

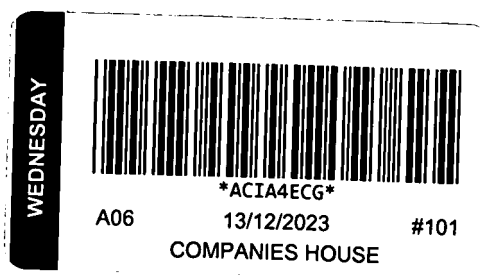
**Company Registration Number:
07988540 (England and Wales)**

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023



WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Contents

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	3
Governance Statement	17
Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance	20
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	21
Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements	22
Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity	26
Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income & Expenditure Account	28
Balance Sheet	29
Statement of Cash Flows	30
Notes to the Financial Statements	31

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Reference and Administrative Details

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Members	J Hayes	
	K Porter	(Resigned 27 March 2023)
	J Ekiert	(Appointed 25 March 2022)
	S Morrison	(Appointed 30 November 2023)
	J Tackley	(Appointed 30 November 2023)

Trustees	J Hayes	(Co-Chair)*
	J Ekiert	(Co-Chair & Chair of Finance)*
	K Porter	(Resigned 27 March 2023)
	Z Rayner	
	S Fawcett	(Staff)
	L Hall	(Staff)*
	K Firth	
	L Claxton	(Staff)
	S Simms	
	H Wright	(Appointed 01 December 2022)
	C Turner	(Appointed 01 December 2022)
	K Fuller*	(Appointed 01 December 2022)

Company Secretary S Kavanagh

Clerk to Governing Body S Kavanagh

Senior Managers:

• Headteacher	L Hall
• Deputy Headteacher	V Litchfield
• Deputy Headteacher	R Pritchard

Senior Leadership Team:

• HoD Lower School	V Litchfield
• HoD Upper School	J Wild
• DSL/Behaviour Lead	R Pritchard
• Inclusion Co-ordinator	L Baldwin
• Family Support Worker	A Linnell
• School Business Manager	S Kavanagh

Company Name Woolgrove School Special Needs Academy

Principle and Registered Office Woolgrove School Special Needs Academy
Pyror Way
Letchworth Garden City
Hertfordshire
SG6 2PT

Company Registration Number 07988540 (England and Wales)

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Reference and Administrative Details (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Independent Auditor	Mercer & Hole LLP Chartered Accountants Silbury Court 420 Silbury Boulevard Central Milton Keynes MK9 2AF
---------------------	--

Bankers	Lloyds TSB Bank plc 4 Station Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3BH
---------	---

Surveyors	Wilby & Burnett Provident House 123 Ashdon Road Essex CB10 2AJ
-----------	--

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 August 2023

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

The trust operates an academy for Special Needs pupils aged 4 to 11 serving a catchment area of North Hertfordshire and Stevenage and also the surrounding counties of Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire. The school is funded for 125 pupil capacity. In the January 2022 census the school had 125 children on roll. ESFA funding was 116 pupils and an expansion payment for 9 pupils paid by Hertfordshire County Council.

The Academy Trust's principal object and activity has been to maintain, manage and develop a school organised to make educational provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs including Learning Difficulties (LD), Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Speech Language & Communication Needs (SLCN) & a variety of syndromes. Our vision is for everyone, pupils and staff, to reach their potential and to encourage the highest aspirations in all. We aim to "Live, Laugh and Learn Together."

Structure, Governance and Management

a. 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 Woolgrove School, Special Needs Academy are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. Details of the Trustees who served during the Period are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1. The Charitable Company is known as Woolgrove School, Special Needs Academy.

b. 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.

c. Trustees' Indemnities

The Academy Trust maintains Governors' and officers' liability insurance which gives appropriate cover for any legal action brought against its Governors. The Academy Trust has also granted indemnities to each of its Governors and other officers to the extent permitted by law. Qualifying third party indemnity provisions (as defined by section 234 of the Companies Act 2006) were in force during the period and remain in force, in relation to certain losses and liabilities which the Governors or other officers may incur to third parties in the course of acting as Governors or officers of the Academy Trust.

Details of the insurance cover are provided in the financial statements.

d. Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

Members of the Governing Body are either elected or appointed. Confidential ballot elections are held and overseen by the Company Secretary. Nominations for Staff Governors are taken from within the school. Nominations for Community Governors are welcomed from existing members of the Board. Nominations for Parent Governors are welcomed from existing parents or guardians within the school. The Chair and Head teacher are in a position to recommend appointments directly to the Board.

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Trustees' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2023

d. Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees (continued)

The Instrument of Government provides for a Governing Body consisting of:

- 1 Head teacher
- 4 Parent Governors
- 2 Staff Governors
- 1 Local Authority Governor
- 8 Community Governors
- 3 Co-opted Governors

e. Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new governors depends on their previous experience. All new members are provided with induction pack detailing information relating specifically to the Academy, including previous minutes, policies, details of staffing and future plans. Formal induction training is provided by Herts Governance. The Academy subscribes to Herts Governance and further continuous training on educational, legal and financial matters is offered to all members.

f. Organisational Structure

The structure of the Academy consists of three senior levels: the Academy Trust (Member Governors), the Board of Governors and the Senior Leadership Team. An aim of the management structure is to distribute responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Governing Body is responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget monitoring of the Academy. It can make major decisions regarding the direction of the Academy, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The Academy Trust Member Governors consist of a maximum of six members of the Governing Body, normally consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee Chairs. They are nominated and appointed by the Governing Body. For the year to 31st August 2023 the Member Governors were Co-Chair (John Hayes) and Chair of the Personnel & Parental Support Committee and Vice Chair (Kate Firth), Chair of the Curriculum & Quality Committee (Karen Porter and Stephen Simms) and Chair of the Finance, Remuneration, Audit & Premises Committee and Co-Chair (Julian Ekiert). They control the Academy at an executive level, implementing the policies laid down by the Governing Body.

The Senior Leadership Team for the year to 31st August 2023 has included the Head teacher, Deputy Heads, Heads of the EYFS/Semi Formal 1 and Semi-Formal 2/Formal Departments, Designated Safeguarding Lead/Behaviour Lead, Inclusion Co-ordinator, the Family Support Worker and the Academy's Business Manager. The Senior Leadership Team is responsible for the day to day operation of the Academy, in particular organising the teaching staff, facilities and pupils. The Head teacher is the accounting officer for the Academy responsible for the financial position of the school delegated on a day to day basis to the Academy Business Manager. Spending is delegated to individual budget holders and the school's schedule of financial delegation details the cheque signatories required and the limits above which a second signature is needed.

g. Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Head teacher and Deputy Heads are paid in line with the Leadership Scale outlined in the teachers' pay and conditions document. The trustees have the power to set the salary range based on these scales. The headteacher's salary is agreed each year by the Finance & Remuneration Committee following a performance management review carried out in conjunction with the HIP (Hertfordshire Improvement Partner), the teachers on the Senior Leadership Team are paid an additional TLR point to reward the additional responsibilities of the role. All salaries are reviewed annually following performance management reviews.

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Trustees' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2023

h. Trade Union Facility Time

During the 2022/23 year Woolgrove had no members of staff who act as trade union official employed within the school.

i. Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

Woolgrove School, Special Needs Academy (Charity Number EW19796) works alongside "FOW -Friends of Woolgrove" (Charity Number 1198782) to raise funds for the benefit of pupils and support their wider education. They also raise funds to enhance the pupils' environment and experiences. FOW have a strong committee who meet regularly and run events to raise money. These include Christmas and Summer Fairs, raffles, Dress Down Days and Easter Egg Hunt. In addition to events the FOW had several donations from parents/ carers and members of the local community which assisted in raising more funds. FOW were lucky to receive another donation from Richard Barr who rode a Penny Farthing around London across 20 bridges to raise money for a number of Charity's. Richard is a regular supporter of the school. The FOW committee has grown in numbers and the events are well supported by the school community.

Objectives and Activities

a. Objects and aims

Woolgrove School seeks to respond positively to the challenge of change and build on its reputation for successful innovation in special education by:

- Being a self-evaluating school as a means of constantly improving the quality of education and raising pupils' achievements
- Providing an appropriate education for all pupils whatever their individual difficulties and needs so that each child feels valued and able to achieve
- Continuing to ensure Continuing Professional Development is given a high profile in order to develop staff expertise and raise standards
- Expanding the identity of Woolgrove School, Special Needs Academy catering for pupils with autism, speech & language difficulties, learning difficulties and a wide variety of other special educational needs
- Working in partnership with mainstream schools and Greenside School to develop the Outreach Service and meaningful integration projects promoting inclusion and benefitting all pupils
- Working in partnership with other mainstream and special schools, both within the County and beyond, in order to raise standards
- Ensuring provision includes extra-curricular activities which pupils find engaging, supportive, and fun
- Keep informed of current research in the field of SEND, considering evidence produced and assessing the relevance to pupils within Woolgrove so that appropriate improvements in provision may be implemented

b. Objectives, Strategies and Activities

Woolgrove is a thriving, energetic, family orientated learning environment. Our pupils' achievements are remarkable in so many different ways that parents, visitors and colleagues make comment. The school's happy and flourishing context is created by the dedicated staff who work as a thoughtful, caring team supporting each other to provide the best education for our pupils. Pupils in turn behave well because they understand the clear rules and boundaries which are put in place to keep everyone safe and achieving.

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Trustees' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2023

c. Public Benefit

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

Woolgrove School is an Academy converter catering for children aged 4 to 11 and strives to promote and support the advancement of education within the Hertfordshire area.

The school provides an extensive programme of educational and recreational activities to develop the children's experiences such as regular swimming lessons at the local leisure centre, visits to the theatre, cinema and local farms. As Government restrictions have been lifted these activities, which has been previously suspended, have now been reintroduced. These include weekly swimming sessions at the local swimming pool in Letchworth, as well as trips out to the local area including parks, shops and libraries.

Normally the school works with the North Herts Schools Sports Partnership engaging in sporting events throughout the year. North Herts Sports Partnership have delivered sessions with the pupils on cycling at school and all the Year 6 pupils went to Stanborough Lakes and carried out some water sports activities. Woolgrove School will continue to work with the North Herts Schools Sports Partnership.

The formal Year 6 pupils went away for a residential week to Wymondley Woods and enjoyed a number of activities. The semi formal and pre formal Year 6 pupils enjoyed an activity week which was non residential with daily activities which were both on the school site and also off site. This was financially supported by the Letchworth Civic Trust and Hertfordshire Educational Foundation.

Staff and pupils engage in a number of charity days to raise money for others for example, Children In Need, Wear Pink for Breast Cancer and Comic Relief. Wherever possible the school also aims to contribute to the benefit of the wider public, by making available the premises to third parties for the provision of educational and other opportunities..

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The Trustees believe that the Academy Trust's aims, together with the activities outlined above, are demonstrably to the public benefit.

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance 2022-2023

All the pupils are working below age related expectations.

This year our assessment system was changed and is based on the Birth to Five Ranges, Early Years Outcomes and the National Curriculum. All children follow the same assessment system. We continued using personalised targets across the school. All children were put into a Progress Group identifying how much progress was expected across the year. There were 5 Progress Groups, with 1 relating to the children who we expected to make 5-10% progress, Group 2 to make 10-25%, Group 3 25-50%, Group 4 50-100% and Group 5 over 100%.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) – Reception age pupils (6 children)

- 33% of the children were girls (2 children) and 67% boys (4 children)
- 17% were Pupil Premium
- 67% of the children had a diagnosis of an ASC
- 34% were Black or Ethnic Minority and 34% had English as an additional language
- The children's baselines identified that 67% were working within Range 1 to 4 across all areas and 33% were working between ranges 3-5
- Attainment in July 2023 showed that 100% were working within Range 3-6 across all areas

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Trustees' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Achievements and Performance (continued)

% met or exceeded target

	Maths Core	Position and Direction	Shape	Pattern	Measures	Composition	Handwriting	Comprehension	Phonics (Writing/spelling)	Phonics (reading/phonics)	C&L (listening)	C&L (speaking)
EYFS	66	100	83	66	100	100	100	100	0	100	100	100
BEM	100	100	100	50	100	100	100	100	0	100	100	100
ASD	50	100	100	75	100	100	100	100	0	100	100	100
PP	0	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	0	100	100	100

Strengths

- Composition
- Handwriting
- Comprehension
- Speaking and Listening

Areas of Development

- Maths Core
- Pattern
- Phonics – writing

Whole School (119 children) NOT including EYFS Reception age pupils

- 82% of the children were boys
- 18% of the children were girls
- 42% were Pupil Premium
- 62% of the children had a diagnosis of an ASD
- 4% of the children had a diagnosis of Down's Syndrome
- 19% were Black or Ethnic Minority and 9% were EAL
- 6% were non subject specific learners

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Trustees' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Achievements and Performance (continued)

% met or exceeded target

Class	Maths Core	Position and Direction	Shape	Pattern	Measures	Composition	Handwriting	Comprehension	Phonics (Writing/spelling)	Phonics (reading/phonics)	C&L (listening)	C&L (speaking)
Blue	80	90	60	60	100	90	100	100	83	90	100	100
Red	100	100	100	100	87.5	100	87.5	100	85	87.5	100	100
Yellow	100	100	100	100	100	60	100	90	100	100	100	100
Green	90	100	70	100	100	100	90	90	0	100	90	100
Purple	100	77	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Triangle	90	80	90	60	80	100	90	100	55	90	100	100
Cone	100	81	100	100	100	100	81	100	63	100	72	90
Sphere	80	100	20	100	90	100	100	100	90	100	70	10
Cube	100	70	80	100	100	100	100	100	70	70	100	90
Star	83	8	83	100	25	100	74	83	50	42	100	42
Hexagon	100	42	16	100	100	92	92	100	50	100	92	83
Pyramid	100	100	100	100	83	92	100	83	25	58	83	83
Whole school percentage	93	78	75	93	87	95	92	94	61	85	91	82

Strengths

- Maths Core
- Comprehension
- Handwriting
- Composition
- Speaking
- Listening, Attention and Understanding

Areas of Development

- Phonics writing
- Position and direction
- Shape – For the most able.
- Children with ADHD – Phonics reading and Speaking

Key Stage 1 (22 children)

- 91% of the children were boys
- 9% of the children were girls
- 36% were Pupil Premium
- 63% of the children had a diagnosis of an ASD
- 0% of the children had a diagnosis of Downs Syndrome
- 13% were Black or Ethnic Minority and 9% were EAL
- 9% were non subject specific learners

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Trustees' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Achievements and Performance (continued)

% met or exceeded target

	Maths Core	Position and Direction	Shape	Pattern	Measures	Composition	Handwriting	Reading Literacy	Phonics (Writing/spelling)	Phonics (reading/phonics)	C&L (listening)	C&L (speaking)
KS1	95	85	85	90	95	100	85	95	42	90	100	95
BEM	100	66	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
ASD	92	92	84	92	92	100	76	100	35	92	100	92
PP	100	75	100	100	87	100	87	87	66	87	100	87

End of KS1 Year 2 (11 children)

- 100% of the children were boys
- 0% of the children were girls
- 36% were Pupil Premium
- 72% of the children had a diagnosis of an ASD
- 0% of the children had a diagnosis of Downs Syndrome
- 27% were Black or Ethnic Minority and 18% were EAL
- 9% were non subject specific learners

% met or exceeded target

	Maths Core	Position and Direction	Shape	Pattern	Measures	Composition	Handwriting	Reading Literacy	Phonics (Writing/spelling)	Phonics (reading/phonics)	C&L (listening)	C&L (speaking)
End of KS1	100	82	100	100	91	100	82	100	54	82	100	91
BEM	100	66	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
ASD	100	87	100	100	87	100	74	100	37	87	100	87
PP	100	50	100	100	75	100	75	100	50	75	100	75

Strengths

- Maths Core
- Reading comprehension
- Listening

Areas of Development

- Position and Direction
- Handwriting and phonics handwriting and reading

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Trustees' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Achievements and Performance (continued)

Key Stage 2 (97 children)

- 79% of the children were boys
- 21% of the children were girls
- 43% were Pupil Premium
- 61% of the children had a diagnosis of an ASD
- 5% of the children had a diagnosis of Down's Syndrome
- 21% were Black or Ethnic Minority and 9% had English as an additional language
- 6% were non subject specific learners

% met or exceeded target

	Maths Core	Position and Direction	Shape	Pattern	Measures	Composition	Handwriting	Comprehension	Phonics (Writing/spelling)	Phonics (reading/phonics)	C&L (listening)	C&L (speaking)
KS2	95	67	78	92	91	91	91	95	69	81	86	81
BEM	91	72	72	91	87	96	91	100	78	91	87	82
ASD	94	87	100	100	87	100	74	100	37	87	100	87
Down syndrome	100	80	100	80	100	100	80	100	20	100	80	80
PP	97	57	80	92	83	95	92	95	53	83	100	85

End of KS2 Year 6 (27 children)

- 75% of the children were boys
- 25% of the children were girls
- 44% were Pupil Premium
- 55% of the children had a diagnosis of an ASD
- 0% of the children had a diagnosis of Down's Syndrome
- 22% were Black or Ethnic Minority and 3% were EAL
- 0% were non subject specific learners

% met or exceeded target

	Maths Core	Position and Direction	Shape	Pattern	Measures	Composition	Handwriting	Comprehension	Phonics (Writing/spelling)	Phonics (reading/phonics)	C&L (listening)	C&L (speaking)
End of KS2	96	67	78	92	91	91	91	95	69	81	86	81
BEM	83	50	33	100	83	83	100	100	83	83	66	66
ASD	94	53	53	100	94	82	82	94	60	73	80	80
PP	100	42	75	100	92	100	92	100	33	75	100	91

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Trustees' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Achievements and Performance (continued)

Strengths

- Maths Core
- Composition
- Comprehension
- Handwriting

Areas of Development

- Phonics writing
- Position and Direction
- Shape

Issues that have arisen this year, which have impacted on progress

- New assessment system put into place this year which involved changes to Maths Supplementary in particular and how this was taught.
- Position and Direction was taught in autumn1 and revisited in some classes for Summer 1 Autumn term this was taught after the 3 week period to baseline, which meant there was limited time to teach this area.
- Composition and Phonics Writing taught to all children but skills begin at Range 4 meaning there was limited progress for children who are not working at Range 4 in handwriting and Speaking and Listening as many of the skills were beyond their level of understanding. Adaptions to the assessment to add some more skills to these areas. Clarify for next year that these areas should not be started until children are at range 4 in handwriting and speaking and listening.

Areas to improve next year

- Phonics Writing – whole school, initially focusing on handwriting
- Maths Supplementary – Position and Direction. This will be moved to be taught later in the year and pattern which has more opportunities available to be provided through Play and Learn will be taught in Autumn1 and revisited in summer if appropriate.

Key Performance Indicators

The Governors consider that the following are key performance indicators for the Academy Trust:

- The EFA funded 116 places and Hertfordshire funded 9 places.
- In August 2023 there were five out of county children on roll.
- The percentage of income spent on staffing in 2022/23 was 81%. The Trustees are aware that this is high but, as a special school, it is felt to be justified for the support and safekeeping of the children.
- Woolgrove School has a waiting list and it is known that there is high demand for places at Special Schools within Hertfordshire.
- From September 2023 EFA funded places will be increasing to 125.
- Woolgrove received an Ofsted rating of 'Good' in November 2022. *"Pupils, parents and staff all agree that Woolgrove is a school where everyone 'lives, laughs and learns together'. Pupils thrive in this school. They are extremely happy, feel safe and thoroughly enjoy their learning."* OFSTED – 2022

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.

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Trustees' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Financial Review

Most of the Academy's recurrent income is obtained from the EFA in the form of grants i.e. School Budget Share. The Academy also receives funding from the LA in the form of top up funding in relation to the additional specific needs of its pupils. From April 2017 the Outreach funding has been divided throughout a number of special schools overseen by the local DSPL (Delivering Special Provision Locally). Woolgrove School has continued to deliver the Outreach Work for North Herts DSPL1. Woolgrove School also works with Greenside School in a private agreement to share the provision of Outreach for the Stevenage Area DSPL2. These service level agreements are in place up to August 2024 with both Greenside and the Local Authority.

Woolgrove School applied for two CIF bids which were for the third phase of the roof and new Kitchen. These were both unsuccessful applications. In the previous year the School had been successful in the application for new security gates. These were installed and have made the site significantly more secure. The Academy is looking to submit a bid in the next academic year for the third phase of the roof again noting the feedback which was uploaded from the ESFA

Reserves Policy

The trustees review the reserves levels of the Academy throughout the year. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of the reserves. Since September 2016 the Academy's physical environment has been improved including the fencing of the entire site, making changes to some rooms to create an additional sensory room, soft play room, better classroom facilities for two classes and creating outdoor spaces for the Blue Early Years class as well as the rest of the EYFS classes and some other ones. In addition the school has re-floored four classrooms. Other internal alterations have been made by knocking two classes into one to improve the learning environment for our pupils. The Academy has also invested in artificial turf in two areas for the school to make the outside space usable all year round and carried out a major playground project to update the playground equipment. As a school we are improving our lighting throughout to reduce energy costs and demonstrate the schools commitment to sustainability.

Investment Policy and Powers

The Governing Body have the power to allocate reserves for investment. They would act upon advice provided by the Academy Accountants and Academy Banking Advisor. In all respects the Academy would aim to invest in ethical companies and would not wish to invest in products which could in any way cause harm to children.

The Governing Body has reviewed the possibility of investment and will consider this annually.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The new modular building has now been installed and two classes have been relocated to the new building. The building also allows the school to benefit from an additional multi-purpose room. This has enabled the school to host events for parents and carers and events for other professionals.

Due to the changing nature of our pupils the security of the whole school site is continuing to be an issue. As a result we had security gates installed to improve security of the site. The outstanding part of the roof remains a concern as it continues to deteriorate. Small leaks are being managed by the onsite premises team however there is a risk of partial school closure if the leaks continue. The academy is resubmitting a CIF bid to obtain funding for the remaining sections. The main kitchen, where pupils and staff lunches are served from, is in need of refurbishment. This year the school had 38% of pupils on free school meals which highlight the importance of the kitchen within the school.

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Trustees' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Principal Risks and Uncertainties (Continued)

The school has a risk register which is reviewed by the Governing Body. Woolgrove School also works with Wilby and Burnett to identify areas of the school which need development or repair. Wilby and Burnett also manage a maintenance schedule for statutory tests and maintenance which need to be carried out. Jonas Carter who are appointed by Hertfordshire County Council attend the site once a year to inspect the school premises and all the necessary paperwork. All areas of the school's physical environment are reviewed during Finance, Premises and Audit committee meetings and feedback given to Governors at their regular meetings.

Plans for Future Periods

Needs-Led Funding System

Herts Local Authority are currently conducting a review of special school and ESC provision across Hertfordshire in order to deliver a needs-led funding system. They are aiming to develop a needs-led funding system that enables learners to be supported in the most appropriate local provision with the provision of the appropriate resources to meet the needs of the learner. They are committed to implementing a new system and this will be completed by April 2025 so this may have financial implications for the school in the future.

Curriculum

- To ensure that a broad and balanced curriculum is being offered across all pathways.
- To update SKOs as necessary

Maths

- To continue to implement and refine the new curriculum written in 2022
- To effectively use the new assessment system to be able to analyse progress in specific groups
- To develop staff confidence in selecting and using the most appropriate manipulatives for a range of concepts.

Assessment

- To continue to implement the new assessment system for: Communication and Language, Literacy and Mathematics (from Sept 2022)
- To implement new PTS system and change if necessary
- To continue to implement system for EHCP process for IPMs, Display targets and Pupils views / All about me booklets
- To ensure consistency in assessments across the school
- To implement the new assessment system to enable Teachers and Support staff to record evidence electronically and for this to be shared with parents

Communication

- To review and update the communication policy.
- To increase signing skills and use across the school and at home.
- To deliver training in cued articulation, WOPS, making and using communication books, the effective use of communicate in print and using talkers/ AAC devices.
- To develop strategies to increase attention and listening skills for all children and increase staff knowledge of different approaches.

Literacy

- To continue to promote the effective teaching of reading, phonics and spellings across school, identifying when there is a training need.
- To ensure a consistent approach to handwriting/mark making throughout the school and to improve handwriting and mark making across all subjects
- To effectively use the new assessment system to analyse progress of all pupils in literacy, developing actions to raise attainment.
- To raise staff knowledge and confidence when using ICT to support pupils' literacy skills.

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Trustees' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Understanding the World

- To continue to monitor planning and assessment of UW to ensure coverage and consistency across pathways.
- To develop the use of Play and Learn as an effective way of delivering UW objectives.
- Support staff to utilise outdoor learning as a way of accessing objectives in core subjects.
- Celebrate different cultures through an event about the Paris Olympics (Linked with PD)

Life Skills (inc. RSE, PSED)

- To continue to develop staff confidence in the setting of life skills homework
- To continue to monitor the evidence to ensure it shows the skill that is being learnt rather than the outcome
- To continue to monitor the evidence to ensure it shows the skill that is being learnt rather than the outcome.
- RSE - To raise awareness of different family units – LGBTQI+
- To develop a new approach to teaching and learning about puberty across the school.

Down's Syndrome

To increase the subject knowledge of staff to enhance their confidence and ability to appropriately address the needs of children with Down's Syndrome including See & Learn resources/weekly creative club.

Computing and Technology

- Ensure all T&L is at least good
- Ensure that Computing equipment across the school is maintained in good order and updated as required in order to deliver the curriculum
- Ensure technology is adequate for new assessment system and support all staff

Expressive Arts and Design

- To increase the level of teaching and value placed on EAD across the school
- To ensure that the National Plan for Music requirements are met within the limitations of timetabling and budget
- To raise the profile of art across the school including having a 2 week arts week.
- To ensure that staff have the confidence to plan and deliver the Art curriculum

Outreach

- Maintain high standard of service to schools in DSPL1, keeping DSPL1 management group updated through regular meetings
- Work in partnership with Greenside School to jointly provide outreach to DSPL 2
- Improve staff knowledge and expertise in relation to SLD and secondary pupils
- Implement systems and procedures in-line with Local Authority requirements
- Review, revise, and put forward Woolgrove's outreach tender for the new SLA (in place from September 2024)

Leadership and Management

- Revisit the vision and values of the school with staff and stakeholders.
- Increase the liaison between governors and subject leads
- Ensure that we have a full complement of governors, members and trustees
- Appointment of external clerk for full governors' meetings
- Induction and support the new member of SLT, the INCo.
- Continue to develop middle leaders through supportive roles e.g. ECT induction tutors/mentors

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Trustees' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2023

To work in partnership with:

- Special School and Alternative Heads (SAP). Woolgrove head teacher = vice chair of SAP from Sept 2023
- HfL / ISL on a range of issues incl. funding and Outreach
- Parents/carers :curriculum evenings, behaviour solution circles, coffee mornings, FoW (Friends of Woolgrove)
- Other special schools – within Herts and Eastern region
- Letchworth/DSPL 1-2 mainstream schools, incl. transition for Sept 2024 new starters
- Letchworth Heritage Foundation Cultural Programme
- DSPL 1 – Woolgrove staff to support with /deliver area training to mainstream schools
- The Valley School for secondary transition
- North Herts Schools Sports Partnership
- Local community – Letchworth Partnership, Jackman's
- Other external agencies/professionals including HCC, HfL, HIP, CAT team, advisory teachers, EP, SALT etc
- Federation of Leaders in Special Education (FLSE)

Premises

- Resubmit CIF roof bid
- Salix lighting

Autism/ADHD/Sensory

- For the new Autism Lead Team to fully understand work that has taken place previously.
- To provide a personalised curriculum for pupils with Autism and Autistic tendencies to address their barriers to learning and increase their social, emotional and mental health wellbeing.
- To increase the subject knowledge of staff to enhance their confidence and ability to appropriately address the needs of children with Autism and ADHD and to provide training for new staff.

Physical Development

- Key indicator 1: To promote the engagement of all pupils in regular physical activity
- Key indicator 2: The profile of PESSPA being raised across the school as a tool for whole school improvement
- Key indicator 3: Increased confidence, knowledge and skills of all staff in teaching PE and sport
- Key indicator 4: Broader experience of a range of sports and activities offered to all pupils
- **Key indicator 5:** Increased participation in competitive sport

Wellbeing

- To promote and implement staff wellbeing
- Liaise with Mental Health Link Governor on a regular basis to monitor and review provision/impact
- To liaise and engage with mental health support teams e.g. MHST and SEMH and special schools network
- To ensure and monitor the use of Herts. Steps tools for supporting behaviour e.g. Individual Risk Reduction plans to identify and share strategies to support positive behaviour and mental well-being in specific pupils in line with Herts Steps
- To continue to work with MHST to provide early support/intervention for pupils/families

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Trustees' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Fundraising

Woolgrove School, Special Needs Academy (Charity Number EW19796) works alongside "FOW - Friends of Woolgrove" to raise funds for the benefit of pupils and support their wider education. They also raise funds to enhance the pupils' environment and experiences. This year the FOW provided leaving gifts for the children in Year 6 as well as gifts for all of the children in the school which Father Christmas delivered. Raffles were held at Christmas and summer and these were both supported well by the members of the school community. The school also had a number of dress up / dress down days which were enjoyed by the children and staff. As Government restrictions lifted an Easter Egg Hunt and Summer Fair were also held and well supported.

Throughout the year the Academy also holds several fund raising days to support national charities which this year have included Sports Relief and Children in Need.

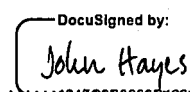
The Trustees of Woolgrove School, Special Needs Academy are committed to high standards in all fundraising on behalf of the school. They aim to be respectful and maintain the privacy of all donors. Resources will be managed responsibly with consideration for the impact on donors, supporters and the wider public. No pupil will be disadvantaged by an inability to contribute to an event or activity.

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.

Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the Company Directors, on 30 November 2023 and signed on the board's behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

124FC9B8630D403.....
John Hayes

Co-Chair

DocuSigned by:

9518F00B132E482.....
Julian Ekiert

Co-Chair

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Governance Statement

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Scope of Responsibility

As trustees we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Woolgrove School, Special Needs Academy 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 Headteacher, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Woolgrove School, Special Needs Academy and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 6 times during the period.

Attendance during the Period at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
John Hayes (Co Chair)	5	6
Julian Ekiert (Co Chair)	5	6
Karen Porter (Resigned 25 March 2023)	2	3
Zoe Rayner	5	6
Kate Firth	6	6
Simon Fawcett	4	6
Laura Claxton	6	6
Katie Fuller (Appointed 01 December 2022)	6	6
Stephen Simms	6	6
Hannah Wright (Appointed 01 December 2022)	5	6
Claire Turner (Appointed 01 December 2022)	3	6
Sarah Kavanagh Clerk	6	6
Lisa Hall (Headteacher)	6	6

Review of Value for Money

As accounting officer the headteacher of Woolgrove School Special Needs Academy 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 social 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.

Woolgrove School also works with Wilby and Burnett to identify areas of the school which need development or repair. Wilby and Burnett also manage a maintenance schedule for statutory tests and maintenance which need to be carried out. Jonas Carter who are appointed by Hertfordshire County Council attend the site once a year to inspect the school premises and all the necessary paperwork. All areas of the school's physical environment are reviewed during Finance, Premises and Audit committee meetings and feedback given to Governors at their regular meetings.

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Governance Statement (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Review of Value for Money (continued)

The Governing Body is accountable for the way in which the school's resources are allocated to meet the objectives set out in our School Development Plan. The Governing Body approve the annual budget and receive and approve the external auditors' management report and take action on any recommendations made by them following the annual audit. The finance Committee meets termly to review the budget monitoring reports and to approve larger expenditure items and compliance with the academies statement of internal financial control. Recommendations will be put to the termly Governing Body Meeting. Contracts are regularly reviewed to ensure best value.

The Academy carefully monitors pupil's progress to ensure resources are targeted appropriately and pupil premium expenditure is assessed to show effectiveness in improving the attainment of students on Free School Meals and Looked After Children. Resources are directed where they are most needed and most effective in meeting education requirements. Resources have been targeted to provide individual support to pupils with language difficulties, specific learning difficulties and in need of sensory support.

The Academy will continue to monitor the impact of changes to Special Educational Needs funding and to maintain pupil numbers to secure annual funding.

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 Woolgrove School, Special Needs Academy for the period 1 April 2012 to 31 August 2023 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 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 on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 April 2012 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees. Contracts are regularly reviewed to ensure best value. During the year we have entered into a maintenance contract with Wilby & Burnett to manage this process more efficiently.

The Risk and Control Framework

The Academy Trust's system of internal 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 committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- Identification and management of risks.

The Trustees have reappointed Julian Ekiert as Chair of the Finance Committee.

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Governance Statement (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Managing Conflicts of Interest

All Governors are required to declare any conflicts of interest at the start of every academic year. In addition, Governors are asked at the start of every meeting if there any conflicts of interest and asked to notify the clerk as soon as they become aware of a conflict. Any conflict which arises the Governor will be asked to leave the meeting and the minutes recorded as Part Two minutes and not fully published.

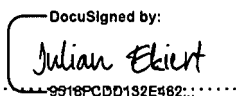
Review of effectiveness

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

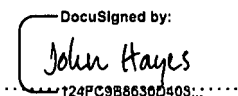
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process.

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the finance committee and a plan to address weaknesses, where relevant, and to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

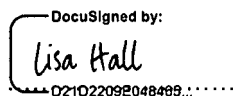
Approved by order of the board of trustees on 30 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

9918PCDD132E4821.....

J Ekiert
Co Chair of Governors

DocuSigned by:

124PC9B8630D4031.....

J Hayes
Co Chair of Governors

DocuSigned by:

02102209E0484891.....

L Hall
Headteacher and Accounting Officer

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

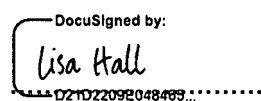
Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

For the year ended 31 August 2023

As Accounting Officer of Woolgrove School Special Needs Academy, 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.

DocuSigned by:

D21D22092048489.....

L Hall
Accounting Officer

30 November 2023

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

For the year ended 31 August 2023

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

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

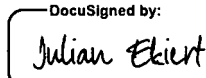
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- 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.

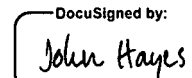
The trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from ESFA/DfE have been 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 of trustees 30 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

9518FCDD132E482.....

J Ekiert
Chair Finance Committee

DocuSigned by:

124FC9B8630D403.....

J Hayes
Chair of Governors

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Woolgrove School Special Needs Academy for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the 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 Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' 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 company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements

(continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Reference and Administrative Details, the Report of the Directors and Strategic Report, and the Governance Statement. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' report, which includes the strategic report and the directors' report prepared for purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within the Trustee's report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' 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 directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 21, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the academy trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements

(continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2023

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the company and the industry in which it operates and considered the risk of acts by the company that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. These included, but were not limited to, the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, financial regulations specifically relevant to Academies and tax legislation.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements and the financial report (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate entries including journals to overstate revenue or understate expenditure and management bias in accounting estimates.

Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- discussions with management, including considerations of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- gaining an understanding of management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities; and
- identifying and testing journal entries.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

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

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

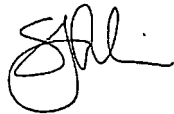
Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements

(continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the academy trust's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the 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.



Steve Robinson (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of

Mercer & Hole LLP Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor
Silbury Court
420 Silbury Boulevard
Central Milton Keynes
MK9 2AF

Date: 30 November 2023

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity

For the year ended 31 August 2023

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 27 October 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 Woolgrove School Special Needs Academy 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 Woolgrove School Special Needs Academy and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Woolgrove School Special Needs Academy 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 Woolgrove School Special Needs Academy and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Woolgrove School Special Needs Academy's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Woolgrove School Special Needs Academy's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 27 March 2012 and the Academies Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 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.

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2023

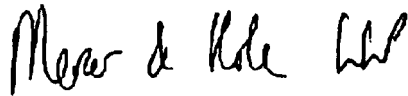
Our engagement includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the regularity and propriety of the academy trust's income and expenditure.

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Ascertain the regulation relevant to the Academy.
- Assess the risk of material irregularity, impropriety, or funding non-compliance.
- A review of the relevant paperwork and discussions with the Accounting Officer to ensure the Trust conformed with the framework of authorities.
- Substantive work was carried out to ensure the terms and conditions of funding had been adhered to, for payroll purchases and other income.

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 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.



Mercer & Hole LLP
Chartered Accountants
Silbury Court
420 Silbury Boulevard
Central Milton Keynes
MK9 2AF

Date: 30 November 2023

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

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 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	24,631	10,000	64,181	98,812	32,754
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	3	-	2,636,451	-	2,636,451	2,342,656
Other trading activities	4	15,501	46,139	-	61,640	54,937
Investments	5	86	2,000	-	2,086	75
Total		40,218	2,694,590	64,181	2,798,989	2,430,222
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:		-	-	-	-	-
Academy trust educational operations	6&7	40,218	2,542,756	237,897	2,820,871	2,835,454
Total		40,218	2,542,756	237,897	2,820,871	2,835,454
Net income / (expenditure)		-	151,834	(173,716)	(21,882)	(405,032)
Transfers between funds		(4,597)	(28,218)	32,815	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses):						
Actuarial (losses) / gains on defined benefit pension schemes	14 & 23	-	175,000	-	175,000	1,822,000
Asset ceiling amendments	14 & 23	-	(209,000)	-	(209,000)	-
Net movement in funds		(4,597)	89,616	(140,901)	(55,882)	1,416,968
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		13,389	644,686	4,893,297	5,551,372	4,134,404
Total funds carried forward		8,792	734,302	4,752,396	5,495,490	5,551,372

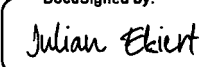
WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

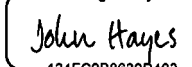
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

Company Number 07988540

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		4,752,396		4,893,297
Current assets					
Debtors	12	81,186		71,395	
Cash at bank and in hand		860,975		667,020	
		<u>942,161</u>		<u>738,415</u>	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(199,067)		(141,340)	
Net current assets			<u>743,094</u>		<u>597,075</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset/(liability)			<u>5,495,490</u>		<u>5,490,372</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme asset/(liability)	23		-		61,000
Total net assets			<u>5,495,490</u>		<u>5,551,372</u>
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds					
Fixed asset fund	14	4,752,396		4,893,297	
Restricted income fund	14	734,302		583,686	
Pension reserve	14	-		61,000	
Total restricted funds			<u>5,486,698</u>		<u>5,537,983</u>
Unrestricted income funds	14		<u>8,792</u>		<u>13,389</u>
Total funds			<u>5,495,490</u>		<u>5,551,372</u>

The financial statements on pages 28 to 51 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 30 November 2023 and are signed on their behalf by

DocuSigned by:

 ...9518FCDD132E482...
 J Ekiert
 Chair Finance Committee

DocuSigned by:

 ...424FC09B0630D403...
 J Hayes
 Chair of Governors

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by/ (used in) operating activities	18	226,684	82,540
Cash flows from investing activities	19	(32,729)	(40,469)
Cash flows from financing activities		-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		193,955	42,071
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2022		667,020	624,949
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2023		860,975	667,020

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

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 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Woolgrove School Special Needs Academy meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

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. The school is highly likely to continue to be supported by DfE and local government grants and have acquired additional funding from the Curriculum Catch-Up Fund. At year end, the school held a healthy level of free reserves as well as a strong cash position. Therefore, the school will 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 reclassified 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.

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1 Statement of accounting policies (continued)

- **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.

- **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'.

- **Transfer on conversion**

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

- **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 should be 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.

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1 Statement of accounting policies (continued)

Expenditure

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

- **Expenditure on Raising Funds**

This includes all expenditure incurred by the 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.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Tangible Fixed Assets

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

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, as follows:

Buildings	3.33% straight line
Computer equipment	33.33% straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	20% straight line
Motor vehicles	20% straight line

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1 Statement of accounting policies (continued)

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use.

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.

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.

Leased Assets

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

Financial Instruments

The academy trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined by 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 12. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 13. 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.

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1 Statement of accounting policies (continued)

Taxation

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

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

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.

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

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

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

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted 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 Education and Skills Funding Agency/Department for Education.

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

1 Statement of accounting policies (continued)

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

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

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Other Notes to the Financial Statement

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Capital grants	-	64,181	64,181	19,567
Other donations	24,631	10,000	34,631	13,157
	<u>24,631</u>	<u>74,181</u>	<u>98,812</u>	<u>32,754</u>
2022 Total	<u>9,687</u>	<u>23,067</u>	<u>32,754</u>	

3 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
DfE / ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	1,160,250	1,160,250	1,162,256
Other DfE grants:				
Teachers' pay grant	-	61,072	61,072	-
Teachers' pension grant	-	-	-	54,438
Pupil Premium	-	80,291	80,291	69,005
Other DfE Group Grants	-	113,091	113,091	86,039
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,414,704</u>	<u>1,414,704</u>	<u>1,371,738</u>
Other Government grants				
Local authority grants	-	1,221,747	1,221,747	970,918
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,636,451</u>	<u>2,636,451</u>	<u>2,342,656</u>
2022 Total	<u>-</u>	<u>2,342,656</u>	<u>2,342,656</u>	

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Catering income	-	19,440	19,440	15,892
Lettings income	285	-	285	622
School trip income	-	4,038	4,038	2,943
Other income	15,216	22,661	37,877	35,480
	<u>15,501</u>	<u>46,139</u>	<u>61,640</u>	<u>54,937</u>
2022 Total	<u>13,441</u>	<u>41,496</u>	<u>54,937</u>	

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Short term deposits	86	-	86	75
Pension scheme net finance costs	-	2,000	2,000	-
	<u>86</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,086</u>	<u>75</u>
2022 Total	<u>75</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>75</u>	

6 Expenditure

	Staff Costs £	Non Pay Expenditure		Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
		Premises £	Other £		
Academy's educational operations:					
Direct costs	1,906,542	216,922	27,190	2,150,654	1,992,868
Allocated support costs	288,391	143,892	237,934	670,217	842,586
	<u>2,194,933</u>	<u>360,814</u>	<u>265,124</u>	<u>2,820,871</u>	<u>2,835,454</u>
2022 Total	<u>2,253,961</u>	<u>342,574</u>	<u>238,919</u>	<u>2,835,454</u>	

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Operating lease rentals	231	622
Depreciation	237,897	236,316
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(2,000)	27,000
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- audit	11,910	9,000
- other services	<u>2,000</u>	<u>3,700</u>

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

7 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Direct costs – educational operations	-	2,150,654	2,150,654	1,992,868
Support costs – educational operations	40,218	629,999	670,217	842,586
	40,218	2,780,653	2,820,871	2,835,454
2022 Total	23,203	2,812,251	2,835,454	

Analysis of direct costs	Restricted General Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Direct staff costs	1,906,542	1,906,542	1,762,948
Premises costs	216,922	216,922	216,922
Other costs	27,190	27,190	12,998
Total direct costs	2,150,654	2,150,654	1,992,868
2022 Total	1,992,868	1,992,868	

Analysis of support costs	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Educational operations				
Support staff costs	-	288,391	288,391	491,013
Depreciation	-	20,975	20,975	19,394
Technology costs	-	13,887	13,887	16,705
Premises costs	-	122,917	122,917	106,258
Other support costs	40,218	143,825	184,043	171,515
Governance costs	-	40,004	40,004	37,701
Total support costs	40,218	629,999	670,217	842,586
2022 Total	23,203	819,383	842,586	

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

8 Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the period were:

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Wages and salaries	1,643,518	1,495,436
Social security costs	134,441	118,646
Pension costs	405,573	600,050
	2,183,532	2,214,132
Agency staff costs	4,275	29,739
Staff restructuring costs	7,126	10,090
	2,194,933	2,253,961

b. Staff numbers

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Teachers	20	18
Administration and support	57	56
Management	6	7
	83	81

c. Higher paid staff

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	2	-
£70,001 - £80,000	-	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-

d. 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 employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £553,034 (2022: £522,606). The movement compared to the prior year is due to pay rises, including scale points and annual inflation increase.

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

9 Related Party Transactions – Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an 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. The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

L Hall (Headteacher and trustee):

Remuneration £85,000 - £90,000 (2022: £75,000 - £80,000)

Employer's pension contributions paid £20,000 - £25,000 (2022: £15,000 - £20,000)

S Fawcett (Staff trustee):

Remuneration £45,000 - £50,000 (2022: £40,000 - £45,000)

Employer's pension contributions paid £10,000 - £15,000 (2022: £5,000 - £10,000)

L Claxton (Staff trustee):

Remuneration £25,000 - £30,000 (2022: £25,000 - £30,000)

Employer's pension contributions paid £5,000 - £10,000 (2022: £5,000 - £10,000)

H Wright (Staff trustee):

Remuneration £10,000 - £15,000 (2022: £Nil)

Employer's pension contributions paid £Nil - £5,000 (2022: £Nil)

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

10 Trustees and officers insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy 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 £10,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the period ended 31 August 2023 was £2,436 (2022: £2,436). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Computer equipment £	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2022	6,797,177	110,341	153,408	52,500	7,113,426
Additions	-	8,705	88,291	-	96,996
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2023	6,797,177	119,046	241,699	52,500	7,210,422
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	1,960,222	101,815	105,592	52,500	2,220,129
Charged in year	216,922	5,254	15,721	-	237,897
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2023	2,177,144	107,069	121,313	52,500	2,458,026
Net book values					
At 31 August 2023	4,620,033	11,977	120,386	-	4,752,396
At 31 August 2022	4,486,955	8,526	47,816	-	4,893,297

The land and buildings are on a long leasehold of 125 years starting in 2012.

12 Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
VAT recoverable	32,254	13,746
Other debtors	-	4,891
Prepayments and accrued income	48,932	52,758
	81,186	71,395

13 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other taxation and social security	68,787	62,123
Accruals and deferred income	120,802	79,217
Other creditors	9,478	-
	199,067	141,340

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (continued)

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income		
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	16,856	16,856
Released from previous years	(16,856)	(16,856)
Resources deferred in the year	8,310	16,487
Deferred Income at 31 August 2023	8,310	16,487

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance for capital works and donations.

14 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	1,160,250	(1,160,250)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	80,291	(80,291)	-	-
Coronavirus support	-	34,293	(34,293)	-	-
Other DfE / ESFA grants	2,870	139,870	(139,870)	-	2,870
Other government grants	580,816	1,221,747	(1,042,913)	(28,218)	731,432
Other restricted funds	-	56,139	(56,139)	-	-
Pension reserve	61,000	2,000	(29,000)	(34,000)	-
	644,686	2,694,590	(2,542,756)	62,218	734,302
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE / ESFA capital grants	4,893,297	64,181	(237,897)	32,815	4,752,396
Total restricted funds	5,537,983	2,758,771	(2,780,653)	(29,403)	5,486,698
Total unrestricted funds	13,389	40,218	(40,218)	(4,597)	8,792
Total funds	5,551,372	2,798,989	(2,820,871)	(34,000)	5,704,490

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

General Annual Grant - The General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running 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.

Other DfE / ESFA grants - This represents other funding for various purposes including teachers' pay grant, teachers' pension grant, sports funding, training and other pupil related activities.

Other restricted funds - The other restricted funds relate to various school and educational activities which are not funded by the General Annual Grant.

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

14 Funds (continued)

Pensions Reserve - The defined benefit pension scheme relates to the pension deficit arising on the LGPS pension scheme.

Restricted fixed asset fund - The restricted fund asset fund was funded predominantly by the funds inherited on conversion to an academy from the local authority following the transfer of the land and buildings.

Devolved Formula Grant (DFG) - The academy is to use the Devolved Formula Grant allocation to maintain and improve its buildings and facilities.

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	1,162,256	(1,162,256)	-	-
Pupil Premium	10,715	69,005	(79,720)	-	-
Coronavirus support	17,756	13,338	(31,094)	-	-
Other DfE / ESFA grants	2,870	127,139	(127,139)	-	2,870
Other government grants	219,065	970,918	(609,384)	217	580,816
Other restricted funds	241,346	44,996	(286,342)	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,481,000)	-	(280,000)	1,822,000	61,000
	(989,248)	2,387,652	(2,575,935)	1,822,217	644,686
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE / ESFA capital grants	4,852,299	19,567	(236,316)	257,747	4,893,297
Total restricted funds	3,863,051	2,407,219	(2,812,251)	2,079,964	5,537,983
Total unrestricted funds	271,353	23,203	(23,303)	(257,964)	13,389
Total funds	4,134,404	2,430,422	(2,835,454)	1,822,000	5,551,372

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	4,752,396	4,752,396
Current assets	8,792	933,369	-	942,161
Current liabilities	-	(199,067)	-	(199,067)
Pension scheme asset/(liability)	-	-	-	-
Total net assets	8,792	734,302	4,752,396	5,704,490

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

Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	4,893,297	4,893,297
Current assets	13,389	725,026	-	738,415
Current liabilities	-	(141,340)	-	(141,340)
Pension scheme asset/(liability)	-	61,000	-	(61,000)
Total net assets	13,389	644,686	4,893,297	5,551,372

16 Capital commitments

	2023 £	2022 £
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	-	10,328

17 Long-term commitments, including operating leases

Operating leases

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts due within one year	-	-
Amounts due between one and five years	-	-
Amounts due after five years	-	-
	-	-

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

18 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(21,882)	(405,032)
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation (note 11)	237,897	236,316
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(64,181)	(19,567)
Interest receivable	(86)	(75)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 23)	29,000	253,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 23)	(2,000)	27,000
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(9,791)	41,857
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	57,727	(50,959)
Net cash provided by / (used in) Operating Activities	226,684	82,540

19 Cash flows from investing activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	86	75
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(96,996)	(60,111)
Capital grants from DfE Group	64,181	19,567
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	-	-
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities	(32,729)	(40,469)

20 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand and at bank	860,975	667,020
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	-	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	860,975	667,020

21 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash Flows £	Finance Leases £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash	667,020	193,955	-	860,975
Cash equivalents	-	-	-	-
Total	667,020	193,955	-	860,975

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

22 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.

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 Hertfordshire County Council, Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £17,652 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022: £27,699) 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 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.

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

23 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 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; and
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. 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 TPS in the period amounted to £180,000 (2022: £179,000).

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 contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £227,000 (2022: £209,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £180,000 (2022: £169,000) and employees' contributions totalled £47,000 (2022: £40,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 23.8% for employers and 5.5%-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 and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on GOV.UK.

As the defined benefit pension scheme is an asset to the company in the year, additional workings were considered to ensure an asset does exist in accordance with accounting rules. A working was conducted that determined the pension scheme has minimum funding requirements for contributions relating to future service. After consideration of the asset ceiling report it was concluded that the asset to be reduced to zero.

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

23 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2022
Rate of increase in salaries	3.50%	3.45%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.00%	3.05%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.20%	4.25%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	3.00%	3.05%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	50%	50%

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

	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2022
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	16.7	21.9
Females	24.1	24.4
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	21.3	22.9
Females	25.0	26.0

Sensitivity analysis	At 31 August 2023 £	At 31 August 2022 £
Discount rate +0.1%	(55,000)	(57,000)
Discount rate -0.1%	55,000	58,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	96,000	94,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	(96,000)	(94,000)
CPI rate +0.1%	53,000	57,000
CPI rate -0.1%	(53,000)	(57,000)

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

	Fair value at 31 August 2023 £	Fair value at 31 August 2022 £
Equity instruments	1,328,550	1,210,500
Debt instruments	625,200	556,800
Property	364,700	363,200
Cash	286,550	290,500
Total market value of assets	2,605,000	2,421,000

The actual loss (2022- return) on scheme assets was £75,545 (2022: £159,000).

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

23 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2023 £	2023 £
Current service cost	209,000	422,000
Past service cost	-	-
Interest income	(107,000)	(41,000)
Interest cost	105,000	68,000
Benefit changes, gain/(loss) on curtailment and gain/(loss) on settlement	-	-
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	207,000	449,000

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

	2022/2023 £	2021/2022 £
At 1 September	2,360,000	3,888,000
Current service cost	209,000	422,000
Past service cost	-	-
Interest cost	105,000	68,000
Employee contributions	47,000	40,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(287,000)	(2,022,000)
Benefits paid	(38,000)	(36,000)
At 31 August	2,396,000	2,360,000

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

	2022/2023 £	2021/2022 £
At 1 September	2,421,000	2,407,000
Interest income	107,000	41,000
Actuarial gain/(loss)	(180,000)	(200,000)
Employer contributions	180,000	169,000
Employee contributions	47,000	40,000
Benefits paid	(38,000)	(36,000)
Other experience	68,000	-
At 31 August	2,605,000	2,421,000

WOOLGROVE SCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS ACADEMY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

24 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust'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. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

The following related party transactions took place in the period of account:

Income Related Party Transaction

Expenses claimed by trustees and key management personal :

	2023	2022
	£	£
L Hall (director and teacher)	196	30
V Litchfield (Deputy & Head Teacher)	-	375
A Linnell (Leadership)	93	42
L Claxton (Director)	-	238
S Pitchers (Leadership)	-	150
S Kavanagh (Leadership)	1,183	425
L Baldwin (Leadership)	316	81
R Pritchard (Deputy Head Teacher)	-	77
	1,788	1,418

During the year, Friends of Woolgrove (Charity Number:1198782) became a registered charity in its own right. The charity is related due to the academy and the charity have common people that manage the entities.

During the year income received from Friends of Woolgrove amounted to £15,439 (2022 £Nil).

During the year purchase from Friends of Woolgrove amounted to £11,538 (2022 £Nil).