

Registration number: 07546118

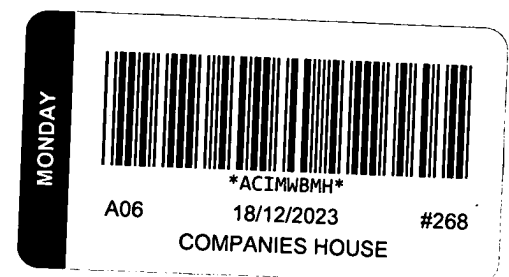
West Norfolk Academies Trust

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Hayhow & Co
19 King Street
Kings Lynn
Norfolk
PE30 1HB



West Norfolk Academies Trust

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West Norfolk Academies Trust

Reference and administrative details

Members	Mr H Livesey Mrs A Arterton Mr M Brannon Miss L Bambridge
Trustees (Directors)	Mr H Livesey, Chair of Trustees Mrs A Arterton, Vice Chair of Trustees Mr A Johnson, Headteacher, Accounting Office and CEO Mr K Baldwin Mr A Yates Mr P Harris Mr P Bland Mr N Daubney (resigned 29 May 2023) Mr M Ballman Mr R Lodge Mrs T Cornwell Mrs P King Mr R Wood Mr T Allen (appointed 10 July 2023)
Chief Executive Officer	Mr A Johnson
Director of Finance and Administration	Mrs G Howell
Senior Management Team	Mr A Johnson, Executive Headteacher and CEO Mr N Wills-Gillings, Trust Executive Deputy Headteacher Ms R Walker, Deputy CEO
Principal and Registered Office	Queensway Gaywood Kings Lynn Norfolk PE30 4AW
Company Registration Number	07546118

West Norfolk Academies Trust

Reference and administrative details (continued)

Auditors	Hayhow & Co 19 King Street Kings Lynn Norfolk PE30 1HB 1 November 2022
Bankers	Lloyds TSB Bank Plc High Street Kings Lynn Norfolk PE30 1BP
Solicitors	Ward Gethin Archer 10 Tuesday Market Place Kings Lynn Norfolk PE30 1JT

West Norfolk Academies Trust

Trustees' report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

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

West Norfolk Academies Trust operates in West Norfolk, under the names Springwood High School Academy, St Clement's High School, Marshland High School, Smithdon High School, Snettisham Primary School, West Lynn Primary School, Clenchwarton Primary School, Walpole Cross Keys Primary School, Heacham Infants and Nursery School, Heacham Junior School and Gaywood Primary School. The eleven schools have a combined pupil capacity of 5,176 and had a roll of 5,092 in the October 2022 school census.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and is an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. The company registration number is 07546118.

The governors act as the trustees for the charitable activities of West Norfolk Academies Trust and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

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

Members' liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

Trustees' indemnities

The academy trust through its Articles has indemnified its Trustees to the fullest extent permissible by law. During the period the Academy also purchased and maintained liability insurance for its Trustees.

Trustees benefit from indemnity insurance purchased at the Academy Trust's expense to cover the liability of the Trustees, which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default or breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Academy Trust. Provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Trustees knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty, or which was committed by the Trustees in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not and provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Trustees in their capacity as directors of the Academy Trust. In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £5 million on any one claim and in aggregate for the year.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The management of the Academy Trust is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association. Trustees may nominate new trustees, who are co-opted to the Board of Trustees by majority vote of the Members. Selection is based on experience and expertise that will enhance the functioning of the Board of Trustees. The Trustees are directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and Trustees for the purposes of charity legislation.

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

New Trustees are inducted by the Chair and Executive Head Teacher who arrange relevant training, depending on their existing experience. New Trustees are offered tours of the schools and a chance to meet staff and students. They are given access to policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustee.

Organisational structure

There are three levels within the management structure of the Academy Trust:

The Members and Trustees, the local Advisory governing bodies of each school and the Executive Leadership Team.

The Members are the controlling body of the charitable company and they are responsible for the strategic management and direction of the Academy Trust. They manage all resource decisions across the Academy Trust and the Trustees are supported by the Audit Committee. The Trustees are advised on finance decisions by the Finance Committee & General purposes committee and/or Audit and Risk committee where appropriate.

The Local Advisory Governing bodies manage local issues relating to curriculum, performance and achievement. The Executive Head Teacher/Accounting Officer (who is a Trustee) is supported by two Executive Deputy Head Teachers, a Director of Primaries, three secondary Head Teachers and three Primary Heads providing educational leadership across the Trust and monitoring performance and achievement. The Chief Finance and Operations Officer is a member of the executive team and manages all operational teams across the Trust.

Day to day decisions are made by this group in conjunction with senior leadership teams in each of the schools. The CEO and deputy CEO have alternating 1:1 and group meetings with Secondary Head Teachers each week. The Deputy CEO then meets fortnightly with Primary Head Teachers and/or 1:1 meeting if appropriate.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Performance reviews take place in early September focusing on the previous year's outcomes.

Executive Team salaries are reviewed by two representatives of the Trustees with an external consultant.

The Review Panel draft recommendations and consult the Chief Finance and Operations Officer (CFOO) then refer to a full Trustees meeting for ratification.

The Chief Executive and two Trustees review the performance of Trust Head Teachers and make any recommendations to the Trustees for approval.

The Chief Executive and a member of the Executive Leadership team with the local Head Teacher review the salaries of the Operational Leadership teams and inform the Trustees of recommendations.

The Chief Executive's salary as a headteacher is reviewed and set by the trustees.

All recommendations are discussed with the (CFOO) and Chair of Finance to affirm affordability.

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
6	6

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time

Number of employees

1%-50%

6

Paid trade union activities

2023

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

20

Trustees should refer to Statutory Instrument 2017 No. 328, The Trade Union Facility Time Publication Requirements Regulations 2017 for calculation details.

The percentage of pay bill spent on facility time is less than 1%, and is therefore not disclosed as a separate %.

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Academy Trust, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks. The Academy Trust has a formal risk management process to assess business risks and to implement risk management strategies. This process involves identifying the types of risk the Academy Trust faces, scoring and prioritising the risks in terms of their potential operational and financial impact, assessing the likelihood of occurrence, and identifying means of mitigating the risks. A risk register is maintained and reviewed on a regular basis.

Connected organisations, including related party relationships

King's Lynn Football Club use Springwood High School Academy's facilities and there is a partnership agreement between them and the Academy Trust. The Academy Trust has strong collaborative links with other cluster schools and contributes significantly to the provision of music and PE in local academy and LA partner primary schools.

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

The Chief Finance and Operations Officer communicate regularly with regular suppliers and ensure payment of invoices are prompt. The CFOO has developed positive relationships with those providing services including construction companies and caterers.

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The Academy Trust objectives are set out in the Articles of Association. In summary the principle object of the Academy Trust is to advance for the public benefit education by establishing, maintaining, and developing schools by offering a broad and balanced curriculum in West Norfolk.

- to provide high quality education that enables all children to reach their maximum potential;
- to provide a positive, enjoyable learning experience in a safe and secure environment;
- to improve the quality of educational provision and resources through financial management that maximises the benefits of the size of the Academy Trust.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The principle objective of West Norfolk Academy Trust during this period was to establish itself as a high-quality education provider in all eleven of its member schools. The Trust continues to encourage and develop high quality teaching in a well-resourced environment, embedding strong curriculum plans, through robust leadership. The Trust is committed to developing secure collaboration links between its member schools, establishing best practices where appropriate and developing high quality systems across our schools.

All schools within our Trust have benefited from the schools Conditions allocation and have received significant investments into their IT infrastructure, creating a more modern, attractive environment, whilst also ensuring that our pupils have access to the most up to date equipment.

West Norfolk Academies Trust remains dedicated to the exploration, development and adoption of new teaching tools and materials that will enhance both the Trusts teaching practices and also the experiences of our students.

Public benefit

The academy trust provides educational services to all children in the local area. The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance provided by the Charity Commission.

In setting objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The Academy Trust aims to advance, for the public benefit, education in West Norfolk. The Academy Trust provides facilities for recreational and other leisure time occupation for the community at large in the interests of social welfare and with the interest of improving the life of the said community. As an Academy Trust we have a duty to support other schools. We support these schools through use of our premises and specialist skills in the arts, music, and sport subjects.

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance

Springwood High School Sixth Form, saw 27% of students achieving A*-A. This year 51 students were Norfolk Scholars, the highest number to date.

There were two Secondary Ofsted Inspections during the Academic year, Springwood High School and St. Clements High School both schools remain Good.

The Primary Schools within the Trust follow a Knowledge Rich Curriculum from Nursery to Year 6.

The Primary schools carried out National tests last year. There is clear evidence that the embedded curriculum is now having an impact on the results for our pupils with the Trust having all its schools inline or above the combined National for Key Stage 2.

The Primary schools continue to have strong results in EYFS, Phonics and Key Stage 1. Multiplication tests in Year 4 are a focus for the Trust.

There were two Primary Ofsted Inspections during the Academic year, Heacham Infant School and Clenchwarton Primary, both schools remain Good. Clenchwarton will be revisited for a full inspection as the Inspectors believed it may be an outstanding school.

The Key strategic aim continues to be the raising of achievement year on year in every school.

Financially the Trust continues to monitor expenditure and maintain adequate staffing levels. Every appointment is approved by the CEO and Chief Finance Officer. Reserves are maintained as far as possible but are released to meet any urgent needs.

Going concern

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

Promoting the success of the academy

The Trust is aware of its role within the community and places great importance in fostering good relationships. Communication with parents is regular through the website, email and messaging in addition to regular parents' evenings.

The CFOO has developed positive relationships with those providing services including construction companies and caterers and ensures payment of invoices are prompt. The Trust engages a press officer who actively promotes a positive view of whole trust and individual school activities.

The key measure of success is, of course, successful outcomes and each trust school is held to account in this area. However, school success is also dependent on parental satisfaction and student happiness. The trust encourages schools to provide a rich curriculum of cultural and sporting activities. Music clubs thrive. The Trust orchestra has performed at events in the community and in national events too.

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

Financial review

The Statement of Financial Activities for the period ending 31st August 2023 shows a deficit before the pension gain adjustments of £199,325 (2022 Surplus: £126,478) on unrestricted funds and a surplus of £646,761 (Deficit 2022: £1,483,047) on restricted general funds i.e. a total surplus on revenue activities of £447,436 (Deficit 2022: £1,356,569). Following the actuary's valuation of Local Government Pension Scheme, there was a decrease to the academy's pension liability (see note 23 for details) to £355,000 asset (2022: £2,190,000 liability).

Most of the school's income is in the form of recurring grants from the Department for Education (DfE) which are provided under the funding agreement with the Trust. The use of this income is restricted to particular purposes. The DfE grants received by the trust for the period ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. The school also received capital formula grants of £2,002,033. These grants are used for the purchase of fixed assets.

In accordance with the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice (the SORP) Accounting and Reporting by Charities FRS 102, such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges in accordance with the school's accounting policy, over the asset's expected useful life. On 31 August 2023 the net book value of fixed assets including the land and buildings was £36,696,955 (2022: £35,633,492).

At the year end, the Academy Trust had no significant liabilities arising from trade creditors where there would be a significant effect on liquidity. The Trustees recognise that the defined benefit scheme deficit (Local Government Pension Scheme), which is set out in Note 23 to the financial statements, represents a significant potential liability. However, as the Trustees consider that the Academy is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, this risk from this liability is minimised.

The principal sources of funding and how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the academy trust

Most of the Academy Trust's income is obtained from the Department for Education (DfE) via the Educational Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The principal funding received from the DfE is the General Annual Grant (GAG), paid monthly by the ESFA.

On average, staffing costs absorb 80-85% of the grant, occupational costs account for 12% and the balance contributes to educational and administration costs.

Pupil Premium is targeted at students who have received free school meals at some time in their school life, is an important source of funding that enables the schools to develop strategies that contribute to on-going improvement in achievement.

The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of financial activities. There are other amounts of income in relation to donations, fundraising, catering sales, school trips and music lessons.

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

The Academy Trust is committed to bidding for any available funding that will enable improvement and is developing strategies to maximise service provision and procurement across the Academy Trust to enable schools to benefit from economies of scale.

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The Academy Trust has agreed a Risk Management Strategy, a Risk Register, and a Risk Management Plan. These have been discussed by Trustees and include the financial risks to the Academy Trust. The register and plan are constantly reviewed considering any new information and formally reviewed annually.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed, those relating to its finances, teaching, facilities and other operational areas. The Trustees have implemented several systems to assess and minimise those risks, including internal controls described elsewhere. Where significant financial risk still remains, they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover.

The Trustees examine the financial health formally every term, reviewing performance against budgets and overall expenditure by means of regular update reports at all full Trustees' and Finance Committee meetings. The Trustees also regularly review cash flow forecasts and ensure sufficient funds are held to cover all known and anticipated commitments.

At the year end, the Academy Trust had no significant liabilities arising from trade creditors or debtors where there would be a significant effect on liquidity. The Trustees recognise the defined benefit scheme (Local Government Pension Scheme), which is set out in Note 23 to the financial statements, represents an asset for the current year, which has previously been a significant potential liability. However, as the Trustees consider that the Academy is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future as necessary, this risk from this previous liability is minimised.

Reserves policy

The Trustees review the reserve levels of the Academy Trust annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Trustees take into consideration the future plans of the Academy Trust, the uncertainty over future income streams and other key risks identified during the risk review.

The Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of free cash reserves should be should be the equivalent of approximately one months salary bill or £100,000 whichever is the higher. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance, a fall in pupil numbers resulting in losing a classroom but not wanting to lose a teacher, or a rise in pupil numbers meaning not enough funding to teach the pupils.

The Academy Trust's current level of reserves is £44,077,093, of which £1,925,070 is free reserves (total funds less the amount held fixed assets and restricted funds). Restricted funds (excluding fixed assets) are currently in surplus which includes the LGPS asset. The Academy Trust is taking steps to eliminate this deficit and will make additional contributions in future periods when necessary.

Under Accounting Standard FRS102 it is necessary to account for projected pension assets/liabilities on the LGPS to a specific reserve, reflecting the long term liability on the balance sheet. This reserve is discounted when applying the surplus requirements described above, as these are long term assets/liabilities, which do not represent a liquidity problem for the Academy Trust (see note 23).

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

Investment policy

The Trust regularly monitor Cash Flow and Current a/c balances to ensure immediate financial commitments can be met (payroll and payments runs) and that the current accounts have adequate balances to meet forthcoming commitments.

The Trust chooses a cautious approach to investment preferring:

1. Investments for a maximum of one year
2. Investment with the Trust's bankers.

Trustees seek to ensure no monies are lost through risky investments and that investments are accessible at short notice if required. The Trust will avoid any of its current accounts going overdrawn.

The Trust will identify funds surplus to immediate cash requirements and transfer to Lloyds TSB high Interest Deposit Account. In 2022/23 an investment of £300,000 was made. The policy requires retention of the equivalent to one month's salaries in the current account.

The Trust periodically (at least annually) review interest rates and compare with other investment opportunities.

The Trust's current policy is to only invest funds in risk free and immediately accessible deposit accounts.

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Academy Trust are as follows:

Financial - The Current Financial risks for which the academy Trust is planning are the significant unfunded pay rises that have recently been awarded to both Teaching and support staff. This could significantly erode any reserves established next year.

In addition to staffing unprecedented rises in both Electricity and gas, combined with inflationary increases on all other supplies across the sector create a significant risk for the Trust as a whole.

With this in mind, the Trustees are planning to further centralise essential services where ever possible in order to reduce overheads. Sharing staff across schools will enable reduction in staffing in individual schools. There will be a full staffing analysis across the Academy Trust and plans put in place to maximise the benefits of academy status. The Trust always seeks economies through natural wastage in the first instance wherever possible.

Failures in governance and/or management - the risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the Academy Trust's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns, etc. The Trustees continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks. These reports are considered by the Trustees as the audit committee. This includes ensuring the trust's estate is safe, well maintained and complies with the relevant regulations.

Reputational - the continuing success of the Academy Trust is dependent on continuing to attract applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk the Trustees ensure that student success and achievement are closely monitored and reviewed.

Safeguarding and child protection - the Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health and safety and discipline.

Staffing - the success of the Academy Trust is reliant on the quality of its staff and so the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning.

Fraud and mismanagement of funds - The Academy Trust has appointed a Responsible Officer to carry out checks on financial systems and records as required by the Academy Financial Handbook.

All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and develop their skills in this area. Monthly checks by an independent internal scrutineer provide on-going monitoring.

Fundraising

The Trust schools do not involve themselves in fundraising but encourage independent Parent and Teacher Associations to organise events and support the school wherever possible. All such groups are closely monitored. The trust does not engage any external fundraisers.

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period	1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023	1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	5,276,589	6,043,784
Energy consumption break down (kWh)		
Gas	2,055,637	2,341,365
Electricity	1,933,462	1,953,454
Transport fuel	89,847	58,704
Fuel Oil	1,197,643	1,690,261
Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e		
Owned transport - mini-buses	12.49	10.49
Gas consumption/LGP/Fuel	672.40	845.03
Total scope 1	684.89	855.52
Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e		
Purchased electricity	396.28	377.76
Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e		
Business travel in employee-owned vehicles	43.67	38.08
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e	1124.84	1271.36
Intensity ratio		
Tonnes CO ₂ e per pupil	0.22	0.25

Quantification and Reporting Methodology:

We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol - Corporate Standard and have used the 2022 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

Intensity measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

The majority of improvements have been conducted as follows;

Springwood High School;

1. LED lights installed in some areas of the school to improve electrical consumption
2. Lower School Boilers replaced for 95% energy efficient boilers
3. Gas fed water heater replaced with calorifier to benefit from efficient boilers

Marshland High School;

1. Refurbishment of the English department following structural issues leading to improved thermal properties of the building through upgraded windows, LED lighting and insulation.

St Clements High School:

1. Replacement of oil fed boiler in science block with IR heating panels
2. Upgrade to double glazed windows on Science block

Walpole Cross Keys;

1. Replacement of all wooden framed, single glazed windows with double glazed units throughout.
2. Isolation of Air conditioning units during summer period due to cost implications

Clenchwarton Primary;

1. Replacement of all wooden, single glazed windows with double glazed units on original building
2. Hall windows removed and infilled with insulated panels to reduce heat loss
3. Operation of the swimming pool reduced from (March to October) to (April to July) to reduce load requirements on air source heat pumps during cooler months.

West Lynn Primary:

1. All internal lights replaced for LED type throughout

Snettisham Primary:

1. Replacement of old ceiling grid with new suspended grid including addition of above grid insulation throughout.

Heacham Infant:

1. Upgrade to LED lights throughout

Heacham Junior:

1. Upgrade to LED lights throughout

Trust:

1. Energy surveys commissioned at all sites to identify potential energy saving measures in addition to those identified in the Display Energy Certificates (DEC) Advisory reports. All quick win recommendations identified communicated with all staff to improve energy use across all sites.

All mechanical and electrical equipment has been regularly serviced with repairs carried out where required.

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

Plans for future periods

Trust:

1. Continue to replace lights for LED type throughout school sites.

Springwood High School:

1. Feasibility study into the HDP recommendations as part of the DfE Low Carbon Heating Pilot Scheme to be carried out by the LCHPS team. School included following CDC1 data identifying oil fed boilers in upper school.

Smithdon High School:

1. DfE SRP program in progress to include sustainable energy options. Currently in the feasibility stage.

Marshland High School:

1. Investigation ongoing into replacement options for oil fed boilers across the site.

St Clements High School:

1. Investigation ongoing into replacement options for oil fed boilers across the site.

Walpole Cross Keys:

1. Investigation into heating options to minimise impact from electricity costs

Clenchwatton Primary:

1. Replacement of single glazed windows in extension for double glazed units
2. Feasibility study into the HDP recommendations as part of the DfE Low Carbon Heating Pilot Scheme to be carried out by the LCHPS team. School included following CDC1 data identifying oil fed boilers.

Snettisham Primary School:

1. Installation of secondary glazing throughout to minimise heat loss through wooden framed, single glazed windows. Building listed and in conservation area.

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

Employment of disabled persons

In accordance with the Academy Trust's equal opportunities policy, the Academy Trust has long established fair employment practices in the recruitment, selection, retention and training of disabled staff.

The Trustees recognise that equal opportunities should be an integral part of good practice within the workplace. The Academy Trust aims to establish equal opportunity in all areas of its activities, including creating a working environment in which the contribution and needs of all people are fully valued.

The Academy Trust welcomes applications for employment from those with a disability and applications for places from students with disabilities. The Academy Trust's recruitment process ensures that applicants for posts are shortlisted on the basis of how their qualifications and experience match the specification for the job. The Academy Trust recognises that some disabled people will need adjustments made in order for them to do the job. The Academy Trust will look at what changes could be made to the workplace or to the way the work is done and make any changes that are reasonable.

If an employee develops a disability, the Academy Trust will make every effort to retain his/her services by making reasonable adjustments to the workplace, the methods of working or by finding another suitable role for him/her. When decisions are made about an individual, the only personal characteristics or circumstances taken into account will be those which are necessary for the proper performance of the work involved. As part of the performance management process, disabled employees will be given the opportunity to discuss what can be done to develop and use their abilities.

Disabled students applying for a place at the Academy Trust will undergo the standard admissions procedure; offers of a place will be made on the basis laid down in the Admissions Policy and Procedures. When planning educational and other activities outside the school day, staff organising the events will carefully consider the types of activity and the adjustments that can be made so that disabled colleagues and students can take part fully.

Full details of these policies are available from the Academy Trust's offices.

Description of employee consultation

The Academy Trust uses a structured system of line-management of all staff, through which communication in both directions is encouraged. Regular staff meetings on a departmental, year and whole of school level are held to share and discuss information, achievement and changes. Monthly newsletters and a daily bulletin are used to update staff on operational and developmental issues. The Academy Trust has implemented a number of detailed policies in relation to all aspects of personnel matters including:

- Equal opportunities policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Health and safety policy

Auditor

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

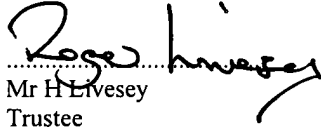
Reappointment of auditor

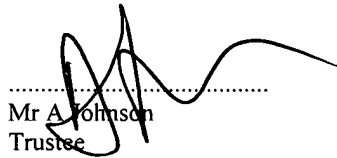
The auditors Hayhow & Co are deemed to be reappointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a Strategic Report, was approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 13 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
Mr H Livesey
Trustee


.....
Mr A Johnson
Trustee

West Norfolk Academies Trust

Governance statement

Statement on governance and internal control

The current Governance Framework consists of both Trustees and Local Governing bodies (LGB's) There are also delegated committees for both Finance and General purposes and Audit and Risk.

LGB's have delegated responsibility for monitoring areas such as pupil performance, Data, Staffing levels and pupil premium and sports premium strategies. LGB's meet 6 times per year and review these specific areas.

All other delegated committees (Finance and General Purposes and Audit and Risk committees) contain Trustees within their board. The Finance and General Purposes Committee scrutinise all areas of Finance, Site, IT and Health and Safety and meet a minimum of termly. The Audit and Risk committee cover all areas of Risk and compliance and meet a minimum of termly but increase in frequency according to the risks posed at that time. Throughout covid the Audit and Risk committee increased in frequency and were meeting every two weeks.

There is a meeting of the full Trustee board at least six times per year and the full Trustees consider all areas of Governance including but not limited to, the following areas across all schools within West Norfolk Academies Trust:

- Strategic and Reputational
- Data
- HR
- Finance
- Policies
- Pupils
- Education Strategies
- Curriculum
- Audit and Risk
- IT
- Site

All Trustees are required to complete a conflict of interest's declaration annually and any conflict declared will be considered and dealt with in accordance with guidance issued by the charities commission.

The board reviews its effectiveness annually via the School Resource Management self-assessment checklist and during 21/22 also commissioned an independent review of Governance. An independent Governance review will be completed biannually moving forward. As a result of this year's independent Governance review the Trust has adopted a Risk Register for each LGB to give structure for each area of focus. This will be embedded moving forward.

Scope of responsibility

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to Mr A Johnson, Trustee, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between West Norfolk Academies Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Audit Committee and Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

West Norfolk Academies Trust

Governance statement (continued)

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 8 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Attendees	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr H Livesey, Chair of Trustees	8	8
Mrs A Arterton	8	8
Mr K Baldwin	6	8
Mr A Johnson, Headteacher, Accounting Office and CEO	8	8
Mr A Yates	8	8
Mr P Harris	6	8
Mr P Bland	6	8
Mr N Daubney (resigned 29 May 2023)	2	6
Mr M Ballman	8	8
Mr R Lodge	8	8
Mrs T Cornwell	7	8
Mrs P King	8	8
Mr R Wood	4	8
Mr T Allen (appointed 10 July 2023)	1	1

Governance reviews

The Academy Trust regularly engage consultant advisors to review practices and advise on developments. We have also engaged an experienced accountant who meets regularly with the CFOO.

The Trustees have formed an Audit Committee and receive audited accounts and all Independent scrutiny reports. In addition the Audit Committee monitor risk.

The Finance and Resources Committee is appointed by the main Board of Trustees. The Finance and Resources Committee meet regularly to review finances against budget and to monitor progress on all building projects and issues. They oversee the spending of the Schools Condition Allocation.

They:

- Monitor all budgets and prepare annual budgets for the governing body.
- Monitor financial activities and respond to reports from the Independent Scrutineer and auditors; and
- Manage any tenders and carry out scrutiny of purchases to seek best value for money.
- Monitor capital spending
- Monitor risk

The Finance and General Purposes Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Attendance at meetings during the year was as follows:

West Norfolk Academies Trust

Governance statement (continued)

Attendees	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr P Harris	4	4
Mr P Bland	3	4
Mr A Johnson,	4	4
Mr H Livesey,	3	4
Mr N Daubney (resigned 29 May 2023)	2	4
Mr M Ballman	4	4
Mrs P King	4	4
Mrs G Howell	4	4
Mr S Bowdery,	4	4
Ms R Walker,	3	4
Mr B Featherstone,	4	4
Mr R Lodge	0	4

The Audit Committee is a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to receive and review the annual audited accounts, and independent scrutiny reports, as well as;

- Monitor Risk

Attendance at meetings during the year was as follows:

Attendees	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr P Bland	3	4
Mr N Daubney (resigned 29 May 2023)	2	4
Mr M Ballman	3	4
Mr A Johnson,	4	4
Mrs G Howell	4	4
Ms R Walker,	4	4
Mr S Bowdery,	3	4
Mr B Featherstone,	4	4
Mr H Livesey,	3	4
Mrs P King	2	4
Mr R Lodge	0	4

West Norfolk Academies Trust

Governance statement (continued)

Review of value for money

As accounting officer the chief executive has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes as well as estate, 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 board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year as reported below.

This year has been a year of continued change and development. Marshland High School and St Clement's continued to consolidate achievement. Recruitment and development have allowed the stability of the schools to develop and the improvement at Smithdon High School demonstrates the effective support provided by the Trust. Centralisation of services is reducing the pressure on finances in this smaller schools. In take at Year 7 has increased year on year with this improvement in performance.

The Trust has had two Primary visits from Ofsted this year and both were assessed as good. The outcomes clearly illustrate the impact the Trust is having and demonstrate the value of the trust as an organisation focussed on improving the educational experience of all the children in Trust schools.

Significant resources were spent on stabilising the leadership at Smithdon High School. Improvement of the learning environment was essential at Smithdon which had been significantly neglected. There are still significant structural issues to be addressed. The Trust has managed to secure inclusion into the DFE's schools rebuilding program which should help to alleviate significant drains on its schools condition Allocation moving forward.

The Trust continue to review the Trust's estate and have prepared a detailed risk register as it is imperative that we effectively use the relevant funding throughout the Trust to ensure the Trust's estate is safe, well maintained and complies with regulations.

The stability offered by the new Head Teacher and Deputy has seen the school become more popular with a rapid rise in Year 6 making Smithdon their first choice. However financial viability remains a problem until the increased numbers filter through the school. Reduced numbers of children coming through from feeder primary schools in 2021 will continue to hinder progress in making the school stable.

The creation of the Executive team also provided career development opportunities for those staff thus encouraging their retention. Retaining key high performers enables an on-going process of continuous improvement which is demonstrated again this year in our results.

The creation of the Trust also enabled the creation of a cross Trust finance Team, Facilities management team as well as creating a data team. In the process staff reductions through natural wastage and redundancies enabled the Trust to balance the budget and secure a stable financial forecast for the next year.

The need to address literacy and numeracy deficiencies at an early stage has led to the introduction of a range of literacy and numeracy programmes in our Primary schools. Best value measures have been essential in addressing the constantly reducing levels of funding for children with special educational needs.

Robust financial management systems have allowed early identification of issues so that early intervention has been possible to maximise the benefits of cross school working and centralisation of key services as well as sharing of teaching staff across secondary schools. Thorough risk assessments at time of academy conversion highlighted the need for action.

West Norfolk Academies Trust

Governance statement (continued)

The purpose of the system of internal control

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

Capacity to handle risk

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

The risk and control framework

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

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

The Board of Trustees has decided:

- not to appoint an auditor for this purpose. However, the Trustees have appointed a Responsible Officer, and Independent Scrutineer to carry out a programme of internal checks

West Norfolk Academies Trust

Governance statement (continued)

The Trust engage a qualified, independent person to visit each finance officer responsible for each school as well as visit the Trust Finance Manager responsible for Trust accounts.

At each visit internal processes and procedures are checked to ensure accuracy, segregation of duties, best value and compliance. The key areas this year have been:

- Invoice payments
- Appropriate processes for quotations and/or tenders
- Payroll checking salaries against HR records
- Overtime payments and additional payroll items
- Income records
- Bank reconciliations

A report for each visit is sent to the Audit Committee. The Audit committee would report back to full trustees if there are any matters of concern arising.

No material control issues arising as a result of those visits have been identified.

The Responsible Officer's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial and other systems.

Responsible Officer findings are reported back on the next possible Audit committee meeting. The Responsible Officer reports on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees's financial responsibilities and annually the Independent Scrutineer prepares an annual summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

There were no material control or other issues reported by the Responsible Officer to date.

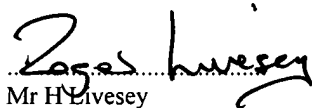
Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, Mr A Johnson, Trustee has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- the work of the responsible officer ;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the Chief Finance and Operations Officer and Executive Team within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, and correspondence from EFSA

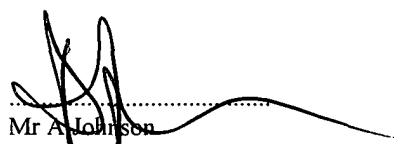
The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Audit Committee and Finance and General Purposes Committee and a plan to address any potential weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 13 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr H Livesey
Trustee

West Norfolk Academies Trust
Governance statement (continued)



.....
Mr A Johnson
Trustee
Accounting Officer


West Norfolk Academies Trust

Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance

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

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

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



.....
Mr A Johnson, Trustee
Accounting officer

13 December 2023

West Norfolk Academies Trust

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

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

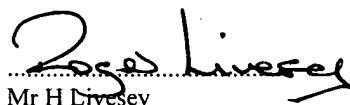
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board on 13 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr H Livesey
Trustee

West Norfolk Academies Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of West Norfolk Academies Trust

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information (covers the Reference and administrative details, the Trustees' report and Strategic Report and the Governance statement)

The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. 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.

West Norfolk Academies Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of West Norfolk Academies Trust (continued)

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.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustee's report, incorporating the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and Trustees' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities [set out on page 25], the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

West Norfolk Academies Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of West Norfolk Academies Trust (continued)

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

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also;

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Academy's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Academy's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Academy to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Academy to express an opinion on the financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the Academy audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

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

West Norfolk Academies Trust

**Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of West
Norfolk Academies Trust (continued)**



.....
Julie Gladman (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Hayhow & Co, Statutory Auditor

19 King Street
Kings Lynn
Norfolk
PE30 1HB

13 December 2023

West Norfolk Academies Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to West Norfolk Academies Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

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

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

Respective responsibilities of the Governing Body's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of the West Norfolk Academies Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 31 January 2014 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

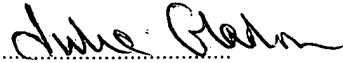
- An assessment of the risk of material irregularity and impropriety across all the academy trust's activities.
- Further testing and review of the areas identified through the risk assessment including enquiry identification of control processes and examination of supporting evidence across all areas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

Conclusion

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

West Norfolk Academies Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to West Norfolk Academies Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (continued)



Julie Gladman Reporting Accountant
For and on behalf of Hayhow & Co, Chartered Certified Accountants

19 King Street
Kings Lynn
Norfolk
PE30 1HB

13 December 2023

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2022/23 Total £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	2	49,932	16,534	2,002,033	2,068,499
Other trading activities	4	175,179	-	-	175,179
Investments	5	7,291	-	-	7,291
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	1,246,894	33,095,786	-	34,342,680
Total		1,479,296	33,112,320	2,002,033	36,593,649
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	67,797	255	-	68,052
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Academy trust educational operations	7	1,610,824	32,465,304	1,230,955	35,307,083
Total		1,678,621	32,465,559	1,230,955	35,375,135
Net (expenditure)/income		(199,325)	646,761	771,078	1,218,514
Transfers between funds		(6,819)	(596,150)	602,969	-
Other recognised gains and losses					
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	23	-	2,971,000	-	2,971,000
Net movement in (deficit)/funds		(206,144)	3,021,611	1,374,047	4,189,514
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward at 1 September 2022		2,131,214	1,094,456	36,661,909	39,887,579
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2023		1,925,070	4,116,067	38,035,956	44,077,093

West Norfolk Academies Trust

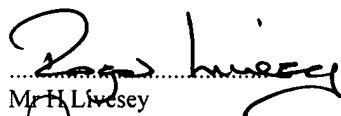
Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

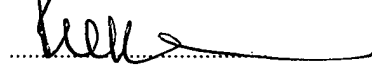
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2021/22 Total £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	2	37,615	31,572	1,724,487	1,793,674
Other trading activities	4	173,032	-	-	173,032
Investments	5	1,172	-	-	1,172
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	1,272,243	30,693,870	-	31,966,113
Total		1,484,062	30,725,442	1,724,487	33,933,991
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	89,985	2,954	-	92,939
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Academy trust educational operations	7	1,267,599	32,205,535	1,162,193	34,635,327
Total		1,357,584	32,208,489	1,162,193	34,728,266
Net income/(expenditure)		126,478	(1,483,047)	562,294	(794,275)
Transfers between funds		203,546	(661,964)	458,418	-
Other recognised gains and losses					
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	23	-	17,899,000	-	17,899,000
Losses on revaluation of fixed assets		-	-	(21,483,181)	(21,483,181)
Net movement in funds/(deficit)		330,024	15,753,989	(20,462,469)	(4,378,456)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2021		1,801,190	(14,659,533)	57,124,378	44,266,035
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2022		2,131,214	1,094,456	36,661,909	39,887,579

West Norfolk Academies Trust
(Registration number: 07546118)
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	36,696,955	35,633,492
Current assets			
Stocks	13	35,702	39,773
Debtors	14	876,362	750,663
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>9,119,247</u>	<u>8,400,245</u>
		10,031,311	9,190,681
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		<u>(3,006,173)</u>	<u>(2,746,594)</u>
Net current assets		<u>7,025,138</u>	<u>6,444,087</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>43,722,093</u>	<u>42,077,579</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset		43,722,093	42,077,579
Defined benefit pension scheme asset/(liability)	23	<u>355,000</u>	<u>(2,190,000)</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>44,077,093</u></u>	<u><u>39,887,579</u></u>
Funds of the Academy:			
Restricted funds			
Restricted general fund	16	3,761,067	3,284,456
Restricted fixed asset fund	16	38,035,956	36,661,909
Pension reserve	16	<u>355,000</u>	<u>(2,190,000)</u>
		42,152,023	37,756,365
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted general fund	16	<u>1,925,070</u>	<u>2,131,214</u>
Total funds		<u><u>44,077,093</u></u>	<u><u>39,887,579</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 32 to 60 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 13 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:


.....
Mr H Livesey
Trustee


.....
Mr P Harris
Trustee

West Norfolk Academies Trust

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	19	1,004,096	1,950,611
Cash flows from investing activities	20	<u>(285,094)</u>	<u>(637,106)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		719,002	1,313,505
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		<u>8,400,245</u>	<u>7,086,740</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	21	<u><u>9,119,247</u></u>	<u><u>8,400,245</u></u>

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

1 Accounting policies

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

Basis of preparation

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

Going concern

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

Income

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

Grants

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

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

Capital grants are recognised in full when there is an unconditional entitlement to the grant. Unspent amounts of capital grants are reflected in the balance sheet in the restricted fixed asset fund. Capital grants are spent on capital projects in line with the terms and conditions of the grant. Capital grants are recognised when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended.

Sponsorship income

Sponsorship income provided to the academy trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions), where the receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Donations

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

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in stock and 'Income from other trading activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from other trading activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from other trading activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items, they are not recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'.

Donated fixed assets

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

Expenditure

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Tangible fixed assets

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

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

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

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

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Freehold property (excluding land)	Straight line over 15 - 25 years
Motor Vehicles	Straight line over 5 years
Furniture and equipment	Straight line over 5 - 10 years
Computer Equipment	Straight line over 3 - 10 years
Leasehold Property and Leasehold Land	Straight line over the life of the lease 125 years
Leasehold Property Improvements	Straight line over 25 years

Liabilities

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

Provisions

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

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

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 14. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. 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.

Leased assets

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

Stock

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

Taxation

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

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

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Pension benefits

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

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

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

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

Fund accounting

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

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

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

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.

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 23, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2022. 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.

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Capital grants	-	-	2,002,033	2,002,033	1,724,487
Other donations	49,932	16,534	-	66,466	69,187
	<u>49,932</u>	<u>16,534</u>	<u>2,002,033</u>	<u>2,068,499</u>	<u>1,793,674</u>

3 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Educational operations				
DfE/ESFA revenue grants				
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	134,396	134,396	138,875
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	28,130,208	28,130,208	27,107,647
Pupil Premium	-	1,244,641	1,244,641	1,197,535
Other DfE/EFSA Grants	-	2,171,978	2,171,978	1,233,983
	<u>-</u>	<u>31,681,223</u>	<u>31,681,223</u>	<u>29,678,040</u>
Other government grants				
Local Authority Grants	-	1,147,472	1,147,472	767,870

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

3 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations (continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Non-government grants and other income				
Grants from Other Public Bodies	-	54,426	54,426	104,930
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	1,246,894	212,665	1,459,559	1,335,625
	1,246,894	267,091	1,513,985	1,440,555
Covid-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)				
Covid-19	-	-	-	79,648
Total grants	<u>1,246,894</u>	<u>33,095,786</u>	<u>34,342,680</u>	<u>31,966,113</u>

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Hire of facilities	40,099	40,099	28,227
Catering income	30,636	30,636	23,867
School shop sales	53,107	53,107	72,193
Other sales	51,337	51,337	48,745
	<u>175,179</u>	<u>175,179</u>	<u>173,032</u>

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Short term deposits	<u>7,291</u>	<u>7,291</u>	<u>1,172</u>

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

6 Expenditure

	Non Pay Expenditure			2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
	Staff costs £	Premises £	Other costs £		
Expenditure on raising funds					
Direct costs	-	-	68,052	68,052	92,939
Academy's educational operations					
Direct costs	21,393,505	1,220,794	1,823,407	24,437,706	22,521,547
Allocated support costs	5,773,344	1,910,147	3,185,886	10,869,377	12,113,780
	<u>27,166,849</u>	<u>3,130,941</u>	<u>5,077,345</u>	<u>35,375,135</u>	<u>34,728,266</u>

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

6 Expenditure (continued)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	185,628	134,915
Depreciation	1,230,955	1,162,193
Fees payable to auditor - audit	16,825	18,543
- other audit services	1,500	1,500
	<u>1,434,908</u>	<u>1,417,051</u>

7 Charitable activities

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Direct costs - educational operations	24,437,706	22,521,547
Support costs - educational operations	10,869,377	12,113,780
	<u>35,307,083</u>	<u>34,635,327</u>

	Educational operations £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Analysis of support costs			
Support staff costs	5,773,344	5,773,344	7,647,868
Depreciation	10,161	10,161	11,794
Technology costs	351,249	351,249	374,795
Premises costs	1,899,986	1,899,986	1,444,337
Other support costs	2,816,985	2,816,985	2,613,825
Governance costs	17,652	17,652	21,161
Total support costs	<u>10,869,377</u>	<u>10,869,377</u>	<u>12,113,780</u>

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

8 Staff

Staff costs

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	20,458,275	18,978,543
Social security costs	1,868,552	1,729,577
Pension costs	4,739,654	6,435,672
	<u>27,066,481</u>	<u>27,143,792</u>
Apprenticeship Levy	85,748	77,507
Staff restructuring costs	14,620	13,485
	<u>27,166,849</u>	<u>27,234,784</u>
	2022/23 £	2021/22 £

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Severance payments	<u>14,620</u>	<u>13,485</u>
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Severance payments

The Academy trust paid 2 severance payments in the year disclosed in the following bands:

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
0 - £25,000	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>

Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £14,620 (2022: £13,485). Individually, the payments were:

Non-contractual payments £7,420

Non-contractual payments £7,200

Staff numbers

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

	2022/23 No	2021/22 No
Teachers	553	517
Administration and support	301	292
Management	18	10
	<u>872</u>	<u>819</u>

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

8 Staff (continued)

Higher paid staff

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	No	No
£60,001 - £70,000	6	3
£70,001 - £80,000	3	5
£80,001 - £90,000	5	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	3
£100,001 - £110,000	2	1
£150,001 - £160,000	-	1
£160,001 - £170,000	1	-

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £2,024,051 (2022: £1,638,582).

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

9 Central services

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

On average 5.64% of each individual schools SBS annually.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Springwood High School Academy	546,306	533,828
St Clement's High School	216,303	225,354
Marshland High School	358,677	344,625
Smithdon High School	177,321	203,868
Clenchwarton Primary School	17,479	42,845
West Lynn Primary School	14,501	40,013
Walpole Cross Keys Primary School	6,434	15,753
Snettisham Primary School	14,394	24,237
Heacham Junior School	17,273	31,480
Heacham Infant and Nursery School	12,814	19,849
Gaywood Primary School	93,361	103,079
	<u>1,474,863</u>	<u>1,584,931</u>

10 Related party transactions - trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

Mr A Johnson (Executive Headteacher):

Remuneration: £160,000 - £165,000 (2022 - £155,000 - £160,000)

Employer's pension contributions: £35,000 - £40,000 (2022 - £35,000 - £40,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2023, phone, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £727 (2022 - £423) were reimbursed or paid directly to 2 trustees (2022 - 2).

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

11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim.

The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

11 Trustees' and officers' insurance (continued)

The academy 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 trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Leasehold land and buildings £	Assets under construction £	Motor Vehicles £	Office Equipment £	Computer Equipment £
Cost						
At 1 September 2022	26,528,231	16,119,937	103,526	1,000	564,184	1,065,016
Additions	1,531,358	464,487	21,483	-	154,692	122,398
Transfers	80,265	23,261	(103,526)	-	-	-
At 31 August 2023	<u>28,139,854</u>	<u>16,607,685</u>	<u>21,483</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>718,876</u>	<u>1,187,414</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2022	6,188,271	1,186,910	-	1,000	483,679	888,542
Charge for the year	850,814	253,339	-	-	40,950	85,852
At 31 August 2023	<u>7,039,085</u>	<u>1,440,249</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>524,629</u>	<u>974,394</u>
Net book value						
At 31 August 2023	<u>21,100,769</u>	<u>15,167,436</u>	<u>21,483</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>194,247</u>	<u>213,020</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>20,339,960</u>	<u>14,933,027</u>	<u>103,526</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>80,505</u>	<u>176,474</u>

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

12 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

	2022/23 Total £
Cost	
At 1 September 2022	44,381,894
Additions	2,294,418
Transfers	-
At 31 August 2023	<u>46,676,312</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2022	8,748,402
Charge for the year	<u>1,230,955</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>9,979,357</u>
Net book value	
At 31 August 2023	<u>36,696,955</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>35,633,492</u>

13 Stock

	2023 £	2022 £
Shop stock	<u>35,702</u>	<u>39,773</u>

14 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	27,740	10,780
VAT recoverable	161,881	113,134
Other debtors	6,858	3,057
Prepayments	<u>679,883</u>	<u>623,692</u>
	<u>876,362</u>	<u>750,663</u>

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	635,296	599,767
Other taxation and social security	433,523	419,725
Other creditors	6,989	12,354
Accruals	591,198	958,186
Deferred income	858,556	314,173
Pension scheme creditor	480,611	442,389
	<u>3,006,173</u>	<u>2,746,594</u>
	2023	2022
	£	£

Deferred income

Deferred income at 1 September 2022	314,173	352,513
Resources deferred in the period	858,556	314,173
Amounts released from previous periods	<u>(314,173)</u>	<u>(352,513)</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	<u>858,556</u>	<u>314,173</u>

At the balance sheet date, the Academy trust was holding funds received in advance for Academy Trips £149,466, EFA Rates Support £76,800, Universal Free School Meals £82,304, Clubs £856, LAC Pupil Premium £1,400, School Led Tutoring £84,388, SEN £440,927, New Forrest £2,600 and Catering Sales £19,815.

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted funds					
<i>Restricted general funds</i>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	2,464,004	28,130,208	(25,282,700)	(2,176,318)	3,135,194
Other DfE/EFSA revenue grants	209,051	2,171,978	(2,390,750)	63,400	53,679
Grants from other public bodies	37,053	54,426	(112,743)	24,444	3,180
Other Local Authority grants	216	1,147,472	(1,147,737)	49	-
Other restricted income	574,132	229,199	(1,726,592)	1,492,275	569,014
Pupil Premium	-	1,244,641	(1,244,641)	-	-
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	134,396	(134,396)	-	-

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

16 Funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
<i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i>					
DFE/EFSA Capital Grants	8,342,692	2,002,033	(383,428)	-	9,961,297
Grants from other public bodies	503,122	-	(36,243)	-	466,879
Fixed assets inherited on conversion	26,285,626	-	(689,292)	-	25,596,334
Donations	29,018	-	(11,960)	-	17,058
Transfer from unrestricted funds	461,501	-	(31,525)	-	429,976
Fixed assets purchased from GAG	1,039,160	-	(78,507)	602,969	1,563,622
Grants from local authority	790	-	-	-	790
<i>Pension reserve funds</i>					
Pension reserve	(2,190,000)	-	(426,000)	2,971,000	355,000
Total restricted funds	<u>37,756,365</u>	<u>35,114,353</u>	<u>(33,696,514)</u>	<u>2,977,819</u>	<u>42,152,023</u>
<i>Unrestricted general funds</i>					
Unrestricted general funds	<u>2,131,214</u>	<u>1,479,296</u>	<u>(1,678,621)</u>	<u>(6,819)</u>	<u>1,925,070</u>
Total unrestricted funds	2,131,214	1,479,296	(1,678,621)	(6,819)	1,925,070
Total endowment funds	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds	<u>39,887,579</u>	<u>36,593,649</u>	<u>(35,375,135)</u>	<u>2,971,000</u>	<u>44,077,093</u>

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Restricted funds					
<i>Restricted general funds</i>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	2,078,671	27,107,647	(25,943,978)	(778,336)	2,464,004
Other DfE/EFSA revenue grants	279,075	1,313,631	(1,393,977)	10,322	209,051
Grants from other public bodies	42,310	104,930	(110,187)	-	37,053
Other Local Authority grants	374	767,870	(768,654)	626	216
Other restricted income	491,664	94,954	(117,910)	105,424	574,132
Pupil Premium	-	1,197,535	(1,197,535)	-	-
Universal Infant Free School Meals	5,373	138,875	(144,248)	-	-

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

16 Funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
<i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i>					
DFE/EFSA Capital Grants	6,977,465	1,722,223	(356,996)	-	8,342,692
Grants from other public bodies	506,143	2,264	(5,285)	-	503,122
Fixed assets inherited on conversion	48,458,044	-	(689,237)	(21,483,181)	26,285,626
Donations	43,643	-	(14,625)	-	29,018
Transfer from unrestricted funds	493,617	-	(32,116)	-	461,501
Fixed assets purchased from GAG	644,351	-	(63,609)	458,418	1,039,160
Grants from local authority	1,115	-	(325)	-	790
<i>Pension reserve funds</i>					
Pension reserve	<u>(17,557,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,532,000)</u>	<u>17,899,000</u>	<u>(2,190,000)</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>42,464,845</u>	<u>32,449,929</u>	<u>(33,370,682)</u>	<u>(3,787,727)</u>	<u>37,756,365</u>
<i>Unrestricted general funds</i>					
Unrestricted general funds	<u>1,801,190</u>	<u>1,484,062</u>	<u>(1,357,584)</u>	<u>203,546</u>	<u>2,131,214</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>1,801,190</u>	<u>1,484,062</u>	<u>(1,357,584)</u>	<u>203,546</u>	<u>2,131,214</u>
Total endowment funds	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>44,266,035</u>	<u>33,933,991</u>	<u>(34,728,266)</u>	<u>(3,584,181)</u>	<u>39,887,579</u>

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

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

- a) General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy.
- b) Other revenue grants must be used for specific expenses relating to the running of the Academy including pupil specific funding, 16+ Bursary funding and Graduate Training Programme funding.
- c) The costs and income associated with the defined benefit pension scheme have been recorded in the restricted general fund. Staff costs are paid from this fund, including contributions to the LGPS, and the pension liability has therefore been aligned with those costs.
- d) Capital grants must be used to fund expenditure of a capital nature.
- e) Fixed assets inherited on conversion are the land, buildings and equipment which were transferred from the predecessor establishment.

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

16 Funds (continued)

	2023 £	2022 £
Springwood High School Academy	1,128,518	1,187,270
St Clement's High School	425,590	312,995
Snettisham Primary School	174,233	174,254
West Lynn Primary School	222,479	230,147
Clenchwarton Primary School	325,393	222,120
West Norfolk Academies Trust	5,519	15,382
Walpole Cross Keys Primary School	59,368	49,961
Heacham Junior School	201,068	199,139
Marshland High School	1,509,693	1,464,319
Smithdon High School	185,682	235,119
Gaywood Primary School	668,794	499,039
Heacham Infant and Nursery School	231,315	254,493
Central services	548,485	571,432
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	5,686,137	5,415,670
Restricted fixed asset fund	38,035,956	36,661,909
Pension reserve	355,000	(2,190,000)
Total	44,077,093	39,887,579
Total cost analysis by academy		

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs (excluding depreciation) £	Total 2023 £
Springwood High School Academy	7,518,619	1,644,111	190,084	2,443,888	11,796,702
St Clement's High School	2,894,717	748,047	67,591	773,269	4,483,624
Snettisham Primary School	440,383	85,612	22,806	93,235	642,036
West Lynn Primary School	646,433	133,845	19,854	121,155	921,287
Clenchwarton Primary School	684,094	132,349	31,058	175,798	1,023,299
West Norfolk Academies Trust	-	228,670	10,485	49,347	288,502
Walpole Cross Keys Primary School	290,451	53,406	11,813	79,058	434,728
Heacham Junior School	490,162	97,883	19,296	107,641	714,982
Marshland High School	3,537,738	1,024,313	84,604	899,177	5,545,832
Smithdon High School	2,605,563	804,769	79,199	778,687	4,268,218
Gaywood Primary School	1,290,004	274,635	30,733	256,633	1,852,005

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

16 Funds (continued)

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs (excluding depreciation) £	Total 2023 £
Heacham Infant and Nursery School	474,290	83,692	18,734	98,405	675,121
Central services	521,051	462,012	80,254	434,527	1,497,844
Academy Trust	<u>21,393,505</u>	<u>5,773,344</u>	<u>666,511</u>	<u>6,310,820</u>	<u>34,144,180</u>

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs (excluding depreciation) £	Total 2022 £
Springwood High School Academy	6,745,362	2,482,799	223,658	2,133,760	11,585,579
St Clement's High School	2,641,133	1,021,409	69,550	728,714	4,460,806
Snettisham Primary School	386,191	146,152	26,652	74,837	633,832
West Lynn Primary School	614,670	219,315	32,184	116,724	982,893
Clenchwarton Primary School	608,655	202,773	55,293	132,740	999,461
West Norfolk Academies Trust	2,400	207,186	31,927	29,381	270,894
Walpole Cross Keys Primary School	244,089	76,583	35,633	53,474	409,779
Heacham Junior School	475,840	131,130	40,588	107,585	755,143
Marshland High School	3,216,893	1,209,998	116,477	668,687	5,212,055
Smithdon High School	2,452,421	981,116	88,627	593,830	4,115,994
Gaywood Primary School	1,245,590	411,270	61,787	302,697	2,021,344
Heacham Infant and Nursery School	398,361	148,466	24,638	89,971	661,436
Central services	555,311	409,671	86,210	405,665	1,456,857
Academy Trust	<u>19,586,916</u>	<u>7,647,868</u>	<u>893,224</u>	<u>5,438,065</u>	<u>33,566,073</u>

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

17 Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	36,696,955	36,696,955
Current assets	3,088,368	5,603,942	1,339,001	10,031,311
Current liabilities	(1,163,298)	(1,842,875)	-	(3,006,173)
Pension scheme liability	-	355,000	-	355,000
Total net assets	<u>1,925,070</u>	<u>4,116,067</u>	<u>38,035,956</u>	<u>44,077,093</u>

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

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	35,633,492	35,633,492
Current assets	3,742,228	4,420,036	1,028,417	9,190,681
Current liabilities	(1,611,014)	(1,135,580)	-	(2,746,594)
Pension scheme liability	-	(2,190,000)	-	(2,190,000)
Total net assets	<u>2,131,214</u>	<u>1,094,456</u>	<u>36,661,909</u>	<u>39,887,579</u>

18 Long-term commitments, including operating leases

Operating leases

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts due within one year	13,905	57,725
Amounts due between one and five years	<u>597,719</u>	<u>407,354</u>
	<u>611,624</u>	<u>465,079</u>

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

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

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Net income/(expenditure)	1,218,514	(794,275)
Depreciation	1,230,955	1,162,193
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(2,002,033)	(1,724,487)
Interest receivable	(7,291)	(1,172)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	426,000	2,532,000
Decrease in stocks	4,071	23,319
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(125,699)	288,648
Increase in creditors	259,579	464,385
Net cash provided by Operating Activities	<u>1,004,096</u>	<u>1,950,611</u>

20 Cash flows from investing activities

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	7,291	1,172
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(2,294,418)	(2,362,765)
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	2,002,033	1,724,487
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(285,094)</u>	<u>(637,106)</u>

21 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand and at bank	<u>9,119,247</u>	<u>8,400,245</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>9,119,247</u>	<u>8,400,245</u>

22 Member liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

23 Pension and similar obligations

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS to the period ended 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £(480,611) (2022 - £(442,389)) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 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.

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £2,933,689 (2022: £2,705,723).

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

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

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

23 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local government pension schemes

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 £1,762,151 (2022 - £1,531,702), of which employer's contributions totalled £1,379,965 (2022 - £1,197,949) and employees' contributions totalled £382,186 (2022 - £333,753). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 21.5 per cent for employers and 5.5 - 6 per cent for employees. The scheme is managed by Norfolk Pension Fund.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2023	2022
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.70	3.80
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.00	3.10
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.20	4.30
Inflation assumptions (CPI)	<u>3.00</u>	<u>3.00</u>

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

	2023	2022
Retiring today		
Males retiring today	20.90	21.70
Females retiring today	24.60	24.10
Retiring in 20 years		
Males retiring in 20 years	21.30	22.90
Females retiring in 20 years	<u>25.40</u>	<u>26.00</u>

Sensitivity analysis

	2023	2022
	£	£
Discount rate -0.1%	477,000	523,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	816,000	855,000
Salary scale increases per annum %	30,000	33,000
Pension increases %	<u>457,000</u>	<u>498,000</u>

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

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

23 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

	2023 £	2022 £
Equities	10,360,000	9,433,970
Government bonds	7,252,000	7,123,610
Property	2,486,400	2,310,360
Cash and other liquid assets	<u>621,600</u>	<u>385,060</u>
Total market value of assets	<u>20,720,000</u>	<u>19,253,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £609,000 (2022 - £93,000).

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Current service cost	1,707,000	3,423,000
Interest cost	<u>100,000</u>	<u>308,000</u>
Total amount recognized in the SOFA	<u>1,807,000</u>	<u>3,731,000</u>

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

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
At start of period	21,443,000	35,318,000
Current service cost	1,707,000	3,423,000
Interest cost	949,000	611,000
Employee contributions	382,000	328,000
Benefits paid	(313,000)	(245,000)
Losses or gains on curtailments	<u>(3,803,000)</u>	<u>(17,992,000)</u>
At 31 August	<u>20,365,000</u>	<u>21,443,000</u>

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

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
At start of period	19,253,000	17,761,000
Interest income	849,000	303,000
Actuarial gain/(loss)	(832,000)	(93,000)
Employer contributions	1,381,000	1,199,000
Employee contributions	382,000	328,000
Benefits paid	<u>(313,000)</u>	<u>(245,000)</u>
At 31 August	<u>20,720,000</u>	<u>19,253,000</u>

24 Related party transactions

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

West Norfolk Academies Trust

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

24 Related party transactions (continued)

There were no related party transactions in the year, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 10.