

Company Registration No. 07561574 (England and Wales)

**BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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# **BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST**

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# **BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST**

## **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

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<b>Trustees</b>	S Dignasse J Fryer P Hillman (Member, Chair) S Johnson K Lay R Nolan C Purdy
<b>Members</b>	L Gowen P Hillman M Jones T Reynolds
<b>Senior management team</b>	S Cox – Head Teacher A Clarke - Deputy Head Teacher J Hannan- Deputy Head Teacher B Cooper – Assistant Head Teacher J Gill - Assistant Head Teacher S Mooney - Assistant Head Teacher (retired 31 August 2021) P Norman – Assistant Head Teacher (from 1 September 2022) K Sweeney – Assistant Head Teacher S Stockdale – Assistant Head Teacher R Levey – Assistant Head Teacher G Farrance - Business Manager
<b>Company Secretary</b>	D Kilner
<b>Company registration number</b>	07561574 (England and Wales)
<b>Registered office</b>	c/o The Appleton School Croft Road Benfleet Essex SS7 5RN United Kingdom
<b>Independent auditor</b>	Baxter & Co Lynwood House Crofton Road Orpington Kent BR6 8QE
<b>Bankers</b>	Lloyds Bank PLC 10-20 Town Square Basildon SS14 1DU
<b>Solicitors</b>	Eversheds LLP One Wood Street London EC2V 7WS

# **BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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The trustees present their annual report together with the accounts and independent auditor's report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2022. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' Report, and a Directors' Report under company law.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006, the Statement of Recommended Practice 2015, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", and the Academies' Accounts Direction 2021/2022 issued by the ESFA.

The principal activity of the company is the operation of a state-funded Academy, The Appleton School, providing a state education for students aged 11 to 18. It has a pupil roll of 1,618 in the school census dated October 2022.

#### **Structure, governance and management**

##### Constitution

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

The trustees of Benfleet Schools Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the trustees who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

The company operates as "The Appleton School".

##### Members' liability

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

##### Trustees' indemnities

The Trust has not given any indemnities in respect of trustees.

##### Method of recruitment and appointment or election of directors

In accordance with the articles, the directors of the charitable company are the trustees. They are appointed as follows;

- a) Up to eight directors appointed by the Members;
- b) Minimum of two parent directors elected by parents; unless there are Local Governing Bodies which include at least two Parent Members;
- c) The Chief Executive Officer;
- d) Up to three Co-opted directors appointed by the Directors;
- e) Further directors may be appointed by the Secretary of State.

In respect of those appointed by the Members, ((a), above) when a vacancy arises, the Members seek to make an appointment that would maximise the relevant skills and experience on the board as a whole.

##### Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of directors (trustees)

The training and induction provided for new trustees will depend on their existing experience. Where necessary, induction will provide training in charity, educational, legal and financial matters. All trustees are provided with the information needed (including policies, minutes, budgets, etc) to undertake their role as directors. The Trust also purchases the Governor Training run by the local authority for members of the local governing body as required.

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

### Organisational structure

The Benfleet Schools Trust is a Multi Academy Trust. It operates with a Board of Directors of the Multi Academy Trust and a local governing body for The Appleton School. The directors of Benfleet Schools Trust are responsible for the strategic direction of the school, appointment of the local governing body and senior management of the school. They have delegated all other responsibilities to the local governing body. To enable them to carry out these duties the directors meet at least four times a year to consider the strategic priorities of the Trust. The local governing body meets at least three times a year and has two committees.

- Standards, Staffing and Curriculum
- Finance, Estates and General Purposes

Both committees are formally constituted with terms of reference and comprise appropriately qualified and experienced members.

Day to day management of the company is undertaken by the Head Teacher supported by the Leadership Team. The Head Teacher is the Accounting Officer.

The Trust has no subsidiaries, joint ventures, or associates.

### Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The arrangements for setting the pay and remuneration of the key personnel are as follows:

Head Teacher of The Appleton School salary is set by the Benfleet Schools Trust at Board level.

Company Secretary of Benfleet Schools Trust salary is set by the Benfleet Schools Trust at Board level.

All other key personnel have salaries approved and set by the local governing body pay committee.

### **Trade Union Facility Time**

#### **Relevant union officials**

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
0	0

#### **Percentage of time spent on facility time**

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

#### **Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time**

Total Cost of facility time	£0
Total Pay bill	£7,934k
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	0%

#### **Paid trade union activities**

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours.	0%
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### Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

Benfleet Schools Trust is a sponsor and member of Takely Education Trust which operates the state funded academy known as Woodlands School.

# **BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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#### **Objectives and activities**

##### Objects and aims

The principal object of the company is the advancement of education in the United Kingdom. It achieves this object principally through the operation of The Appleton School, the aim being to provide the highest possible standard of education and pastoral care, maximising the life-chances of its students.

##### Objectives, strategies and activities

The principal object of the company is to advance for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom. It achieves this object through the operation of The Appleton School, providing a state education, free of charge, to pupils aged 11 to 18.

##### Public benefit

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

#### **Strategic report**

##### Achievements and performance

The school was judged to be good by Ofsted in February 2019. Standards in all indicators were judged to be good. The school continues to have attainment in line with national averages apart from 2022, which was below average at KS4 and in line with national averages at KS5.

The school has also had many sporting successes at district and county level as well as Young Enterprise and Performing Arts.

There are many enrichment opportunities at The Appleton School including trips to France, Germany, Austria and America.

##### Key Financial Performance Indicators

No key financial performance indicators have been set by the directors, beyond the requirement that the financial position should remain sufficient to fund future needs. The principal performance measures are non-financial; these are largely educational and pastoral plus retention of an amount equal to 5% of the annual grant.

##### Other Key Performance Indicators

The Appleton School is a good school. In 2022 69% achieved 9-4 GCSE's including English and Maths (this includes 2021 entries). 98% of students gained 5 GCSE's. In Sixth Form, 99% of students achieved A\*-E in their A level or equivalent qualifications, with 71% achieving A\*-C passes.

##### Going concern

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

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

### Financial review

We receive our income from a number of different sources. The majority of our income comes from central government via the Education and Skills Funding Agency who provide us with grant, based largely on our student numbers to cover our staffing and other general running costs (General Annual Grant - GAG). The ESFA may provide us with additional grants which are earmarked for specific purposes (such as Pupil Premium which must be used to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils). These appear in the accounts as DfE/ESFA grants. Where we receive grant or other funding from the Local Authority (such as where we undertake responsibilities on their behalf in respect of our students) this appears in the accounts as Other government grants. Such income is collectively referred to as "Restricted Funds". Other income is received from parents (for example as contributions to trip or other costs) and from third parties (for example from our bank for interest on our account balances or from others who are charged for their use of our facilities). Such other income may be restricted or unrestricted, depending on whether it comes to us with conditions as to its use or whether it is available for spending at the discretion of the trustees.

We hold funds in two broad categories, funds which are available for spending and other funds which are not available for spending. Spendable funds are in turn sub-categorised between those which are available for spending at the discretion of trustees ("Unrestricted Funds") and those which are subject to condition or restriction, ("Restricted Funds").

Funds not available for spending include the book value of fixed assets such as land, buildings and equipment. These have a value and are therefore included as assets in the accounts but clearly, we cannot spend this value. In common with all academies and Local Authorities, our share of the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit must also be reflected in our accounts and as this is not a conventional liability, it does not need to be deducted from spendable funds. We meet our obligations in respect of the LGPS by paying over pension contributions due as calculated by the scheme's actuaries.

The following balances held were held at 31 August:

Fund	Category	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
GAG	Restricted General Funds	42	12
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	Restricted General Funds	-	52
Other Government Grants	Restricted General Funds	-	-
Other Income	Restricted General Funds	-	-
<b>Sub-total General Restricted Funds</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>64</b>
Unspent Capital Grants	Restricted Fixed Asset Fund	-	21
Capital Salix/CIF Loans	Restricted Fixed Asset Fund	(73)	(99)
Other Income	Unrestricted General Fund	686	582
<b>Sub-Total Spendable Funds</b>		<b>655</b>	<b>568</b>
Net Book Value of Fixed Assets	Restricted Fixed Asset Fund	11,640	12,057
Share of LGPS Deficit	Restricted Pension Reserve	(780)	(5,012)
<b>Total All Funds</b>		<b>11,515</b>	<b>7,613</b>

During the year under review, there was an decrease of £22k (2021: increase of £215k) on the general restricted funds, an increase of £104k (2021: increase of £235k) on unrestricted funds and after actuarial gains, LGPS valuation adjustments, depreciation and capital income and expenditure, an increase on the total funds of £3,902k (2021: decrease of £953k).

### Reserves policy

Reserve levels are regularly monitored by Directors and Management to ensure that sufficient reserves are maintained to meet anticipated future needs while avoiding long term accumulation of excessive sums. A Reserves Policy of 5% of the annual General Income Grant has been approved by the Directors and will be reviewed annually.

# **BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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#### Investment Policy

There are no investments held beyond cash deposits retained with the major UK clearing banks. Speculative investments are not permitted.

#### **Principal Risks and Uncertainties**

The Directors have assessed the major risks to which the Academy is exposed, in particular those relating to academic performance/finances/child welfare. The Directors have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the Academy faces, and have developed policies and procedures to mitigate those risks. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The Academy has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement.

The risk management process has been codified in a risk register implemented by the Leadership Team and overseen by Directors. The major risks to which the academy trust is exposed are:

- Decline in funding due to fall in student numbers
- Fall in student numbers due to examination outcomes
- The academy falling into financial deficit due to major unforeseen expenditure
- Child protection failings
- IT security
- Risk of closure or service interruption in the event of unforeseen circumstances

Procedures to mitigate these risks:

- Academy heavily oversubscribed in each of the last few years with over 800 (2022, 2021 and 2020) students applying for 270 places, Open Evenings are advertised in local papers and at Primary Schools.
- Examination outcomes and risks closely monitored by the Leadership Team, Trustees and external reviewers. Students are tracked closely to ensure that they make satisfactory progress.
- Regular monitoring of income and expenditure is undertaken by the Leadership Team and is reported to and overseen by the Finance, Estates and General Purposes committee.
- Regular risk assessments for trips, all staff subject to DBS checks, visitors are accompanied while on-site if not DBS checked and regular training is provided to staff on child protection issues.
- IT security provisions are in place including new back up provisions. An IT disaster recovery plan is in place.
- A Business Continuity Plan is in place and provisions have been tested and refined by recent closures due to the Covid pandemic.

#### Other Financial Risks

As the nature of the financial instruments dealt with by the company is relatively simple (bank balances, debtors and "trade" creditors), trustees consider the associated risk in this area to be minimal.

The risk resulting from the company's share of the LGPS deficit is managed by following the advice of the scheme's actuaries, specifically as regards the level of contributions payable, ensuring that annual budgets are drawn up to reflect the actuary's advice.

#### **Our fundraising practices**

The trust and individual academies within it organise fundraising events and appeals and co-ordinate the activities of our supporters both in the academies and in the wider community on behalf of the trust. The trust does not use professional fundraisers or involve commercial participants.

There have been no complaints about fundraising activity this year. The trust complies with the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice. All fundraising is undertaken by the trust in a manner that seeks to ensure that it is not unreasonably intrusive or persistent. Contact is made through email, academy newsletters, our websites and via students. All fundraising material contains clear instructions on how a person can be removed from mailing lists.



# **BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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### **Plans for Future Periods**

- Plans to merge with Compass Education Trust to be part of a 4 secondary school MAT continue with a planned completion date of January 2023
- Governors wish to move to a PAN of 300 but this requires a capital build
- Capital bids submitted in to increase the number of general teaching spaces in the school but were unsuccessful on all occasions. This will continue to be resubmitted.
- Lagged impact of funding to be considered in budget planning.

### **Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others**

The Academy is the "banker school" holding funds on behalf of the Benfleet Teaching School Alliance. At 31 August 2022 £201k (2021: £203k) remains unspent and is held within deferred income.

### **Auditor**

In so far 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.

Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on ~~5th DECEMBER 2022~~ and signed on the Board's behalf by:



P Hillman.

Chair

# **BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST**

## **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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### **Scope of responsibility**

As trustees we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Benfleet Schools 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 the Head Teacher, as Accounting Officer (AO), 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 Benfleet Schools Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The AO is also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

### **Governance**

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

<b>Trustees</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of possible</b>
S Dignasse	4	4
J Fryer	2	4
P Hillman (Member, Chair)	4	4
S Johnson	3	4
K Lay	4	4
R Nolan	2	4
C Purdy	0	4

A Multi Academy Trust was established in February 2015 and became operational in April 2015. At Trust level the members include a recently retired head teacher to advise on educational matters and a chartered accountant to strengthen the financial oversight at trust level.

### **Conflict of interest**

The board of trustees maintain an up-to-date and complete register of interests that includes trustees, governors, the leadership team and those with budgetary responsibility. This is held centrally and will be referred to when new suppliers are set up and at other times when potential conflicts have the potential to arise.

### **Governance reviews:**

The board of trustees carry out a self-assessment annually and also commissioned an independent review of governance as part of the internal scrutiny review in 2020/21. All recommendations from the external review have been actioned.

The Finance, Estates and General Purposes Committee is a sub-committee of the Local Governing Body of The Appleton School to which the main board of trustees has delegated responsibility. Its purpose is:

- Regular monitoring of actual income and expenditure
- Review and recommendation of the annual budget
- Review the reports of the auditors on the effectiveness of the financial procedures and controls

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Attendance at meetings of the Finance, Estates and General Purposes Committee during the year was as follows:

	Meetings attended	Out of possible
P Hillman (Chair of Committee)	2	3
S Cox	3	3
B Tshabuluka (resigned 12 May 22)	0	2
M Titheradge	3	3
L Smith	2	3
M Gordea	2	3
B Apejoye	0	3
C Little	3	3

#### Review of Value for Money

As accounting officer the head teacher has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

- The School has been judged as good by OFSTED in February 2019 giving good value for money. The school results at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 were graded good by OFSTED in 2019.

#### The purpose of the system of internal control

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

#### Capacity to handle risk

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

#### The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;
- regular reviews by the finance, estates and general purposes committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has appointed Juniper to conduct a programme of internal assurance work. Juniper reported to the Trustees on the operation of the systems of control and compliance checks carried out included:

- Review of payroll
- Review of cyber security

The Governing Body are satisfied that the internal assurance function has been fully delivered in line with the Education and Skills Funding Agency's requirements. No material control issues have been notified to the Governors as a result of the internal audit work.

### Review of effectiveness

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

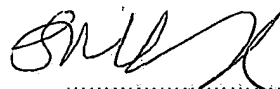
- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 5 DECEMBER 22 and signed on its behalf by:



P Hillman  
Chair



S Cox  
Head Teacher & Accounting Officer

## **BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST**

### **STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

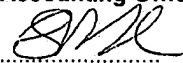
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As accounting officer of Benfleet Schools Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the Academy Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2021.

I confirm that I and the Academy Trust's Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Academy Trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2021.

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.

S Cox  
Accounting Officer



5 DECEMBER 22

# **BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST**

## **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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The trustees (who are also the directors of Benfleet Schools Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the Financial Statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

In preparing these Financial Statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the Financial Statements; 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 that grants received from ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 5.12.22 and signed on its behalf by:



P Hillman  
Chair

# **BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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### **Opinion**

We have audited the Financial Statements of Benfleet Schools Trust for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the Financial Statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the Financial Statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2022 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;
- 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 the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022.

### **Basis for opinion**

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

### **Emphasis of matter 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.

Attention is drawn to the disclosure within note 25 regarding the company's cessation of operations during the academic year 2022/23 and transfer of operations, activities, assets and liabilities to Compass Education Trust, a multi-academy trust. Otherwise based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any other material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

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

### **Other information**

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# **BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

- the information given in the Trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the Financial Statements are prepared is consistent with the Financial Statements; and
- the Trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

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

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

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

### **Responsibilities of Trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the Financial Statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of Financial Statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the Financial Statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Statements**

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

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

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of management to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing internal assurance reports.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

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



# **BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST**

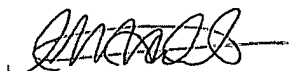
## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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### **Use of our report**

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



**Louise Hallsworth FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of Baxter & Co**

**14 December 2022**  
.....

**Chartered Certified Accountants  
Statutory Auditor**

**Lynwood House  
Crofton Road  
Orpington  
Kent  
BR6 8QE**

# **BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST**

## **INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022***

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 13 May 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Benfleet Schools Trust during the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 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 Benfleet Schools Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Benfleet Schools Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Benfleet Schools Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

### **Respective responsibilities of Benfleet Schools Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Benfleet Schools Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 April 2011 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2021, 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 2021 to 2022. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 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:

- Review of payments to staff;
- Review of payments to suppliers and other third parties;
- Review of grant and other income streams;
- Review of some key financial control procedures;
- Discussions with finance staff;
- Consideration of the record maintained by the Accounting Officer of the oversight they have exercised;
- Consideration of the programme of internal scrutiny implemented by the Academy Trust in order to comply with its obligations under 3.1 of the Academy Trust Handbook 2021, issued by the ESFA.

# **BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST**

## **INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022***

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### **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 period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

*Baxter & Co.*

### **Reporting Accountant**

Baxter & Co  
Lynwood House  
Crofton Road  
Orpington  
Kent  
BR6 8QE

Dated: 14 December 2022

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds:		Total 2022	Total 2021
	Notes	£'000	General	Fixed asset	£'000	£'000
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	10	-	32	42	153
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	439	9,231	-	9,670	9,496
- BTSA Partnership	4	-	203	-	203	269
Other trading activities	5	90	-	-	90	32
<b>Total</b>		<u>539</u>	<u>9,434</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>10,005</u>	<u>9,950</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	6	-	9	-	9	7
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	435	9,518	644	10,597	10,324
- BTSA Partnership	8	-	203	-	203	269
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<u>435</u>	<u>9,730</u>	<u>644</u>	<u>10,809</u>	<u>10,600</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		104	(296)	(612)	(804)	(650)
Transfers between funds	18	-	(200)	200	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	20	-	4,706	-	4,706	(303)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		104	4,210	(412)	3,902	(953)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward		582	(4,948)	11,979	7,613	8,566
Total funds carried forward		<u>686</u>	<u>(738)</u>	<u>11,567</u>	<u>11,515</u>	<u>7,613</u>

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2021		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds:		Total 2021
	Notes	£'000	General	Fixed asset	£'000
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and capital grants	3	11	-	142	153
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	306	9,190	-	9,496
- BTSA Partnership	4	-	269	-	269
Other trading activities	5	32	-	-	32
<b>Total</b>		<u>349</u>	<u>9,459</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>9,950</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	6	-	7	-	7
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	114	9,559	651	10,324
- BTSA Partnership	8	-	269	-	269
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<u>114</u>	<u>9,835</u>	<u>651</u>	<u>10,600</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		235	(376)	(509)	(650)
Transfers between funds	18	-	208	(208)	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>					
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	20	-	(303)	-	(303)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		235	(471)	(717)	(953)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>347</u>	<u>(4,477)</u>	<u>12,696</u>	<u>8,566</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>582</u>	<u>(4,948)</u>	<u>11,979</u>	<u>7,613</u>

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

		2022	2021
	Notes	£'000	£'000
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	12	11,640	12,057
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	14	14	14
Debtors	13	319	249
Cash at bank and in hand		1,063	861
		<u>1,396</u>	<u>1,124</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(693)	(482)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>703</u>	<u>642</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>12,343</u>	<u>12,699</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16	(48)	(74)
<b>Net assets before defined benefit pension scheme liability</b>		<u>12,295</u>	<u>12,625</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	20	(780)	(5,012)
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u>11,515</u>	<u>7,613</u>
<b>Funds of the Academy Trust:</b>			
<b>Restricted funds</b>	18		
- Fixed asset funds		11,567	11,979
- Restricted income funds		42	64
- Pension reserve		(780)	(5,012)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>		<u>10,829</u>	<u>7,031</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	18	<u>686</u>	<u>582</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<u>11,515</u>	<u>7,613</u>

The Financial Statements on pages 18 to 43 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 5.12.22 and are signed on their behalf by:



P Hillman  
Chair

Company registration number 07561574

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

		2022		2021	
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Net cash provided by operating activities	21		423		195
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>					
Capital grants from DfE Group		32		142	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(227)		(95)	
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities</b>			(195)		47
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>					
Repayment of long term bank loan		(26)		(26)	
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>			(26)		(26)
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>			202		216
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			861		645
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year</b>			<u>1,063</u>		<u>861</u>

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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### 1 Accounting policies

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

#### 1.1 Basis of preparation

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 Financial Statements 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 2021 to 2022 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

#### 1.2 Going concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, ie whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable 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.

#### 1.3 Income

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

##### Grants

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period 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 recognised when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended.

##### Donations

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

##### Other income

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



# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are 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.

#### 1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £5,000 or more per item (or less if they form part of a larger purchase or project where the total cost exceeds £25,000) are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding that require 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. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired / funded by other income, the fixed asset fund is also credited. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold land and buildings	2% Straight Line
Computer equipment	20% Straight Line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	10% - 15% Straight Line
Motor vehicles	10% Straight Line

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

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.6 Liabilities

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

#### 1.7 Leased assets

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

#### 1.8 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. 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. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition.

Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

#### 1.9 Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is based on estimated selling price less further costs to completion and disposal. Provision is made for obsolete and slow moving stock.

#### 1.10 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.

#### 1.11 Pensions 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 and the assets and the liabilities are held separately from those of the Academy Trust.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Academy Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary based on quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. The 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 are recognised in the period to which they relate.

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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 or 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.

#### 1.12 Fund accounting

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

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

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

#### 1.13 Agency arrangements

Where the Academy Trust acts as agent in collecting and / or distributing from the ESFA or others, and subsequent disbursements are excluded from the Statement of Financial Activities as the Trust does not have control over charitable application of the funds. The funds received and paid, and any balances held are disclosed in note 27.

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

#### Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 20, will impact on 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.

#### Critical areas of judgement

In preparing these Financial Statements, the Trustees have not needed to exercise any subjective judgements that would be critical to the Academy Trust's Financial Statements.

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

### 3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Capital grants	-	32	32	142
Other donations	10	-	10	11
	<u>10</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>153</u>

### 4 Funding for the Academy Trust's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	8,549	8,549	8,087
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- Pupil premium	-	250	250	231
- Others	-	219	219	528
	<u>-</u>	<u>9,018</u>	<u>9,018</u>	<u>8,846</u>
<b>Other government grants</b>				
Local authority grants	-	123	123	144
	<u>-</u>	<u>123</u>	<u>123</u>	<u>144</u>
<b>COVID-19 additional funding</b>				
<b>DfE/ESFA</b>				
Catch-up premium	-	36	36	112
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	35	35	33
<b>Non-DfE/ESFA</b>				
Coronavirus job retention scheme grant	-	-	-	19
Other COVID-19 funding	-	11	11	36
	<u>-</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>200</u>
<b>Other funding</b>				
BTSA Partnership income	-	203	203	269
Catering income	334	-	334	196
Other incoming resources	105	8	113	110
	<u>439</u>	<u>211</u>	<u>650</u>	<u>575</u>
<b>Total funding</b>	<u>439</u>	<u>9,434</u>	<u>9,873</u>	<u>9,765</u>

The Academy Trust has been eligible to claim additional funding in the year from government support schemes in response to the Coronavirus outbreak. The funding received is shown above under "COVID-19 additional funding". The funding received for coronavirus exceptional support covers £82k of staff and other costs. These costs are included in notes 6 and 7 below as appropriate.

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

### 5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Hire of facilities	67	-	67	24
Income from facilities and services	3	-	3	8
Other income	20	-	20	-
	<u>90</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>32</u>

### 6 Expenditure

	Staff costs £'000	Non-pay expenditure Premises £'000	Other £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	-	-	9	9	7
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	6,819	515	700	8,034	8,049
- Allocated support costs	1,359	711	493	2,563	2,275
BTSA Partnership					
- Direct costs	-	-	188	188	258
- Allocated support costs	-	-	15	15	11
	<u>8,178</u>	<u>1,226</u>	<u>1,405</u>	<u>10,809</u>	<u>10,600</u>

### Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	8	8
- Other services	8	7
Operating lease rentals	8	21
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	644	651
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	80	67

### 7 Central services

The company's Articles of Association enable it to operate as a Multi Academy Trust. No new academies joined the trust during the year, therefore all of the above expenditure relates exclusively to The Appleton School. On this basis, no central services were charged during the year.

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

### 8 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
<b>Direct costs</b>				
Educational operations	242	7,792	8,034	8,049
BTSA Partnership	-	188	188	258
<b>Support costs</b>				
Educational operations	193	2,370	2,563	2,275
BTSA Partnership	-	15	15	11
	<u>435</u>	<u>10,365</u>	<u>10,800</u>	<u>10,593</u>

	BTSA Partnership £'000	Educational operations £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
<b>Analysis of costs</b>				
<b>Direct costs</b>				
Teaching and educational support staff costs	-	6,819	6,819	7,005
Staff development	-	28	28	9
Depreciation	-	515	515	521
Technology costs	-	43	43	37
Educational supplies and services	188	435	623	554
Examination fees	-	154	154	119
Educational consultancy	-	-	-	6
Other direct costs	-	40	40	56
	<u>188</u>	<u>8,034</u>	<u>8,222</u>	<u>8,307</u>
<b>Support costs</b>				
Support staff costs	-	965	965	959
Defined benefit pension scheme - staff costs (FRS102 adjustment)	-	394	394	316
Depreciation	-	129	129	130
Technology costs	-	71	71	47
Maintenance of premises and equipment	-	143	143	127
Cleaning	-	188	188	173
Energy costs	-	147	147	140
Rent, rates and other occupancy costs	-	66	66	59
Insurance	-	38	38	37
Catering	-	193	193	121
Defined benefit pension scheme - finance costs (FRS102 adjustment)	-	80	80	67
Other support costs	15	132	147	95
Governance costs	-	17	17	15
	<u>15</u>	<u>2,563</u>	<u>2,578</u>	<u>2,286</u>

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

### 9 Staff

#### Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Wages and salaries	5,711	5,916
Social security costs	597	577
Pension costs	1,232	1,296
Defined benefit pension scheme – staff costs (FRS102 adjustment)	394	316
Staff costs - employees	7,934	8,105
Agency staff costs	244	175
Total staff expenditure	8,178	8,280

#### Staff numbers

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

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Teachers	97	99
Administration and support	113	126
Management	10	10
	220	235

The number of persons employed, expressed as a full time equivalent, was as follows:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Teachers	90	91
Administration and support	53	59
Management	10	10
	153	160

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

### 9 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 Number	2021 Number
£60,000 - £70,000	4	3
£70,001 - £80,000	1	-
£80,001 - £90,000	-	2
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-
£130,001 - £140,000	-	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 £841,010 (2021: £964,657).

### 10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no payments were reimbursed or paid directly any trustees in respect of costs incurred in the performance of their duties of employment.

Other related party transactions involving the Trustees are set out within the related parties note.

### 11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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 Trust 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.



# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

### 12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £'000	Computer equipment £'000	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £'000	Motor vehicles £'000	Total £'000
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 September 2021	15,767	122	1,249	24	17,162
Additions	132	-	95	-	227
At 31 August 2022	15,899	122	1,344	24	17,389
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 September 2021	4,339	117	635	14	5,105
Charge for the year	530	5	107	2	644
At 31 August 2022	4,869	122	742	16	5,749
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 August 2022	11,030	-	602	8	11,640
At 31 August 2021	11,428	5	614	10	12,057

Freehold land and buildings include land of £1,894k which is not depreciated.

### 13 Debtors

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Trade debtors	2	5
VAT recoverable	166	27
Prepayments and accrued income	151	217
	319	249

### 14 Stocks

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Stores of catering, stationery and uniform supplies	14	14

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

### 15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Government loans	25	25
Trade creditors	237	129
ESFA creditors	3	-
Other creditors	139	240
Accruals and deferred income	289	88
	<u>693</u>	<u>482</u>

### 16 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Government loans	<u>48</u>	<u>74</u>
<b>Analysis of loans</b>	<b>2022 £'000</b>	<b>2021 £'000</b>
Wholly repayable within five years	73	99
Less: included in current liabilities	<u>(25)</u>	<u>(25)</u>
Amounts included above	<u>48</u>	<u>74</u>
<b>Loan maturity</b>		
Debt due in one year or less	25	25
Due in more than one year but not more than two years	25	25
Due in more than two years but not more than five years	23	49
	<u>73</u>	<u>99</u>

In 2016/17 the trust acquired a Salix Loan for £104,000 as part of the funding for a boiler replacement project. The loan is interest free repayable over 8 years commencing from 2017/18.

A further CIF loan was granted in 2018/19 for £73,250. This loan is repayable over 6 years commencing in 2019/20 at an interest rate of 1.61%.

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

### 17 Deferred income

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	103	23
	<u>103</u>	<u>23</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2021	23	300
Released from previous years	(23)	(300)
Resources deferred in the year	103	23
	<u>103</u>	<u>23</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2022	103	23

Deferred income above relates to rates income of £19k (2021: £nil), trips and activities income of £85k (2021: £nil) and unspent swim school receipts in advance of £nil (2021: £23k).

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

### 18 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £'000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	12	8,549	(8,319)	(200)	42
Pupil premium	52	250	(302)	-	-
Catch-up premium	-	36	(36)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	35	(35)	-	-
Other Coronavirus funding	-	11	(11)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	219	(219)	-	-
Other government grants	-	123	(123)	-	-
BTSA Partnership	-	203	(203)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	8	(8)	-	-
Pension reserve	(5,012)	-	(474)	4,706	(780)
	<u>(4,948)</u>	<u>9,434</u>	<u>(9,730)</u>	<u>4,506</u>	<u>(738)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited on conversion	7,065	-	(370)	-	6,695
DfE group capital grants	4,012	32	(177)	-	3,867
Capital expenditure from GAG	880	-	(96)	200	984
Private sector capital sponsorship	22	-	(1)	-	21
	<u>11,979</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>(644)</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>11,567</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>7,031</u>	<u>9,466</u>	<u>(10,374)</u>	<u>4,706</u>	<u>10,829</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	<u>582</u>	<u>539</u>	<u>(435)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>686</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>7,613</u>	<u>10,005</u>	<u>(10,809)</u>	<u>4,706</u>	<u>11,515</u>

# **BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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### **18 Funds**

**(Continued)**

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

The Restricted General Funds are used to fund the general operating costs of the Academy.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2022.

The Restricted LGPS Fund represents the Academy's share of the LGPS Pension Fund deficit.

The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund represents the net book value of fixed assets £11,640k (2021: £12,057k) plus the unspent element of Capital funds £nil (2021: £22k), less the balance on capital (Salix/CIF) loans of £73.5k (2021: £99k). When assets are purchased and/or the loan is repaid, the fund is increased and depreciation charges reduce the fund.

Unrestricted Funds represent balances held at period end that can be applied at the discretion of the Governors, to support any of the Academy's charitable purposes.

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

### 18 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2021 £'000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	(151)	8,087	(8,132)	208	12
Pupil premium	-	231	(179)	-	52
Catch-up premium	-	112	(112)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	33	(33)	-	-
Coronavirus job retention scheme grant	-	19	(19)	-	-
Other Coronavirus funding	-	36	(36)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	528	(528)	-	-
Other government grants	-	144	(144)	-	-
BTSA Partnership	-	269	(269)	-	-
Pension reserve	(4,326)	-	(383)	(303)	(5,012)
	<u>(4,477)</u>	<u>9,459</u>	<u>(9,835)</u>	<u>(95)</u>	<u>(4,948)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited on conversion	7,435	-	(370)	-	7,065
DfE group capital grants	4,332	142	(176)	(286)	4,012
Capital expenditure from GAG	906	-	(104)	78	880
Private sector capital sponsorship	23	-	(1)	-	22
	<u>12,696</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>(651)</u>	<u>(208)</u>	<u>11,979</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>8,219</u>	<u>9,601</u>	<u>(10,486)</u>	<u>(303)</u>	<u>7,031</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	<u>347</u>	<u>349</u>	<u>(114)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>582</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>8,566</u>	<u>9,950</u>	<u>(10,600)</u>	<u>(303)</u>	<u>7,613</u>

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

### 18 Funds

(Continued)

#### Total funds analysis by academy

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 were allocated as follows:		
The Appleton School	728	646
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	728	646
Restricted fixed asset fund	11,567	11,979
Pension reserve	(780)	(5,012)
Total funds	11,515	7,613

The company's Articles of Association enable it to operate as a Multi Academy Trust. No new academies joined the trust during the year, therefore all funds quoted above relate exclusively to The Appleton School.

#### Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff £'000	Other support staff costs £'000	Educational supplies £'000	Other costs excluding depreciation £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
The Appleton School	6,819	1,359	623	1,364	10,165	9,949
	6,819	1,359	623	1,364	10,165	9,949

### 19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	11,640	11,640
Current assets	686	710	-	1,396
Current liabilities	-	(668)	(25)	(693)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(48)	(48)
Pension scheme liability	-	(780)	-	(780)
Total net assets	686	(738)	11,567	11,515

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

### 19 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	12,057	12,057
Current assets	483	620	21	1,124
Current liabilities	99	(482)	(99)	(482)
Non-current liabilities	-	(74)	-	(74)
Pension scheme liability	-	(5,012)	-	(5,012)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>(4,948)</b>	<b>11,979</b>	<b>7,613</b>

### 20 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 Essex County Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

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

#### Teachers' Pension Scheme

##### Introduction

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 academy trusts. All teachers have the option to opt out of the TPS following enrolment.

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

##### Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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



# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

#### 20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer 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. The 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 the TPS in the period amounted to £934K (2021: £986K).

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

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

#### Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 25% for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% for employees.

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

Total contributions made	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Employer's contributions	298	309
Employees' contributions	74	76
Total contributions	372	385
Principal actuarial assumptions	2022 %	2021 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.95	3.90
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.95	2.90
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.25	1.65
RPI Increase	3.25	3.20
CPI Increase	2.95	2.90

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

### 20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2022 Years	2021 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.00	21.60
- Females	23.50	23.60
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.30	22.90
- Females	24.90	25.10

Scheme liabilities would have been affected by changes in assumptions as follows:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Discount rate + 0.1%	5,324	9,169
Discount rate - 0.1%	5,593	9,645
Mortality assumption + 1 year	5,621	9,789
Mortality assumption - 1 year	5,298	9,035
Salary rate + 0.1%	5,467	9,426
Salary rate - 0.1%	5,447	9,383
Pension rate + 0.1%	5,585	9,620
Pension rate - 0.1%	5,332	9,193

Defined benefit pension scheme net liability	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Scheme assets	4,677	4,392
Scheme obligations	(5,457)	(9,404)
Net liability	(780)	(5,012)

The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2022 Fair value £'000	2021 Fair value £'000
Equities	2,632	2,812
Gilts	90	111
Other Bonds	207	204
Cash	140	122
Property	443	307
Other assets	1,165	836
Total market value of assets	4,677	4,392

The actual return on scheme assets was £11,000 (2021: £789,000).

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

### 20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Current service cost	690	623
Interest income	(75)	(55)
Interest cost	155	122
Administration expenses	2	2
Total operating charge	<u>772</u>	<u>692</u>
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations		2022 £'000
At 1 September 2021		9,404
Current service cost		690
Interest cost		155
Employee contributions		74
Actuarial (gain)/loss		(4,770)
Benefits paid		(96)
At 31 August 2022		<u>5,457</u>
Changes in the fair value of the Academy Trust's share of scheme assets		2022 £'000
At 1 September 2021		4,392
Interest income		75
Actuarial loss/(gain)		(64)
Employer contributions		298
Employee contributions		74
Benefits paid		(96)
Administration expenses		(2)
At 31 August 2022		<u>4,677</u>

# BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

### 21 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	Notes	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(804)	(650)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(32)	(142)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	20	394	316
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	20	80	67
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		644	651
(Increase) in stocks		-	(10)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(70)	69
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		211	(106)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>		<b>423</b>	<b>195</b>

### 22 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2021 £'000	Cash flows £'000	31 August 2022 £'000
Cash	861	202	1,063
Loans falling due within one year	(25)	-	(25)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(74)	26	(48)
	<b>762</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>990</b>

### 23 Long-term commitments

#### Operating leases

At 31 August 2022 the total of the Academy Trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Amounts due within one year	6	10
Amounts due in two and five years	12	17
	<b>18</b>	<b>27</b>

# **BENFLEET SCHOOLS TRUST**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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### **24 Related party transactions**

Owing to the nature of the Academy Trust's operations 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 Trustees have an interest.

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 8.

All transactions are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the ESFA's Academy Trust Handbook 2021.

### **25 Post balance sheet events**

The operations and activities and the assets and liabilities of Benfleet Schools Trust will be transferred into the Compass Education Trust, an academy trust (company number 07666213, registered in England and Wales) for £nil consideration. The date of transfer is in the process of being confirmed and is expected to be in the academic year 2022/23.

### **26 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.

### **27 Agency arrangements**

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2022 the trust had an opening balance of £36,309 (2021: £nil), received £17,654 (2021: £17,156) and disbursed £16,980 (2021: £9,647) from the fund. An amount of £36,983 (2021: £36,309) is included within creditors: amounts falling due within one year.