the TM46 Benchmark estimation technique was used to estimate electricity and gas consumption for Leigh Academy Bexley. Where gaps were identified, the Pro-Rata or Direct Comparison estimation technique was used. Generally gross calorific values were used except for grey fleet mileage energy calculations as per Government GHG Conversion Factors.

The associated emissions are divided into mandatory and voluntary emissions according to the 2018 Regulations, then further divided into the direct combustion of fuels and the operation of facilities (scope 1), indirect emissions from purchased electricity (scope 2) and further indirect emissions that occur as a consequence of Trust activities but occur from sources not owned or controlled by the organisation (scope 3).

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (continued)

Breakdown of energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh):

Energy type	2022/23	2021/22
Mandatory requirements:		
Gas	18,083,559	20,951,496
Purchased electricity from the grid	8,588,385	8,558,240
Transport fuel	728,964	262,623
Total energy (mandatory)	27,400,908	29,772,359
Voluntary requirements:		
Gas Oil	127,176	169,979
Consumed electricity from on-site renewable sources	17,631	22,501
Total energy (voluntary)	144,807	192,480
Total energy (mandatory & voluntary)	27,545,715	29,964,839

Emission source	2022/23	2021/22
Mandatory requirements:		
<u>Scope 1</u>		
Natural gas	3,308	3,825
Transport - Company owned vehicles (mini-buses)	139	22
<u>Scope 2</u>		
Purchased electricity (location-based)	1,778	1,655
<u>Scope 3</u>		
Transport – Business travel in employee-owned vehicles	42	43
Total gross emissions (mandatory)	5,268	5,545
Voluntary requirements:		
<u>Scope 1</u>		
Gas Oil	33	44
Consumed electricity from on-site renewable sources	0	0
Total gross emissions (voluntary)	33	44
Total gross emissions (mandatory & voluntary)	5,301	5,589

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (continued)

Breakdown of energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh): (continued)

Intensity ratios	2022/23	2021/22
<u>Mandatory emissions</u>		
Tonnes of CO2e per pupil	0.234	0.276
Tonnes of CO2e per square meter floor area	0.015	0.016
<u>Mandatory and voluntary emissions</u>		
Tonnes of CO2e per pupil	0.236	0.278
Tonnes of CO2e per square meter floor area	0.015	0.016

Intensity ratio

Two intensity ratios are reported showing emissions (tCO2e) per pupil and per square meter floor area. Emissions per pupil is the recommended ratio for the sector for consistency and comparability and pupil numbers are based on the Autumn 2022 Census. Emissions per square meter floor area is reported to reflect the energy efficiency of the buildings, which are the source of the majority of emissions. The intensity ratio Tonnes of CO2e per person from the previous report has been removed from this year's report.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (continued)

Breakdown of emissions associated with the reported energy use (tCO₂e) (continued)

Intensity ratio (continued)

Tonnes of CO ₂ e per pupil	Mandatory & voluntary emissions		Mandatory emissions	
	Year ended 31/08/2022	Year ended 31/08/2023	Year ended 31/08/2022	Year ended 31/08/2023
Bearsted Primary Academy & Snowfields Academy (Bearsted)	0.242	0.195	0.242	0.195
Leigh Academy Blackheath	0.215	0.202	0.215	0.202
Cherry Orchard Primary Academy	0.103	0.113	0.103	0.113
Dartford Primary Academy (St Albans & York rd)	0.202	0.197	0.202	0.197
Eastcote Primary Academy	0.186	0.139	0.186	0.139
Hartley Primary Academy	0.113	0.091	0.113	0.091
Leigh Academy Tonbridge	0.000	0.265	0.000	0.265
High Halstow Primary Academy	0.130	0.119	0.130	0.119
Horsmonden Primary Academy	0.269	0.044	0.034	0.219
Langley Park Primary Academy	0.134	0.131	0.134	0.131
Leigh Academy Bexley	0.000	0.051	0.000	0.051
Leigh Academy Rainham	0.188	0.183	0.188	0.183
Longfield Academy	0.181	0.154	0.181	0.154
Marden Primary Academy	0.201	0.148	0.201	0.148
Mascalls Academy	0.276	0.210	0.276	0.210
Milestone Academy	0.574	0.564	0.574	0.564
Molehill Primary Academy	0.206	0.198	0.206	0.198
Oaks Primary Academy	0.105	0.132	0.105	0.132
Paddock Wood Primary Academy	0.139	0.193	0.139	0.193
Peninsula East Primary Academy	0.136	0.130	0.136	0.130
Sir Joseph Williamson Mathematical School	0.308	0.299	0.308	0.299
Snowfields Academy (Cranbrook)	0.000	0.587	0.000	0.587
Stationers' Crown Wood Academy	0.342	0.313	0.342	0.313
Strood Academy	0.387	0.310	0.387	0.310
Ebbsfleet Academy	0.000	0.384	0.000	0.384
The Halley Academy	0.314	0.281	0.314	0.281
The Hundred of Hoo Academy (inc Primary)	0.245	0.211	0.245	0.211
The Leigh Academy	0.229	0.211	0.229	0.211
The Leigh UTC	0.207	0.183	0.207	0.183
Tree Tops Primary Academy	0.330	0.306	0.330	0.306
Wilmington Academy	0.173	0.131	0.173	0.131

The key result from this year's report is the decrease in gross emissions. We can see a 5% decrease in total emissions from the previous reporting year. Although the Trust has gained an additional school, it is still achieving carbon reduction across most scopes. Mileage from Trust-owned vehicles has increased which is a result from previous COVID restrictions now lifted.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (continued)

Breakdown of emissions associated with the reported energy use (tCO₂e) (continued)

Intensity ratio (continued)

In the current financial year, Leigh Academies Trust has implemented the following energy efficiency actions:

- ◆ A complete and detailed review of all meters within the Trusts estate has been completed. Full details and locations are now understood and recorded. This allows better monitoring of consumption allowing plans to be made for actions to further reduce carbon emissions.
- ◆ Utilities consumption comparison reports have been created and issued to staff comparing weeks of occupation and weeks not occupied to compare and contrast on the difference and to identify carbon saving opportunities.
- ◆ All site based facilities managers were trained on the use of "Energy Sparks" a utilities consumption monitoring tool to promote energy efficiency.

Plans for future periods

Our young people are the adults of tomorrow and we want to help them shape our world for the better. Our next set of goals – called *Vision 2030* – will have at the centre the major social, economic and technological challenges facing the world today:

Challenge 1: Modern lifestyles are destroying our planet, increasing inequality and impacting mental health.

We will develop resilient learners who feel empathy, act compassionately and behave ethically. We will create pioneering social entrepreneurs with a sense of service to others, future generations and to the planet.

Challenge 2: Humans are overloaded with information.

We will develop learners who think critically, based on secure knowledge and understanding. We will enable them to apply insight and judge the significance and reliability of information.

Challenge 3: The pace of global change is exponential.

We will develop internationally-minded learners who appreciate differences and have a wide range of perspectives, ensuring they are adaptable, innovative, creative and can harness the power of digital technology.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Plans for future periods (continued)

Challenge 4: A lack of employment skills risks UK wealth and productivity.

We will develop confident learners who have a positive can-do attitude and strong work ethic, able to collaborate and work as part of a team. We will focus on STEM and employer links to increase the flow of well-qualified young people entering the workplace.

Challenge 5: Changes to the workplace from the Covid pandemic combined with the impact of Brexit mean that our economy faces challenges for years to come.

We will recruit and retain the best staff and build for succession in all key job roles so that our learners can thrive. We will deploy resources efficiently and sustainably by using our economies of scale to ensure continued investment in our academies.

Measures in place to ensure the estate is safe, well maintained and complies with relevant regulations:

- ◆ Health and Safety strategy. The Trust has established a Health and Safety Board which is chaired by a Board Director. This board is supported by a network of H&S committees at academy level and its key priorities are as follows:
 - ◇ Reviewing the H&S task dashboard using Compliance Pod specialist software to ensure compliance with regulations;
 - ◇ Considering any accident or incident data;
 - ◇ Reviewing any reports from enforcing authorities;
 - ◇ Reviewing any legislative changes affecting the trust; and
 - ◇ Reviewing key discussions and outputs from academy H&S committee meetings.
- ◆ Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC). During the year, using DfE guidance, the Trust identified buildings which may have RAAC. Structural engineers carried out inspections of these buildings and tested core samples; all tests were negative for the presence of RAAC. The DfE plans to undertake follow-up surveys in due course.
- ◆ Asbestos. During the year new asbestos management surveys were carried out in all buildings containing asbestos, covering 16 academies. Asbestos management plans were updated and are in place.
- ◆ Prioritisation of capital investment. Decisions on the allocation of School Condition funding provided by the DfE are based on the following priorities:
 - ◇ Keeping school buildings safe and in good working order;
 - ◇ Health and safety;
 - ◇ Compliance with building regulations; and
 - ◇ Energy efficiency.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Plans for future periods (continued)

The Trust's Project Review Board meets quarterly to review the following information to populate a building condition risk register which informs funding allocations, based on the above priorities:

- ◆ Trust and DfE condition surveys
- ◆ Roof surveys
- ◆ Planned maintenance defect rates
- ◆ Health and Safety Executive and industry updates
- ◆ Legislative changes affecting compliance risk
- ◆ Decarbonisation strategies.

Policies towards employees and disabled persons

The Trust's Diversity and Inclusion policy embeds equal opportunity for all colleagues, including those with disabilities, through a fair and consistent approach to the application of policies and procedures. This ethos is embedded in all stages of the recruitment and selection policy as well as throughout a colleague's employment. Managers who are responsible for recruitment, selection and promotion, or who supervise other staff are required to complete equal opportunities training. Other colleagues have the opportunity to access awareness training in equality to avoid discrimination.

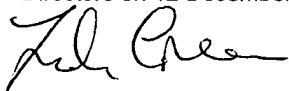
The Trust engages in consultation with employees through termly meetings at least three times each year, with representatives from the following recognised trade unions: NEU, NASUWT, Unison, GMB, ASCL and Voice Community.

AUDITOR

In so far as the Directors are aware:

- ◆ there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- ◆ the Directors 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 Directors' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by the Board of Directors on 12 December 2023 and signed on the Board's behalf by:



A F X Green
Chairman

Scope of responsibility

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

The Directors have delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreements between the Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The Chief Executive Officer is also responsible for reporting to the Directors any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

The Directors met three times during the year and at each of these scrutinised the financial reports of the Trust and its academies. The Board has agreed a scheme of delegation of financial powers and is supported in the discharge of its financial oversight responsibilities by the Resources Committee. The committee met three times during the year, scrutinising management accounts and holding executive budget holders to account for the effectiveness of financial management and budgetary control. The Audit Committee provides further support to Directors by setting the Trust's programme of internal scrutiny and reporting to the Board on the adequacy of the Trust's financial and other controls and management of risks. Local Academy Boards are sub-committees of the Board and provide Directors with further assurance on the adequacy of financial management and budgetary control through scrutiny of academy management accounts and by providing challenge to Principals. The Board is satisfied that these governance arrangements work effectively to assure Directors that they can fulfil their responsibilities for financial oversight of the Trust.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Directors' report and in the statement of Directors' responsibilities. Outside of Trust Board meetings Directors give of their time generously. Each has a specific responsibility either as a Cluster Director, working with Chairs of Academy Boards, or for oversight of a central trust service.

Director	Number of meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr A F X Green (Chair)	4	4
Cllr Sir Paul Carter	3	4
Mrs H Esmonde	4	4
Mr G Clewes	2	2
Mr M Costello	3	4
Mrs T Davies	3	4
Mr K Ellis	2	4
Dr J Wetherall	3	4
Mr S P Beamish	4	4
Mr J Nicholson	3	4
Dr J Wales	2	2

Governance (continued)

The Resources Committee is a sub-committee of the main Trust Board. Its purpose is to focus on compliance with approved budgets, policies, legislation and regulations. It is responsible to the Board of Directors. Three meetings were held in the year. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Committee Member	Number of meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mrs T Davies (Chair)	3	3
Ms R Bahia	2	3
Ms P Reid	1	1
Ms C Robinson	2	3
Dr J Wetherall	3	3
Cllr Sir P Carter	2	3
Ms K Shiner	2	3
Prof L Drew	1	3
Mr J Weir	1	3

The Standards Committee is a sub-committee of the main Trust Board. Its purpose is to focus on delivering the Trust and Academy curriculum to students and ensure that quality of teaching remains high. It is responsible to the Board of Directors. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Committee Member	Number of meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr M Costello (Chair)	3	3
Ms S Hague	1	1
Mr R Tibbott	1	1
Mr C Barker	2	3
Ms H Esmonde	1	3
Mr B Sherwood	3	3
Ms A Barritte	3	3
Mrs P Reid	2	2
Prof C Donovan	3	3
Dr J Wales	2	2

The Audit Committee is a sub-committee of the Directors. It helps the Board oversee financial and other controls including risk management, in the context of the planned growth in the network. The committee exists to ensure probity, efficiency, and compliance with the requirements of the ESFA Academies Financial Handbook. It is responsible to the Members. Three meetings were held in the year. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Committee Member	Number of meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr K Ellis (Chair)	3	3
Mrs T Davies	3	3
Mrs L Simpson	1	3
Mr K Morrison	3	3
Mr A Styles	3	3

Conflicts of interest

In accordance with the articles of association and the Academy Trust Handbook, LAT maintains an up-to-date and complete register of Directors' interests. The register is published on the trust's website, is reviewed throughout the year and its accuracy and completeness is assessed by the trust's independent internal assurance partner. Directors are required to disclose any potential conflict of interest at each meeting of the full board or its sub-committees and the same requirements are in place for meetings of subsidiary company boards.

Governance Structure

As of 1 July 2023 there were 218 filled governance posts within LAT and another 16 posts vacant at that time. The Trust has an active recruitment strategy which enables it to attract new governors from a wide range of backgrounds, age profiles and experience. It carefully monitors the skills and attributes of each board to ensure that it can appropriately support and challenge its academy/academies.

Governance Professional and support

A Governance Professional and Company Secretary, Mr N Willis, is in post to support the efficient functioning of the Trust Board. All governors are further supported by a dedicated governance team which provides effective induction and training, access a wide range of information and resources regarding the role, as well as communication and documentation in advance of meetings and in relation to other Trust events.

Governance Audit and Review

Outcomes from its audit process has led the Trust Board and each Academy Board to review its work and develop clear, reviewable actions to enhance the quality of its governance. Over the last 12 months each Academy Board has focussed on aspects through which it can enhance its practice, progress has been reported to the Trust Board. Adaptations have consequently been made for the forthcoming academic year. A new trust wide governance audit will take place between December 2023 and March 2024.

Terms of reference and expectations documents were reviewed and adjusted as required at the start of the year. The Scheme of Delegation was also reviewed, amended and approved by the Trust Board in July 2023. These documents can be accessed via the trust website.

The Trust Board reviews at each meeting its compliance against the Schedule of Musts published within the Academies Handbook. The schedule has been updated to reflect the new Academy trust handbook, effective from 1st September 2023.

Governance Training

Governors have had access to a range of online and face-to-face opportunities, covering a wide range of educational topics, finance, safeguarding through the LAT Thrive online portal. Programmes are tailored to meet governors' individual experience, skills and knowledge, as well as being specific to the type of academies for which they provide oversight. The online courses have been sourced through the National College and National Online Safety.

Governance Training (continued)

All new governors undertake an induction process which ensures their DBS status and provides essential training on trust structures, expectations of the role, safeguarding, data protection and cybersecurity.

Dedicated training for all new Chairs and Vice Chairs of Academy Boards takes place to ensure that they are thoroughly prepared and supported to undertake their new role.

All governors have undertaken Safeguarding update training in September 2023 in line with the requirements of the DfE statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023).

Communication

All governors receive regular communications via a range of channels to ensure they are fully informed. These include:

- ◆ A Governor Portal providing secure 24/7 access to governance documentation specific to their role;
- ◆ An online governor handbook, which is regularly updated with key information, advice and guidance;
- ◆ Dedicated governor email accounts to ensure safe and secure transmission of data and information;
- ◆ A web based governor magazine which disseminates daily updates about Trust news and events, training opportunities and wider educational news valuable to their governor role;
- ◆ In person events where governors are able hear about and discuss with Directors the current and future strategic development of the Trust and work of the Trust Board.
- ◆ A summary of key actions by the Trust Board are communicated to all governors after meetings to enhance the connection between the work of the Board and Academy Board governors.

Review of value for money

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

The Accounting Officer considers how the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Directors where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The Accounting Officer has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- ◆ streamlining the senior management structure of some academies and the central trust to maintain a balanced budget in a climate of funding pressures and to better align leadership structures on desired outcomes for students.

Review of value for money (continued)

- ◆ continuing to enhance support services to academies across the Trust, including finance, human resources, estates management and IT to assist educational achievement in all academies. The centre delivers consistently high level educational and support services to academies with valuable economies of scale.
- ◆ continuing to achieve savings in energy costs as a result of entering into a new electricity advance purchasing agreement to take advantage of favourable market conditions. The advance purchases will apply to Gas supply from January 2024.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process to identify and prioritise the risks to achievement of the Trust's 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 for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

During the year there were no instances of fraud or loss.

Capacity to handle risk

The Directors have reviewed the key risks to which the Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls implemented to mitigate those risks. The Directors are of the view that an ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Trust's significant risks 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 Directors.

The risk and control framework

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 reviewed and agreed by the board of directors.
- ◆ Regular reviews by the Board and Resources Committee of financial performance against forecasts, major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes.
- ◆ Setting targets to measure financial and other performance.
- ◆ Clearly defined asset purchase and capital investment guidelines.
- ◆ Delegation of authority and segregation of duties.

- ♦ Identification and management of risks and regular review of risks by the Audit Committee.

The risk and control framework (continued)

The Directors have considered the need for a specific internal audit function and decided to appoint Kreston Reeves LLP as internal auditor for the year. Upon receipt of their findings and recommendations, management reports to the Directors on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board's financial responsibilities.

Kreston Reeves delivered their schedule of work as planned. The work carried out was as follows:

- ♦ Core Financials – testing and review of procedures in the following areas: bank and petty cash, credit card, expenditure, fixed assets, income, payroll and VAT
- ♦ Risk management – review Board minutes, policies and the risk register to ensure compliance with the Academy Trust Handbook.

Their findings and recommendations have all been implemented and did not include any material control issues.

Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the systems of internal control. During the year in question, the review has been informed by:

- ♦ the work of the external auditor;
- ♦ the work of the internal auditor;
- ♦ the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- ♦ the work of the Trust Executive Board which is responsible for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

Approved by order of the Board of Directors on 12 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



A F X Green
Chairman of Board



S P Beamish
Chief Executive Officer
and Accounting Officer

Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance 31 August 2023

As Accounting Officer of LAT, I have considered my responsibility to notify the Trust Board and the Education and Skills Funding Agency 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 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 Trust Board of Directors are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Trust's funding agreements 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 Directors and the ESFA.



S P Beamish
CEO and Accounting Officer

Date: 12 December 2023

Statement of directors' responsibilities 31 August 2023

The Directors (who act as trustees of the Trust for the purposes of charity law) are responsible for preparing the Directors' report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Directors 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 Trust and of its income and expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP FRS 102 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- ◆ make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- ◆ prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Trust will continue in operation.

The Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Trust's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Trust 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 Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Directors are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the Trust applies financial and other controls, which conform to the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from the ESFA have been applied for the purposes intended. The Directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Trust'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 Directors on 12 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



A F X Green
Chairman of Board

Independent auditor's report on the financial statements 31 August 2023

Independent auditor's report on the financial statements to the Members of Leigh Academies Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Leigh Academies Trust (the 'charitable parent company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the group statement of financial activities, the group and charitable parent company balance sheets, the group statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), 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) (the Charities SORP FRS 102) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- ♦ give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the charitable parent company's affairs as at 31 August 2023, and of the group's income and expenditure for the period then ended;
- ♦ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- ♦ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- ♦ have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP FRS 102 and Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Independent auditor's report on the financial statements 31 August 2023

Conclusions relating to going concern (continued)

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

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

Other information

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- ♦ the information given in the Directors' report, which includes the strategic report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- ♦ the Directors' report, which includes the strategic report, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the charitable parent company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' 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 by the charitable parent company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or

Matters on which we are required to report by exception (continued)

- ◆ the charitable parent company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ◆ certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Directors

As explained more fully in the Directors' responsibilities statement, the Directors 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 directors 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 Directors are responsible for assessing the group's and the charitable parent company'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 Directors either intend to liquidate the group or the charitable parent company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- ◆ the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- ◆ we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the group through discussions with management and from our knowledge of the academy trust sector;

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

- ◆ the identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit;
- ◆ we considered the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the group and determined that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP FRS 102, the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, the Academies Trust Handbook 2022, and the Trust's funding agreement with the ESFA as well as legislation pertaining to safeguarding in the UK;
- ◆ we understood how the group is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making inquiries to management and those responsible for legal, compliance and governance procedures. We corroborated our inquiries through our review of the minutes of Directors' meetings, minutes of meetings of the Audit Committee and the subsidiary company directors' meetings and papers provided to the Directors, and
- ◆ we planned and carried out a separate limited assurance engagement in respect of regularity, propriety and compliance in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts issued by the ESFA, as set out in our separate independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity.

We assessed the susceptibility of the group's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ making enquiries of management and those charged with governance as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- ◆ considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- ◆ tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- ◆ tested the authorisation of expenditure as part of our substantive testing thereon;
- ◆ assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in the accounting policies were indicative of potential bias;
- ◆ reviewed the findings of the internal auditors; and
- ◆ used data analytics to identify any significant or unusual transactions and identify the rationale for them.

Independent auditor's report on the financial statements 31 August 2023

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

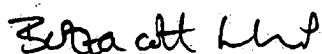
- ◆ agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- ◆ reviewing the minutes of Directors' meetings and subsidiary company directors' meetings;
- ◆ enquiring of management and those charged with governance as to actual and potential litigation and claims;
- ◆ reviewing any available correspondence with Ofsted, ESFA and HMRC; and
- ◆ the work undertaken in relation to the limited assurance engagement in respect of regularity, propriety and compliance in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts issued by the ESFA, as set out in our separate independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. International Standards on Auditing also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the Directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

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 auditor's report.

Use of our report

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



Katharine Patel (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Buzzacott LLP, Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Date: 14 December 2023

Independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity to Leigh Academies Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 31 July 2023 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Leigh Academies Trust during the period from 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 Leigh Academies Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Leigh Academies Trust and the ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Leigh Academies Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of LAT's Accounting Officer and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Leigh Academies Trust's funding agreements with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 February 2012 and 29 April 2013 and the Academies Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

Approach (continued)

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- ◆ An assessment of the risk of material irregularity and impropriety across all of the Trust's activities;
- ◆ Further testing and review of the areas identified through the risk assessment including enquiry, identification of control processes and examination of supporting evidence across all areas identified as well as additional verification work where considered necessary; and
- ◆ Consideration of evidence obtained through the work detailed above and the work completed as part of our financial statements audit in order to support the regularity conclusion.

Conclusion

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



Buzzacott LLP, Reporting Accountant
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Date: 14 December 2023

Consolidated statement of financial activities Year to 31 August 2023

	Notes	Un-restricted funds £'000	Restricted funds			2023 Total funds £'000	2022 Total funds £'000
			ESFA £'000	General £'000	Fixed assets £'000		
Income from:							
Donations and capital grants	2	262	—	—	6,987	7,249	37,530
Transfer from Kent Medway Training	23	—	—	—	—	—	433
Transfers on existing Academies joining the Trust	23	—	—	244	33,419	33,663	12,462
Charitable activities:							
· Funding for the Trust's educational operations	5	—	138,017	17,652	—	155,669	138,651
· Teaching Schools	5	1,568	1,343	95	—	3,006	2,037
Other trading activities	3	1,082	—	3,974	—	5,056	4,469
Investments	4	723	—	—	—	723	54
Total income		3,635	139,360	21,965	40,406	205,366	195,636
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	640	—	—	—	640	615
Charitable activities:							
· Trust's educational operations	6	—	139,616	19,311	11,666	170,593	166,969
· Teaching Schools	6	1,501	1,343	95	—	2,939	1,900
Total expenditure	6	2,141	140,959	19,406	11,666	174,172	169,484
Net income (expenditure) before transfers		1,494	(1,599)	2,559	28,740	31,194	26,152
Transfers between funds	20	—	(897)	(467)	1,364	—	—
Net income (expenditure) for the year		1,494	(2,496)	2,092	30,104	31,194	26,152
Other recognised gains and losses							
Actuarial gain on defined benefit pension schemes	9	—	12,727	—	—	12,727	79,707
Net movement in funds		1,494	10,231	2,092	30,104	43,921	105,859
Balances brought forward at 1 September 2022		3,638	(11,732)	1,141	347,954	341,001	235,142
Balances carried forward at 31 August 2023		5,132	(1,501)	3,233	378,058	384,922	341,001

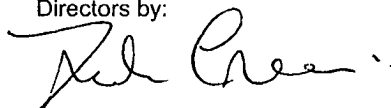
All of the Trust's activities derived from continuing operations during the above two financial periods. There is no difference between the net movement in funds stated above and its historical cost equivalent. The statement of financial activities analyses all the capital and income resources and expenditures of the Trust during the year and reconciles the movements in funds.

The comparative statement of financial activities is given in note 8 to the financial statements.

Balance sheet 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		Group £'000	Leigh Academies Trust £'000	Group £'000	Leigh Academies Trust £'000
Fixed assets					
Intangible fixed assets	13	—	—	—	—
Tangible fixed assets	14	379,808	379,808	349,704	349,703
		<u>379,808</u>	<u>379,808</u>	<u>349,704</u>	<u>349,703</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	17	9,065	10,267	6,648	7,669
Stock	26	26	26	11	11
Cash at bank and in hand		21,406	20,443	23,895	22,941
		<u>30,497</u>	<u>30,736</u>	<u>30,554</u>	<u>30,621</u>
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(23,688)	(23,623)	(26,103)	(25,983)
Net current assets		<u>6,809</u>	<u>7,113</u>	<u>4,451</u>	<u>4,638</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		386,617	386,921	354,155	354,341
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	19	(194)	(194)	(1,422)	(1,422)
Net assets excluding pension scheme liability		386,423	386,727	352,733	352,919
Pension scheme liability	9	(1,501)	(1,501)	(11,732)	(11,732)
Total net assets		<u>384,922</u>	<u>385,226</u>	<u>341,001</u>	<u>341,187</u>
Restricted funds					
Fixed asset funds	20	378,058	378,058	347,954	347,953
Restricted income funds	20	3,233	3,233	1,141	1,276
Pension reserve	20	(1,501)	(1,501)	(11,732)	(11,732)
Total restricted funds		<u>379,790</u>	<u>379,790</u>	<u>337,363</u>	<u>337,497</u>
Unrestricted income funds					
General fund	20	5,104	5,436	3,610	3,690
Funds retained with subsidiary	20	28	—	28	—
Total funds		<u>384,922</u>	<u>385,226</u>	<u>341,001</u>	<u>341,187</u>

Approved by the Board on 12 December 2023 and signed on behalf of the Board of Directors by:



A F X Green
Chairman

Leigh Academies Trust – Companies Registration Number 02336587 (England and Wales)

Consolidated statement of cash flows Year to 31 August 2023

		2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Net cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	A	(3,095)	9,013
Cash flows used in investing activities			
Cash flows used in investing activities	B	(676)	(4,438)
Cash flows used in financing activities			
Cash flows used in financing activities	C	(633)	(459)
Cash flows from academies and KMT joining the Trust	20	1,915	1,434
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(2,489)	5,550
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2022		23,895	18,345
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2023		21,406	23,895
A Reconciliation of income to net cash flow from operating activities			
		2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Net income for the year (as per the statement of financial activities)		31,194	26,152
Adjusted for:			
Depreciation charges (note 14)		11,666	10,964
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(6,672)	(4,286)
Loss on disposal of fixed assets		(4)	—
Donated fixed assets		—	(32,246)
Fixed assets transferred from conversions/existing academies		(33,419)	(11,591)
Cash inherited on conversion of existing academies		(1,915)	(1,434)
Interest receivable (note 4)		723	(54)
Defined benefit pension scheme obligation inherited		897	—
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 9)		1,199	16,915
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 9)		400	1,292
Capital funding from sponsors and others		(315)	(755)
(Increase) decrease in stock		(15)	1
(Increase) decrease in debtors		(2,256)	91
(Decrease) increase in creditors		(4,578)	3,964
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities		(3,095)	9,013
B Cash flows from investing activities			
		2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		723	54
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(8,386)	(41,779)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA		6,672	4,286
Capital funding received from sponsors and others		315	755
Donated fixed assets		—	32,246
Net cash used in investing activities		(676)	(4,438)

Consolidated statement of cash flows Year to 31 August 2023

C Cash flows from financing activities

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Repayments of borrowing	(688)	(459)
Loan transferred from conversion/existing academies	55	—
Net cash used in financing activities	(633)	(459)

D Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Cash at bank and in hand	20,406	18,895
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	1,000	5,000
Total cash and cash equivalents	21,406	23,895

E Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022 £'000	Cash flows £'000	At 31 August 2023 £'000
Cash at bank	23,895	(2,489)	21,406
Loans falling due within one year	93	595	688
Loans falling due after more than one year	1,422	(1,228)	194
Total	25,410	(3,122)	22,288

Principal accounting policies 31 August 2023

Statement of 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.

Basis of preparation

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

These accounts have been prepared for the year to 31 August 2023 with comparative figures provided in respect to the year to 31 August 2022. The accounts are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds.

Leigh Academies Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated statement of financial activities and group balance sheet include the financial statements of the charitable company, its trading subsidiaries LAT Enterprises C.I.C and LAT Apprenticeships C.I.C and its charitable subsidiary Hundred of Hoo Nursery and Kids Club Limited made up to the balance sheet date.

No separate statement of financial activities has been presented for Leigh Academies Trust alone, as permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

Going concern

The Directors assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the company to continue as a going concern. The Directors make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Income

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

Income (continued)

Grants

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

The General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

Capital grants are recognised when there is entitlement to the funds subject to any conditions being met. Such conditions may include the Trust approving and contractually committing to the project being funded; and sufficient funding being secured by the Trust to fully fund the project. Capital grants are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended. Unspent amounts of capital grant are reflected in the balance in the restricted fixed asset fund.

Donations

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

Other income

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

Transfer on conversion

Where assets and liabilities are received by the Trust on schools joining the Trust, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the Trust. An equal amount of income is recognised as transfer on conversion within donations and capital grant income to the net assets received.

Transfer of existing academies into the Trust

Where assets are received on the transfer of an existing academy into the Trust, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the Trust, which is on signing of the transfer agreement with the transferring Trust. An equal amount of income is recognised for the transfer of an existing academy into the Trust within donations and capital grant income.

Expenditure

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

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

All expenditure is stated net of recoverable VAT.

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable, and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably. Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost net of amortisation and any provision for impairment. Amortisation is provided on intangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

- ◆ Purchased computer software 33% per annum

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets acquired since the Trust was established are included in the accounts at cost or deemed cost on the transfer in of property from a Local Authority school and other academy trusts. Assets other than land and buildings inherited on establishment of the Trust are assumed to be fully depreciated.

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. The related grants are credited to restricted fixed asset funds (in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet) and are released to the statement of financial activities over the expected useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the depreciation policy.

Principal accounting policies 31 August 2023

Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Equipment, other than computer equipment and IT software, costing less than £1,000 per individual item or groups of related items is written off in the year of acquisition. All other equipment is capitalised.

Tangible fixed assets are written off over their estimated useful lives on a straight-line basis at the following annual rates:

♦ Freehold and leasehold properties	2-4%
♦ Furniture and equipment	20%
♦ Computer equipment	33%
♦ Motor vehicles	20%

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of the 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.

Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the 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

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

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

Leased assets

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

Principal accounting policies 31 August 2023

Financial instruments

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

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 16. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due from the Trust's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 18 and 19. 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. Amounts due to the Trust's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

Investments

The Trust's shareholding in the wholly owned subsidiary, LAT Enterprises C.I.C, is included in the balance sheet at the cost of the share capital owned, less any impairment, there is no readily available market value and the cost of valuation exceeds the benefit derived.

Stock

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

Taxation

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

Pensions benefits

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

Pensions benefits (continued)

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the 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. As stated in note 9, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

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

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

Fund accounting

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

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

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement (continued)

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The 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 for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 9, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement

There were no areas of judgement that had a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Agency arrangements

The Trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from the ESFA. Payments received from the ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the Trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The funds received and paid and balances held are disclosed in note 27.

1 General Annual Grant (GAG)

Under the funding agreements with the Secretary of State, none of the academies within the Trust were subject to limits at 31 August 2023 on the amount of GAG that could be carried forward from one year to the next.

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Restricted fixed assets funds £'000	2023 Total funds £'000	2022 Total funds £'000
Capital grants	—	—	6,672	6,672	4,286
Donated fixed assets (see note 14)	—	—	315	315	32,246
Other donations	262	—	—	262	998
	262	—	6,987	7,249	37,530

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Restricted fixed assets funds £'000	2022 Total funds £'000
Capital grants	—	—	4,286	4,286
Donated fixed assets (see note 14)	—	—	32,246	32,246
Other donations	243	—	755	998
	243	—	37,287	37,530

3 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2023 Total funds £'000	2022 Total funds £'000
Hire of facilities	95	—	95	105
Income from other charitable activities	—	1,866	1,866	1,591
Income from ancillary trading activities	266	1,722	1,988	1,477
LAT Enterprises C.I.C Income	712	—	712	945
LAT Apprenticeships C.I.C Income	9	386	395	351
	1,082	3,974	5,056	4,469

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2022 Total funds £'000
Hire of facilities	105	—	105
Income from other charitable activities	—	1,591	1,591
Income from ancillary trading activities	496	981	1,477
LAT Enterprises C.I.C Income	945	—	945
LAT Apprenticeships C.I.C Income	13	338	351
	1,559	2,910	4,469

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2023 Total funds £'000	2022 Total funds £'000
Academies	714	—	714	54
LAT Enterprises C.I.C	9	—	9	—
	723	—	723	54
		<i>Unrestricted funds £'000</i>	<i>Restricted funds £'000</i>	<i>2022 Total funds £'000</i>
<i>Bank interest receivable</i>		54	—	54

5 Funding for the Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2023 Total funds £'000	2022 Total funds £'000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG) (note 1)	—	120,884	120,884	114,339
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
· UIFSM	—	719	719	650
· Pupil Premium	—	5,291	5,291	4,603
· Others	—	9,782	9,782	5,358
	—	136,676	36,676	124,950
Other Government grants				
Local authority grants	—	17,652	17,652	12,806
	—	17,652	17,652	12,806
Teaching school hub				
DfE/ESFA grants	—	1,343	1,343	740
Other income	1,568	95	1,663	1,297
	1,568	1,438	3,006	2,037
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)				
Catch-up premium	—	1,341	1,341	647
COVID-19 additional funding (non-DfE/ESFA)				
Other COVID-19 funding	—	—	—	248
	—	1,341	1,341	895
	1,568	157,107	158,675	140,688

The Trust received £1,341,000 (2022: £647,000) of funding for catch-up premium and costs incurred in respect of this funding totalled £1,341,000 (2022: £647,000). All funds were spent at 31 August 2023.

5 Funding for the Trust's educational operations (continued)

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2022 Total funds £'000
<i>DfE/ESFA grants</i>			
General Annual Grant (GAG) (note 1)	—	114,339	114,339
<i>Other DfE/ESFA grants</i>			
· UIFSM	—	650	650
· Pupil Premium	—	4,603	4,603
· Others	—	5,358	5,358
	—	124,950	124,950
<i>Other Government grants</i>			
Local authority grants	—	12,806	12,806
	—	12,806	12,806
<i>Teaching school hub</i>			
DfE/ESFA grants	—	740	740
Other income	861	436	1,297
	861	1,176	2,037
<i>COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)</i>			
Catch-up premium	—	647	647
<i>COVID-19 additional funding (non-DfE /ESFA)</i>			
Coronavirus Job Retention scheme	—	—	—
Other COVID-19 funding	—	248	248
	—	895	895
	861	139,827	140,688

6 Expenditure

	Staff costs £'000 (Note 9)	Premises £'000	Other costs £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
<i>Expenditure on raising funds</i>					
· Direct costs	429	—	39	468	424
· Allocated support costs	6	15	151	172	191
	435	15	190	640	615
<i>Academy Trust's educational operations</i>					
· Direct costs (note 7)	91,418	10,777	7,826	110,021	109,052
· Allocated support costs (note 7)	32,843	16,646	11,083	60,572	57,917
	124,261	27,423	18,909	170,593	166,969
<i>Teaching School</i>					
· Direct support costs	1,088	—	299	1,387	577
· Allocated support costs	283	1	1,268	1,552	1,323
	1,371	1	1,567	2,939	1,900
	126,067	27,439	20,666	174,172	169,484

6 Expenditure (continued)

	Staff costs £'000 (Note 9)	Premises £'000	Other costs £'000	Total 2022 £'000
<i>Expenditure on raising funds</i>				
. Direct costs	151	—	273	424
. Allocated support costs	17	10	164	191
	<u>168</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>437</u>	<u>615</u>
<i>Academy's educational operations</i>				
. Direct costs (note 7)	92,525	9,868	6,659	109,052
. Allocated support costs (note 7)	34,163	13,126	10,628	57,917
	<u>126,688</u>	<u>22,994</u>	<u>17,287</u>	<u>166,969</u>
<i>Teaching School</i>				
. Direct support costs	515	—	62	577
. Allocated support costs	108	—	1,215	1,323
<i>Subtotals</i>	<u>623</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,277</u>	<u>1,900</u>
	<u>127,479</u>	<u>23,004</u>	<u>19,001</u>	<u>169,484</u>

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
The result for the year is stated after charging:		
Operating lease rentals	3,320	2,948
(Profit) loss on disposal of fixed assets	(4)	—
Depreciation	11,666	10,964
Fees payable to auditor for:		
. Audit	87	82
. Other services	2	4

7 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2023 Total funds £'000	2022 Total funds £'000
Direct costs - educational operations	—	110,661	110,661	109,052
Direct costs - teaching school hub	—	1,387	1,387	577
Support costs - educational operations	—	60,572	60,572	57,917
Support costs - teaching school hub	—	1,552	1,552	1,323
	<u>—</u>	<u>174,172</u>	<u>174,172</u>	<u>168,869</u>

	Fundraising £'000	Teaching school hub £'000	Educational operations £'000	2023 Total funds £'000	2022 Total funds £'000
Analysis of support costs					
Support staff costs	6	283	32,843	33,132	34,288
Recruitment and other staff costs	9	32	1,205	1,246	1,197
Depreciation and amortisation	—	—	890	890	1,096
Technology costs	10	7	3,797	3,814	2,836
Premises costs	15	1	15,756	15,772	12,040
Legal costs – conversion	—	—	15	15	6
Legal costs – other	5	—	102	107	66
Other support costs	122	1,219	5,765	7,106	7,736
Governance costs (legal and professional fees)	5	10	199	214	166
Total support costs	<u>172</u>	<u>1,552</u>	<u>60,572</u>	<u>62,296</u>	<u>59,431</u>

7 Charitable activities (continued)

Support staff costs include the FRS 102 pension adjustment of £1,199,000 (2022: £16,915,000). See note 9.

Other support costs includes FRS 102 pension finance costs of £400,000 (2022: £1,292,000).

8 Comparative information

Analysis of income and expenditure in the year ended 31 August 2022 between restricted and unrestricted funds:

	Notes	Restricted funds				2022 Total Funds £'000
		Unrestricted funds £'000	ESFA £'000	General £'000	Fixed assets £'000	
<i>Income from:</i>						
Donations and capital grants	2	243	—	—	37,287	37,530
Transfer from Kent Medway Training	23	423	—	—	10	433
Transfer from local authority on conversion		—	—	—	—	—
Transfers on existing Academies joining the Trust	23	—	—	881	11,581	12,462
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
Funding for the Trust's educational operations	5	—	125,597	13,054	—	138,651
Teaching Schools	5	861	740	436	—	2,037
Other trading activities	3	1,559	—	2,910	—	4,469
Investments	4	54	—	—	—	54
Total income		3,140	126,337	17,281	48,878	195,636
<i>Expenditure on:</i>						
Raising funds	6	615	—	—	—	615
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
Trust's educational operations	6	—	143,804	12,201	10,964	166,969
Teaching Schools	6	798	740	362	—	1,900
Total expenditure	6	1,413	144,544	12,563	10,964	169,484
Net income before transfers		1,727	(18,207)	4,718	37,914	26,152
<i>Transfers between funds</i>	20	(865)	—	(5,000)	5,865	—
Net (expenditure) income for the year		862	(18,207)	(282)	43,779	26,152
<i>Other recognised gains and losses</i>						
Actuarial (losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	20	—	79,707	—	—	79,707
Net movement in funds		862	61,500	(282)	43,779	105,859
<i>Balances brought forward at 1 September 2021</i>		2,776	(73,232)	1,423	304,175	235,142
Balances carried forward at 31 August 2022		3,638	(11,732)	1,141	347,954	341,001

9 Staff costs

(a) Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Wages and salaries	93,272	82,896
Social security costs	9,371	8,329
Pension costs (including FRS102 adjustment of £1,199,000 (2022: £16,915,000))	20,951	33,994
Apprenticeship levy	452	386
	124,046	125,605
Supply staff costs	1,722	1,340
Staff restructuring costs	299	534
	126,067	127,479
	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Staff restructuring costs comprise		
Redundancy payments	122	298
Severance payments	177	236
	299	534

(b) Severance payments

The Trust paid 14 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

	2023 No.
£0 - £25,000	12
£25,001 - £50,000	2

(c) Staff restructuring costs

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £177,462 (2022: £236,001). Individually, the payments were: £2,000, £4,000, £5,000, £6,085, £6,500, £6,960, £10,000, £10,000, £13,074, £15,100, £17,500, £22,093, £29,150, and £30,000.

(d) Staff numbers

The average numbers of persons (including senior management team) employed by the Trust during the year was as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Teaching	1,315	1,280
Administration and support	1,854	1,898
Management	35	105
	3,204	3,283

9 Staff costs (continued)**(e) Higher paid staff**

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	109	77
£70,001 - £80,000	44	33
£80,001 - £90,000	24	15
£90,001 - £100,000	9	10
£100,001 - £110,000	5	4
£110,001 - £120,000	5	5
£120,001 - £130,000	6	2
£130,001 - £140,000	1	2
£140,001 - £150,000	—	2
£150,001 - £160,000	2	—
£160,001 - £170,000	1	2
£180,001 - £190,00	2	2
£200,001 - £210,000	—	1
£280,001 - £290,000	—	1
£300,001 - £310,000	1	—
	209	153

(f) Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Executive Directors and Academy Principals. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £5,351,476 (2022: £4,151,323).

(g) Pension and similar obligations

The Academy Trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff. The Trust participates via three local authorities Kent County Council, London Borough of Bexley and Royal Borough of Greenwich. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

Prior to 31 August 2023, the latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2022. A further valuation of the TPS scheme, relating to the period ended 31 March 2020 was published in October 2023.

Contributions amounting to £2,323,194 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022: £1,973,976) 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 teachers in academies. All teachers have the option to opt-out of the TPS following enrolment.

9 Staff costs (continued)

(g) Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Teachers' Pension Scheme (continued)

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The actuarial valuation of the TPS which applied during the year ended 31 August 2023 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; and
- ♦ 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 latest actuarial TPS valuation results, as at 31 March 2020, were released in October 2023. The valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024, from this date employer contribution rates will increase to 28.68% (including a 0.08% administration levy).

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £14,757,000 (2022 – £14,565,000).

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

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

9 Staff costs (continued)**(g) Pension and similar obligations (continued)****Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)**

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate Trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £7,042,000, of which employer's contributions totalled £6,544,000 (2022: £5,526,000) and employees' contributions totalled £1,770,000 (2022: £1,516,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years has been set at 28.6% from 1 April 2024.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of an Academy Trust closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

Principal Actuarial Assumptions	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2022
Rate of increase in salaries	4.1%	4.1%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.9%	3.0%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.4%	4.3%

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

	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2022
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	20.7	20.9
Females	23.3	23.8
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	21.9	22.4
Females	24.9	25.5

Sensitivity analysis	At 31 August 2023 £'000	At 31 August 2022 £'000
Discount rate +0.1%	91,626	96,838
Discount rate -0.1%	95,171	101,606
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	96,144	102,131
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	90,823	96,337
CPI rate +0.1%	94,294	100,413
CPI rate -0.1%	92,478	97,999

9 Staff costs (continued)**(g) Pension and similar obligations (continued)****Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) (continued)**

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

	Fair value at 31 August 2023 £'000	Fair value at 31 August 2022 £'000
Equities	62,323	56,269
Bonds	17,279	12,662
Property	11,145	10,377
Cash	1,431	1,941
Other	13,621	7,079
Total market value of assets	105,799	88,328
Present value of scheme liabilities		
Funded	(105,799)	(100,060)
Deficit in the scheme	(1,501)	(11,732)
	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Amounts recognised in statement of financial activities		
Current service cost	(1,199)	(16,915)
Net interest cost	(400)	(1,292)
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	(1,599)	(18,207)
Analysis of pension finance income/(costs)		
Expected return on pension scheme assets	4,312	1,433
Interest on pension liabilities	(4,712)	(2,725)
Pension finance costs	(400)	(1,292)
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
At 1 September 2022	100,060	148,441
Inherited on transfer in	10,664	—
Current service cost	7,602	14,504
Interest cost	4,712	2,725
Employee contributions	1,770	1,516
Actuarial (gain) loss	(16,386)	(78,543)
Restriction of actuarial gain/loss	3,410	—
Change in demographic assumptions	(2,813)	(3,754)
Benefits paid	(1,786)	(1,684)
Plan introductions, benefit changes, curtailments and settlements	67	16,855
At 31 August 2023	107,300	100,060

9 Staff costs (continued)**(g) Pension and similar obligations (continued)****Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) (continued)**

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Changes in the fair value of the Trust's share of scheme assets:		
At 1 September 2022	88,328	75,209
Inherited on transfer in	9,767	—
Interest income	4,312	1,433
Actuarial (loss) gain	(3,062)	(2,590)
Employer contributions	6,544	5,526
Employee contributions	1,770	1,516
Benefits paid	(1,786)	(1,684)
Administration expenses	(74)	(46)
Settlement	—	8,964
At 31 August 2023	105,799	88,328

10 Directors' remuneration and expenses

Staff Directors only receive remuneration in respect of the services they provide in undertaking their role as an employee and not in respect of their services as a Director. Other Directors did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the Trust in respect of their role as directors. The value of Staff Directors' remuneration was as follows:

	Year to 31 August 2023 £'000	Year to 31 August 2022 £'000
S P Beamish (CEO and Director)		
· Remuneration	305-310	280-285
· Employer's Pension contributions	60-65	55-60

Directors of the Trust received payment for reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses incurred in the course of their duties in the year ended 31 August 2023 of £nil (2022: £431). No Director has any beneficial interest in any contract with the company.

11 Directors', Governors' and officers' insurance

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

12 Central services

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

- ◆ Financial services;
- ◆ Legal services;
- ◆ Educational support services;
- ◆ Human Resources;
- ◆ Leadership and Governance; and
- ◆ Estates.

The Trust has charged for these services on a basis of an average charge of 1.7% (2022: 2%) of total income. The contributions made by academies charged during the year for these services are set out below.

Budgets for support services including: operational staff based in academies, and IT and estates service contracts previously included in academy budgets, were managed centrally. This is cost-neutral for the academies and so does not represent a 'central charge' that needs to be separately disclosed. Costs are included within the expenditure disclosed in Notes 6, 7, and 9. The following support services were managed centrally:

- ◆ Financial services, including staff based in academies
- ◆ People services
- ◆ IT services, including staff based in academies
- ◆ Estates services, including staff based in academies

12 Central services (continued)

	Central services	
	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Bearsted Primary Academy	23	6
Cherry Orchard Primary Academy	24	41
Dartford Primary Academy	43	59
Eastcote Primary Academy	22	22
Ebbsfleet Academy	173	156
Hartley Primary Academy	38	39
Hayesbrook Academy	97	86
High Halstow Primary School	36	19
High Weald Academy	—	30
Horsmonden Primary Academy	15	17
Langley Park Primary Academy	25	36
Leigh Academy Bexley	59	—
Leigh Academy Blackheath	129	113
Leigh Academy Rainham	114	64
Longfield Academy	130	144
Marden Primary Academy	29	27
Mascalls Academy	136	139
Milestone Academy	136	154
Molehill Primary Academy	28	31
Oaks Primary Academy	30	25
Paddock Wood Primary Academy	39	49
Peninsula East Primary Academy	28	24
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School	137	149
Snowfields Academy	66	54
Stationers' Crown Woods Academy	204	222
Strood Academy	137	163
The Halley Academy	142	180
The Hundred of Hoo Academy	147	206
The Hundred of Hoo Nursery and Kids Club	13	10
The Leigh Academy	158	182
The Leigh UTC	122	106
Tree Tops Primary Academy	27	29
Wilmington Academy	137	164
	2,644	2,746

13 Intangible fixed assets

Group and Trust	Computer software £'000	Total funds £'000
Cost		
At 1 September 2022	146	146
At 31 August 2023	146	146
Amortisation		
At 1 September 2022	(146)	(146)
Charge in year	—	—
At 31 August 2023	(146)	(146)
Net book value		
At 31 August 2023	—	—
At 31 August 2022	—	—

14 Tangible fixed assets

Group	Freehold land and buildings £'000	Leasehold buildings £'000	Furniture and equipment £'000	Computer equipment and software £'000	Motor vehicles £'000	Total £'000
Cost						
At 1 September 2022	122,400	268,875	14,956	19,048	164	425,443
Transfers on schools joining the Trust (note 23)	33,340	—	373	451	35	34,199
Additions	27	5,468	1,199	1,692	—	8,386
Disposals	—	—	(39)	—	—	(39)
At 31 August 2023	155,767	274,343	16,489	21,191	199	467,989
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2022	16,884	33,350	10,505	14,840	160	75,739
Assets reclassification	(1,697)	1,697	—	—	—	—
Transfers on schools joining the Trust (note 23)	—	—	325	420	35	780
Charge for year	4,070	3,312	1,519	2,763	2	11,666
Disposals	—	—	(4)	—	—	(4)
At 31 August 2023	19,257	38,359	12,345	18,023	197	88,181
Net book values						
At 31 August 2023	136,510	235,984	4,144	3,168	2	379,808
At 31 August 2022	105,516	235,525	4,451	4,208	4	349,704

14 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Trust	Freehold land and buildings £'000	Leasehold buildings £'000	Furniture and equipment £'000	Computer equipment and software £'000	Motor vehicles £'000	Total £'000
Cost						
At 1 September 2022	122,400	268,875	14,932	19,048	164	425,419
Transfers on schools joining the Trust (note 23)	33,340	—	373	451	35	34,199
Additions	27	5,468	1,199	1,692	—	8,386
Disposals	—	—	(39)	—	—	(39)
At 31 August 2023	155,767	274,343	16,465	21,191	199	467,965
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2022	16,884	33,350	10,482	14,840	160	75,716
Assets reclassification	(1,697)	1,697	—	—	—	—
Transfers on schools joining the Trust (note 23)	—	—	325	420	35	780
Charge for year	4,070	3,312	1,518	2,763	2	11,665
Disposals	—	—	(4)	—	—	(4)
At 31 August 2023	19,257	38,359	12,321	18,023	197	88,157
Net book values						
At 31 August 2023	136,510	235,984	4,144	3,168	2	379,808
At 31 August 2022	105,516	235,525	4,450	4,208	4	349,703

Included within the additions to freehold buildings are in respect to buildings funded and constructed by the ESFA at Leigh Academy Rainham (see note 2).

The land on which leasehold buildings are sited is leased at peppercorn rents. No value has been placed on the land in the financial statements due to restrictive covenants in the leases.

King Henry School joined the Trust during the year. Details of the value of the buildings transferred to Leigh Academies Trust are included in note 23.

Stationers' Crown Woods Academy joined the Trust on 1 September 2014 and Ebbsfleet Academy (formally part of the Brook Learning Trust) on 1 September 2021. Both are subject to contracts under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) which commenced in 2012 and 2001 respectively. Under these contracts the Academy premises are maintained and managed for a period of 25 years by the PFI-Contractor subject to contractual annual fees paid by the Academy. Upon expiry of the PFI contract, the residual benefit of the premises passes to the Academy as a result of a 125 year lease granted to the Academy. The ESFA issued guidance within the Academies Accounts Direction which concurs with the treatment adopted by Leigh Academies Trust.

15 Wholly owned trading subsidiaries

In October 2019, LAT Apprenticeships C.I.C was incorporated in England and is a 100% owned subsidiary of the Trust. The principal activity of the subsidiary is to provide a programme of apprenticeships. LAT Apprenticeships' cumulative deficit will be covered by Leigh Academies Trust, via the profits generated from LAT Enterprises CIC. No public funds have been used to cover this deficit.

15 Wholly owned trading subsidiaries (continued)

A summary of the results for the year and position at the year end of LAT Apprenticeships C.I.C, which have been included in the consolidated financial statements is shown below:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Turnover	395	351
Cost of sales	(478)	(399)
Gross loss	(83)	(48)
Administrative expenses	(28)	(31)
(Loss) on ordinary activities	(111)	(79)
Tax	—	—
(Loss) on ordinary activities after taxation	(111)	(79)

The assets and liabilities of the subsidiary were:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Current assets	62	70
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(394)	(290)
Total net liabilities	(332)	(220)

The Trust owns 100% of the issued ordinary shares of LAT Enterprises C.I.C, a community interest company incorporated in England. The principal activities of the subsidiary are the provision of commercial and community IT training as an extension of the facilities made available to students and the letting of leisure and sports facilities to the community.

A summary of the results for the year and position at the year end of LAT Enterprises C.I.C, which have been included in the consolidated financial statements is shown below:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Turnover	712	944
Cost of sales	(121)	(157)
Gross profit	591	787
Administrative expenses	(15)	(25)
Operating profit	576	763
Interest receivable	9	3
Profit on ordinary activities before Gift Aid and taxation	585	763
Gift Aid donation to Leigh Academies Trust	(585)	(763)
Tax	—	—
Retained earnings at 1 September 2022	27	27
Retained earnings at 31 August 2023	27	27

15 Wholly owned trading subsidiaries (continued)

The assets and liabilities of the subsidiary were:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Current assets	1,023	1,035
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(996)	(1,007)
Total net (liabilities) assets	28	28

16 Other connected organisations

(a) Subsidiary charity

On 1 January 2019, the Trust acquired The Hundred of Hoo Nursery and Kids' Club Limited, a charitable company limited by guarantee. A summary of the results for the year and position at the year end of The Hundred of Hoo Nursery and Kids' Club which have been included in the consolidated financial statements is shown below:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Income	581	587
Expenditure on charitable activities	(558)	(560)
Net income	23	27
Funds brought forward at 1 September 2022	98	71
Funds carried forward at 31 August 2023	121	98

The assets and liabilities of the charity were:	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Fixed assets	10	13
Current assets	224	182
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(113)	(97)
Total net assets	121	98

(b) Non-charitable unincorporated association

Kent and Medway Training (KMT) is a school-centred initial teacher training programme which is run as a partnership between 26 schools, with Leigh Academies Trust as the lead entity. From 1 April 2022 the results of KMT are included within the results of the Trust and the assets and liabilities of KMT transferred into the trust as an unrestricted fund.

17 Debtors

	Group 2023 £'000	Leigh Academies Trust 2023 £'000	Group 2022 £'000	Leigh Academies Trust 2022 £'000
Trade debtors	1,716	1,669	1,184	1,102
VAT recoverable	1,502	1,498	1,153	1,154
Amount due from LAT Enterprises C.I.C	—	955	—	914
Amount due from LAT Apprenticeships C.I.C	—	369	—	263
Other debtors	525	524	90	76
Prepayments and accrued income	5,322	5,252	4,221	4,160
	9,065	10,267	6,648	7,669

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2023 £'000	Leigh Academies Trust 2023 £'000	Group 2022 £'000	Leigh Academies Trust 2022 £'000
Trade creditors	4,215	4,203	6,263	6,238
Taxation and social security	2,446	2,440	2,132	2,125
Loan (note 19)	688	688	93	93
Other creditors	4,060	4,056	3,731	3,718
Accruals and deferred income	12,277	12,236	13,884	13,809
	23,688	23,623	26,103	25,983
Deferred income (included above)				
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	10,027	9,997	4,904	4,857
Amounts released from previous years	(7,460)	(7,412)	(4,767)	(4,719)
Resources deferred in the year	5,544	5,526	9,890	9,859
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	8,111	8,111	10,027	9,997

At the balance sheet date the Trust was holding funds received in respect of capital grants, development grants and other sources, which have been deferred to the financial year ending 31 August 2023.

19 Creditors: amounts falling due more than one year

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Group and Academy		
Loans from ESFA	194	1,422
Analysis of loans		
Wholly repayable within five years	194	1,422
Less: included in current liabilities	688	93
Amounts included above	882	1,515
Loan maturity		
Debt due in one year or less	688	93
In more than one year but not more than two years	140	864
In more than two years but not more than five years	54	558
Total	882	1,515

Details of the loans outstanding are as below:

	Repayment due within one year £'000	Repayment due in more than one year £'000	2023 Total £'000	2022 Total £'000
Stationers' Crown Woods Academy	40	25	65	105
The Leigh UTC	564	21	585	1,149
Hartley Primary Academy	—	—	—	5
The Leigh Academy	17	49	66	83
Marden Primary Academy	3	9	12	15
The Halley Academy	58	42	100	158
Leigh Academy Bexley	6	48	54	—
	688	194	882	1,515

	Repayment due within one year £'000	Repayment due in more than one year £'000	2022 Total £'000
Stationers' Crown Woods Academy	39	66	105
The Leigh UTC	—	1,149	1,149
Hartley Primary Academy	5	—	5
The Leigh Academy	17	66	83
Marden Primary Academy	2	13	15
The Halley Academy	30	128	158
	93	1,422	1,515

20 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers, gains & losses £'000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £'000
Restricted ESFA funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	—	120,884	(120,884)	—	—
Pupil Premium	—	719	(719)	—	—
UIFSM	—	5,291	(5,291)	—	—
Catch-up premium	—	1,343	(1,343)	—	—
Teaching School Hub	—	1,341	(1,341)	—	—
Other grants	—	9,782	(9,782)	—	—
Pension reserve	(11,732)	—	(1,599)	11,830	(1,501)
	<u>(11,732)</u>	<u>139,360</u>	<u>(140,959)</u>	<u>11,830</u>	<u>(1,501)</u>
Restricted general funds					
Local authority grants	—	17,652	(17,652)	—	—
Transfer from local authority on conversion	—	244	—	(244)	—
Teaching School Hub	—	95	(95)	—	—
LAT Apprenticeships C.I.C	(135)	386	(506)	—	(255)
Other restricted funds	1,276	3,588	(1,153)	(223)	3,488
	<u>1,141</u>	<u>21,965</u>	<u>(19,406)</u>	<u>(467)</u>	<u>3,233</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer of schools	—	33,419	—	(33,419)	—
DfE/ESFA capital grants	347,954	6,987	(11,666)	34,783	378,058
	<u>347,954</u>	<u>40,406</u>	<u>(11,666)</u>	<u>1,364</u>	<u>378,058</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>337,363</u>	<u>201,731</u>	<u>(172,031)</u>	<u>12,727</u>	<u>379,790</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	3,610	1,337	(495)	585	5,037
Teaching School Hub	—	1,568	(1,501)	—	67
LAT Apprenticeships C.I.C	—	9	(9)	—	—
LAT Enterprises C.I.C	28	721	(136)	(585)	28
Total unrestricted funds	<u>3,638</u>	<u>3,635</u>	<u>(2,141)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>5,132</u>
Total funds	<u>341,001</u>	<u>205,366</u>	<u>(174,172)</u>	<u>12,727</u>	<u>384,922</u>

General Annual Grant (GAG)

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

Under the funding agreements with the Secretary of State, none of the academies within the Trust were subject to limits on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023.

20 Funds (continued)

Analysis of academies by fund balance (including unrestricted funds)

All fund balances at 31 August 2023 were held centrally by the Trust.

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Trust operation reserves	8,337	4,751
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	8,337	4,751
Restricted fixed asset fund	378,058	347,954
Pension liability	(1,501)	(11,732)
Total for Trust	384,894	340,973
Subsidiary	28	28
Total per group	384,922	341,001

20 Funds (continued)***Analysis of academies by cost***

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
Bearsted Primary Academy	776	338	39	199	1,352
Cherry Orchard Primary Academy	1,226	662	166	213	2,267
Dartford Primary Academy	1,701	748	122	306	2,877
Eastcote Primary Academy	670	291	96	130	1,187
Ebbsfleet Academy	3,291	408	361	2,132	6,192
Hartley Primary Academy	1,060	469	134	188	1,851
Hayesbrook Academy	2,498	319	221	502	3,540
High Halstow Primary Academy	556	255	70	112	993
Horsmonden Primary Academy	533	162	56	90	841
Langley Park Primary Academy	1,256	748	189	243	2,436
Leigh Academy Bexley	1,439	281	83	390	2,193
Leigh Academy Blackheath	4,019	665	559	690	5,933
Leigh Academy Rainham	1,561	284	127	269	2,241
Longfield Academy	4,509	992	524	658	6,683
Marden Primary Academy	922	321	65	141	1,449
Mascalls Academy	5,646	455	685	701	7,487
Milestone Academy	3,292	3,721	265	562	7,840
Molehill Primary Academy	961	349	137	191	1,638
Oaks Primary Academy	797	347	80	120	1,344
Paddock Wood Primary Academy	1,651	627	136	352	2,766
Peninsula East Primary Academy	726	330	57	149	1,262
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School	5,468	742	895	905	8,010
Snowfields Academy	1,781	1,068	287	513	3,649
Stationers' Crown Woods Academy	7,861	1,462	773	1,699	11,795
Strood Academy	5,069	931	439	704	7,143
The Halley Academy	4,903	1,021	378	678	6,980
The Hundred of Hoo Academy	7,063	1,818	699	1,034	10,614
The Hundred of Hoo Nursery and Kids Club	411	10	16	98	535
The Leigh Academy	5,672	720	626	767	7,785
The Leigh UTC	3,538	475	336	581	4,930
Tree Tops Primary Academy	1,059	348	90	192	1,689
Wilmington Academy	5,742	800	487	596	7,625
Kent and Medway Training	849	123	—	605	1,577
Medway Teaching School Alliance	—	69	7	564	640
Thames Gateway Teaching School Hub	240	90	8	383	721
LAT Apprenticeships C.I.C	217	201	49	39	506
LAT Enterprise C.I.C	—	20	—	116	136
Central services	2,716	11,718	268	9,097	23,799
Total net assets	91,679	34,388	9,530	26,909	162,506

20 Funds (continued)

Analysis of academies by cost (continued)

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff costs £'000	Other Support Staff costs £'000	Educational Supplies £'000	Other Costs (Excluding Depreciation) £'000	Total 2022 £'000
<i>Bearsted Primary Academy</i>	613	74	47	137	871
<i>Cherry Orchard Primary Academy</i>	1,590	68	207	164	2,029
<i>Dartford Primary Academy</i>	2,103	186	115	313	2,717
<i>Eastcote Primary Academy</i>	819	122	91	110	1,142
<i>Ebbsfleet Academy</i>	2,713	302	261	1,948	5,224
<i>Hartley Primary Academy</i>	1,267	181	152	173	1,773
<i>Hayesbrook Academy</i>	2,128	253	195	453	3,029
<i>High Halstow Primary Academy</i>	647	45	64	95	851
<i>High Weald Academy</i>	1,365	161	118	487	2,131
<i>Horsmonden Primary Academy</i>	623	41	44	99	807
<i>Langley Park Primary Academy</i>	1,661	138	108	173	2,080
<i>Leigh Academy Blackheath</i>	3,325	220	370	634	4,549
<i>Leigh Academy Rainham</i>	890	80	138	189	1,297
<i>Longfield Academy</i>	4,563	494	320	466	5,843
<i>Marden Primary Academy</i>	1,070	78	49	109	1,306
<i>Mascalls Academy</i>	4,927	324	483	499	6,233
<i>Milestone Academy</i>	5,924	579	258	385	7,146
<i>Molehill Primary Academy</i>	1,214	49	60	150	1,473
<i>Oaks Primary Academy</i>	944	36	58	106	1,144
<i>Paddock Wood Primary Academy</i>	1,971	119	165	314	2,569
<i>Peninsula East Primary Academy</i>	815	64	74	118	1,071
<i>Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School</i>	5,311	410	770	547	7,038
<i>Snowfields Academy</i>	1,320	155	145	184	1,804
<i>Stationers' Crown Woods Academy</i>	7,443	962	792	1,660	10,857
<i>Strood Academy</i>	5,138	501	478	679	6,796
<i>The Halley Academy</i>	5,387	623	347	575	6,932
<i>The Hundred of Hoo Academy</i>	7,159	706	577	846	9,288
<i>The Hundred of Hoo Nursery and Kids Club</i>	425	—	21	93	539
<i>The Leigh Academy</i>	5,633	486	511	673	7,303
<i>The Leigh UTC</i>	3,524	319	255	411	4,509
<i>Tree Tops Primary Academy</i>	1,223	53	73	159	1,508
<i>Wilmington Academy</i>	5,560	542	361	479	6,942
<i>Kent and Medway Training</i>	334	48	12	402	796
<i>Medway Teaching School Alliance</i>	—	—	5	571	576
<i>Thames Gateway Teaching School Hub</i>	181	60	44	240	525
<i>LAT Apprenticeships C.I.C</i>	141	212	46	31	430
<i>LAT Enterprise C.I.C</i>	—	53	—	129	182
<i>Central Trust</i>	2,246	26,538	449	7,977	37,210
Total net assets	92,197	35,282	8,263	22,778	158,520

20 Funds (continued)

Comparative information

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Transfers, gains & losses £'000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £'000
<i>Restricted ESFA funds</i>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	—	114,339	(114,339)	—	—
Pupil Premium	—	5,200	(5,200)	—	—
UIFSM	—	650	(650)	—	—
Catch-up premium	—	647	(647)	—	—
Other COVID-19 funding	—	248	(248)	—	—
Other grants	—	5,253	(5,253)	—	—
Pension reserve	(73,232)	—	(18,207)	79,707	(11,732)
	<u>(73,232)</u>	<u>126,337</u>	<u>(144,544)</u>	<u>79,707</u>	<u>(11,732)</u>
<i>Restricted general funds</i>					
Local authority grants	—	12,806	(12,806)	—	—
Transfer from local authority on conversion	—	881	—	(881)	—
LAT Apprenticeships C.I.C	(56)	338	(417)	—	(135)
Other restricted funds	1,479	3,256	660	(4,119)	1,276
	<u>1,423</u>	<u>17,281</u>	<u>(12,563)</u>	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>1,141</u>
<i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i>					
Transfer of schools	—	11,591	—	(11,591)	—
DfE/ESFA capital grants	304,175	37,287	(10,964)	17,456	347,954
	<u>304,175</u>	<u>48,878</u>	<u>(10,964)</u>	<u>5,865</u>	<u>347,954</u>
Total restricted funds	232,366	192,496	(168,071)	80,572	337,363
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
General funds	2,748	1,760	(796)	(102)	3,610
Transfer from Kent Medway Training	—	423	(423)	—	—
LAT Apprenticeships C.I.C	—	13	(13)	—	—
LAT Enterprises C.I.C	28	944	(181)	(763)	28
Total unrestricted funds	2,776	3,140	(1,413)	(865)	3,638
Total funds	235,142	195,636	(169,484)	79,707	341,001

20 Funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds

Group	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset fund £'000	2023 £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	—	379,808	379,808
Current assets	5,132	27,115	(1,750)	30,497
Current liabilities	—	(23,688)	—	(23,688)
Non-current liabilities	—	(194)	—	(194)
Pension scheme liability	—	(1,501)	—	(1,501)
Total net assets	5,132	1,732	378,058	384,922

Group	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset fund £'000	2022 £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	—	349,704	349,704
Current assets	3,638	28,666	(1,750)	30,554
Current liabilities	—	(26,103)	—	(26,103)
Non-current liabilities	—	(1,422)	—	(1,422)
Pension scheme liability	—	(11,732)	—	(11,732)
Total net assets	3,638	(10,591)	347,954	341,001

Trust	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset fund £'000	2023 £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	—	379,808	379,808
Current assets	5,037	27,449	(1,750)	30,736
Current liabilities	—	(23,623)	—	(23,623)
Non-current liabilities	—	(194)	—	(194)
Pension scheme liability	—	(1,501)	—	(1,501)
Total net assets	5,037	2,131	378,058	385,226

Trust	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset fund £'000	2022 £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	—	349,703	349,703
Current assets	3,690	28,681	(1,750)	30,621
Current liabilities	—	(25,983)	—	(25,983)
Non-current liabilities	—	(1,422)	—	(1,422)
Pension scheme liability	—	(11,732)	—	(11,732)
Total net assets	3,690	(10,456)	347,953	341,187

21 Capital commitments

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	906	—

22 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 August 2023 LAT had future minimum commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

Equipment	2023	2022
Payments falling due:	£'000	£'000
Amounts due within one year	348	316
Amounts due between one and five years	620	414
	968	730
Buildings	2023	2022
Payments falling due:	£'000	£'000
Amounts due within one year	2,972	2,632
Amounts due between two and five years	8,825	10,468
Amounts due after five years	9,618	9,735
	21,415	22,835

23 Transfer in on academies joining the Trust

On 1 June 2023 King Henry School joined the MAT from Odyssey Trust for Education.

The transfer has been accounted for using the acquisition method. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as net incoming resources in the Statement of Financial Activities as voluntary income.

The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the statement of financial activities.

An uplift of £9,370,000 was made to the value reported by the transferring trust to account for the fair value of the land and buildings at the date of transfer.

King Henry School

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset funds £'000	2023 £'000
Tangible fixed assets				
Freehold land and buildings	—	—	33,340	33,340
Other tangible fixed assets	—	—	79	79
LGPS pension deficit	—	(897)	—	(897)
Borrowing obligations	—	(55)	—	(55)
Cash at bank	—	1,915	—	1,915
Other identified assets and liabilities	—	(719)	—	(719)
Net assets	—	244	33,419	33,663

24 Contingent liabilities

In the event of the sale or disposal of any asset for which a capital grant was received, the Trust must, if it does not reinvest the proceeds, repay to the Secretary of State for Education the same proportion of the proceeds of the sale or disposal as equates to the proportion of the original cost met by the Secretary of State.

Upon termination of the Funding Agreements, the Trust must repay to the Secretary of State sums determined by reference to:

- (a) The value at the time of the academies' sites and premises and other assets held for the purpose of the Trust; and
- (b) The extent to which expenditure incurred in providing those assets was met by payments by the Secretary of State under the Funding Agreement.

25 Related party transactions

During the year ended 31 August 2023, Leigh Academies Trust was charged £4,950 (2022 - £160) by Dandelion Time for Interactive Training. At the year-end £3,950 (2022 - Nil) was due to the company. Sir P Carter, a Trustee of Dandelion Time, is a Director of Leigh Academies Trust.

Owing to the nature of the Trust's operations and the composition of the Board of Directors being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the Trust has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Academy's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures. Other than the above, there were no other related party transactions during the year.

26 Post balance sheet events

In September 2023 Leigh Academies Trust was selected as the preferred Trust to take over Hugh Christie School in Tonbridge. This will take effect in the 2023-24 academic year. The Trust is also consulting on proposals to open Leigh Academy Minster in September 2024.

27 Agency arrangements

The Trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the accounting period ended 31 August 2023 the Trust received £1,099,574 (2022: £1,275,022) and distributed £1,015,823 (2022: £1,243,284) from the fund. The 2023 receipts and distributions include bursaries related to KMT, the results of which are consolidated in the Trust accounts for the first time this year. An amount of £379,576 (2022: £295,825) is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that is repayable to the ESFA if not used within 12 months.