

**St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**Year ended 31 August 2023**



**Company Registration Number:  
08107212 (England and Wales)**

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COMPANIES HOUSE

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

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# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

## Reference and administrative details

**Trust members**                      Bishop Ralph Heskett  
     Diocese of Hallam Trustee  
     Mr William Hayes

<b>Governors</b>		<b>Type of Governor</b>	<b>Appointed</b>	<b>Resigned</b>
Mr W Hayes*	Chair of Governors	Foundation	18/04/16	
Mr P Connolly*	Vice Chair of Governors	Foundation	13/07/16	
Mr R Biggin*		Foundation	20/01/16	
Dr M Strelley*		Foundation	07/05/15	
Mr M Baller		Foundation	04/12/19	
Reverend Father A Tomlinson		Foundation	11/09/19	
Mrs D Oakley		Foundation	19/04/23	
Mr J Noone		Foundation	25/01/23	
Mrs M Dengate		Headteacher	18/04/17	
Mr C Atkinson		Staff	09/05/22	01/05/23
Mrs E Smith		Staff	09/05/22	01/05/23
Mr M Firth		Staff	25/04/22	01/05/23
Mr S Lloyd		Staff	14/03/22	01/05/23
Dr F Wrigley		Parent	02/10/20	
Dr A Blair		Parent	02/10/20	

\*Denotes second or subsequent term.

### Finance and Audit Committee

Mr W Hayes                      Chair of Committee  
 Mr P Connolly                Vice Chair of Committee  
 Mr R Biggin  
 Mr M Baller  
 Dr A Blair  
 Mr J Noone

Mrs M Dengate                Head Teacher  
 Mrs A Finch                    Director of Business & Finance  
 Mr A Breedon                Deputy Head Teacher  
 Mrs F Fletcher               Deputy Head Teacher

### Quality of Education and Admissions Committee

Dr M Strelley                   Chair of Committee  
 Mr W Hayes  
 Mr P Connolly  
 Dr F Wrigley  
 Mrs D Oakley

Mrs M Dengate                Head Teacher  
 Mr A Breedon                Deputy Head Teacher  
 Mrs F Fletcher               Deputy Head Teacher  
 Mr J Cox                       Assistant Head Teacher

### Company Secretary and Clerk to Governors

Mrs J Sims

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Reference and administrative details (continued)**

### **Senior Management Team**

Mrs M Dengate  
Miss H McKay  
Mrs A Finch  
Mrs F Fletcher  
Mr J Cox  
Mr A Breedon

Head Teacher  
Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Director of Business and Finance  
Deputy Head Teacher  
Assistant Head Teacher  
Deputy Head Teacher

### **Principal and Registered Office**

St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust  
Newbold Road  
Upper Newbold  
Chesterfield  
S41 8AG

### **Company Registration Number**

08107212

### **Auditor**

Wright Vigar Limited  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor  
Alexandra House  
43 Alexandra Street  
Nottingham  
NG5 1AY

### **Bankers**

Natwest Bank PLC  
Market Place  
Chesterfield  
S40 1TJ

### **Solicitors**

Winckworth Sherwood  
Minerva House  
5 Montague Close  
London  
SE1 9BB

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Governors' Report**

The governors present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the Academy for the year ended 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and a directors' report including a strategic report under company law.

The trust operates an academy for pupils aged 11 to 18 within Derbyshire. It has a pupil capacity of 1,238 and had a roll of 1,357 in the school census as at October 2022.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

### **Constitution**

The Academy 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.

The governors' act as the trustees for the charitable activities of St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust and are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company is known as St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust (company number 08107212).

Details of the governors who served throughout the period except as noted are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on pages 2 - 3.

### **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 whilst they are a member or within one year after they cease to be a member, such an amount as may be required (not exceeding £10) for payment of debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a member and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up and for the adjustments of the rights of the contributions amongst themselves.

### **Governors' Indemnities**

Since the incorporation of the Charitable Company on 1 August 2012, the Governors (directors) have been indemnified in respect of their legal liability for financial losses arising as a result of a negligent act, accidental error or omission in the course of their official duties. The limit of this indemnity is £10,000,000.

### **Trust Members**

The Trust Members who were in office at 31 August 2023 and served throughout the period are listed on Page 2.

### **Principal Activities**

The principal activity of the Academy is to provide a free, distinctive, Christ centred, Catholic education for children aged 11 to 18, in an environment which will enable them to develop their full capability in every aspect of their lives not only academic, but spiritual, cultural and sporting.

As a Catholic Voluntary Academy, the Governing Body is responsible for admissions. It is guided in that responsibility by the requirements of law, by advice from the Diocesan Trustees and its duty to the Catholic Community and the Common Good (the wellbeing of all human life, not simply the majority).

All secondary schools in the area have equal preference and parents of non-Catholic children may name the Academy as their first preference; where there are more applications for admission than the planned admission number the Governors agree the criteria for admission which is set out in the Academy prospectus. At year 12, the Academy offers a limited number of places in the Sixth Form for external candidates from other schools in the area to join the Academy's existing Sixth Form.

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Governors' Report (continued)**

### **Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Governors**

#### **Foundation Governors**

The Foundation Governors are appointed by the Diocesan Bishop following receipt of nominations from priests within the parish; a minimum of eleven may be appointed. New appointees will give written undertaking to the Trustees and the Diocesan Bishop to uphold the Object of the Academy Trust.

#### **Staff Governors**

All Staff Governors resigned with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023 in order that the Academy Trust could comply with the stipulations of the Academy Trust Handbook (Section 1.22).

#### **Parent Governors**

The Parent Governors are elected by parents of registered pupils at the Academy and must be parents of a pupil at the time of election. Suitable arrangements have been put in place for the conduct of the Parent Governance elections, including any election which is contested.

The Articles of Association allow up to three Parent Governors.

#### **Community Governor**

The Community Governor is required to live or work in the community served by the Academy or is committed to the government and success of the Academy.

The Governors may appoint an employee of the Academy as a Community Governor unless the number of Governors employed by the Academy (including the Head Teacher) exceeds one third of the total number of Governors.

Up to one Community Governor may be appointed at the Academy. The position is currently vacant.

#### **Co-opted Governors**

The Governors may appoint up to three co-opted Governors because they have experience and/or expertise of particular benefit to the Academy; with this appointment the number of Foundation Governors must increase proportionally to ensure a majority of Directors are Foundation Directors.

The Governors may appoint an employee of the Academy as a Co-opted Governor unless the number of Governors employed by the Academy (including the Head Teacher) exceeds one third of the total number of Governors.

Currently the Academy has no co-opted Governors.

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Governors' Report (continued)**

### **Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Governors (continued)**

#### Appointment of Additional Governors or Further Governors

The Secretary of State may give a warning notice to the Governors, copied to the Trustees and the Diocesan Bishop where:

- Standards of performance of pupils at the Academy are unacceptably low, or
- There is a serious breakdown in the way the Academy is managed or governed, or
- The safety of staff or pupils at the Academy is threatened

The warning notice will set out the action required by the Governors to remedy the situation and the period within which action must be taken.

The Secretary of State may appoint the Additional Governors as he sees fit after consultation with the Trustees and the Diocesan Bishop.

Additional Governors may also be appointed should the Academy receive an Ofsted grading of two grades lower either from one inspection to the next or between any two inspections carried out within a five year period.

For the purposes of determining this baseline grading, the grade received by the predecessor school, St Mary's Catholic High School, is regarded as the grade received by the Academy.

The Secretary of State may also appoint Further Governors after consultation with the Trustees and the Diocesan Bishop if a Special Measures Termination Event occurs.

#### Term of Office

The term of office for Governors is four years; this period excludes

- The Head Teacher
- Additional or Further Governors appointed by the Secretary of State

Any Governor may be re-appointed or re-elected if they remain eligible for the type of Governorship.

### **Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Governors**

Following their appointment all new Governors receive an introduction to their role which includes opportunities to meet members of the Leadership Team, other staff and pupils and a tour of the Academy. Further training is dependent upon existing experience and the Governing Board is committed to providing training to enable all Governors to undertake their roles effectively.

All Governors are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budget plans and other documents to assist in the role.

New Governors attend an induction day shared with new members of teaching and support staff.

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Governors' Report (continued)**

### **Organisational Structure**

Terms of Reference, constitution and membership of all committees have been reviewed during this reporting period and are as follows:

#### Full Governing Body

Responsibilities include

- Strategic direction for the Academy;
- All financial policy, decision and operation including investment;
- Development of the Academy in providing educational facilities and services to students including new techniques in education.

#### Finance and Audit Committee

Responsibilities include:

- finance (including revenue, capital, budgeting, salaries, redundancies, audits and contracts);
- asset and property management;
- staffing;
- health and safety;
- risk assessment;
- charging and remissions.

#### Quality of Education Committee

The full Governing Board has formally delegated to this Committee matters relating to:

- Behaviour, Attitudes and Attendance
- Whole School Standards and Achievement
- In-Year Pupil Progress Data
- Curriculum Developments
- Admissions Criteria and Implementation
- SEND Provision
- Personal Development Provision
- Reports to the Committee from Heads of Department
- Performance Management/Appraisal

The Chairs of the Committees are elected annually by the members of the Committees.



# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

## Governors' Report (continued)

### Organisational Structure (continued)

<b>Register of Attendance: Meetings of the full Governing Board For the period 1/9/2022-31/8/2023</b>	<b>Meetings Attended</b>	<b>Maximum Possible*</b>
Mr W Hayes	5	5
Mr P Connolly	3	5
Mr R Biggin	4	5
Reverend Father A Tomlinson	3	5
Mr M Baller	4	5
Dr M Strelley	3	5
Mr J Noone (Appointed 25/01/23)	3	3
Mrs D Oakley (Appointed 19/04/23)	2	2
Mrs M Dengate	5	5
Dr A Blair	5	5
Dr F Wrigley	3	5
Mr M Firth (Resigned 1/5/23)	3	3
Mr S Lloyd (Resigned 1/5/23)	3	3
Mr C Atkinson (Resigned 1/5/23)	3	3
Mrs E Smith (Resigned 1/5/23)	1	3

Attendance: 80.6%

<b>Register of Attendance: Meetings of the Finance and Audit Committee For the period 1/9/2022-31/8/2023</b>	<b>Meetings Attended</b>	<b>Maximum Possible*</b>
Mr W Hayes	7	7
Mr P Connolly	5	7
Mr R Biggin	5	7
Mr M Baller	5	7
Dr A Blair	5	7
Mr J Noone (Appointed 25/01/23)	2	2
Mrs M Dengate	7	7

Attendance: 81.8%

<b>Register of Attendance: Meetings of the Quality of Education Committee For the period 1/9/2022-31/8/2023</b>	<b>Meetings Attended</b>	<b>Maximum Possible*</b>
Dr M Strelley	2	2
Mr W Hayes	2	2
Mr P Connolly	1	2
Dr F Wrigley	2	2
Mrs D Oakley (Appointed 19/04/23)	0	1
Mrs M Dengate	2	2
Mr M Firth (Resigned 1/5/23)	1	1

Attendance: 83.3%

\*One meeting cancelled due to adverse weather conditions

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Governors' Report (continued)**

### **Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel**

The pay levels of the key management personnel have been benchmarked against comparable positions at similar sized Academies throughout England and Wales. The Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team pay levels have been agreed by the Finance and Audit Committee.

### **Connected Organisations, including Related Party Relationships**

All transactions involving members of the Board of Governors are conducted in accordance with the Academy's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures. Any Governor who has or can have any direct, indirect or personal interest which may conflict with duty of Governor must disclose it as soon as they are aware.

Every Governor completes an annual Business and Pecuniary Interests Declaration and will absent himself from any discussions where a conflict of interest may arise.

### **Trade Union Facility Time**

The Academy did not have any employees who were relevant union officials and therefore did not undertake such activities.

## **Objectives and Activities**

### **Objectives and Aims**

St Mary's Catholic High School, a Catholic Voluntary Academy is a Catholic Academy in the Diocese of Hallam (Sheffield). Students of the predecessor school automatically transferred to the Academy on conversion and offers of places for the educational year 2012/2013 were confirmed for the Academy.

The Object as defined in the Articles of Association is specifically restricted to "the advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a Catholic school offering a broad and balanced curriculum".

The Academy works within the Diocesan Partnership Agreement between the Diocese of Hallam Trustee (as Trustee of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hallam Trust), the Bishop of Hallam, and the Diocese of Hallam Schools Partnership. The agreed core principles are:

- All Diocesan schools will continue to be members of the Diocesan family of schools and will not be left to work in isolation.
- All Diocesan schools will continue to work for the Common Good and to promote community cohesion.
- The Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher and any member of the staff appointed to deputise for the Head Teacher, Chaplaincy Co-ordinator and the Head or Co-ordinator of religious education, must be a practising Catholic.
- Religious education must be taught in line with the Curriculum Directory and any directive given by the Diocesan Bishop with regard to specific programmes of study and in line with the Bishop's Conference specifies 10% of curriculum time required in Key Stages 1-4 and 5% in Key Stage 5.
- Religious worship will be in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church.

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Governors' Report (continued)**

### **Objectives and Aims (continued)**

- Personal health and social education and in particular, sex and relationship education must be taught in line with guidance from the Bishop's Conference and in accordance with the teaching of the Catholic Church.
- Foundation Governors of Diocesan Schools must be in the majority of at least two in the Governing Board. The Chair of the Governing Board of Diocesan Schools must be a Foundation Governor.
- Diocesan Schools must be led, managed and governed according to the social teaching of the Catholic Church. Diocesan Schools will exercise a preferential option for the poor and disadvantaged, particularly those with special need and those in public care.
- Governors and staff of the Diocesan Schools will ensure that priority is given to promoting good relationships with homes and parishes of the children.
- All Diocesan Schools shall work collaboratively with each other, with the local families of schools and with other schools in the area.

As part of that partnership The Diocese conducted a Section 48 inspection in March 2018. The Academy was awarded an outstanding rating.

The Academy provides education to students aged 11 to 18 within the core principles of the above Partnership Agreement.

### **Objectives, Strategies and Activities**

#### **Implementation of 2022/2023 Development Plan**

The Academy Trust was set up on 1 August 2012 with a continual aim of providing a smooth and seamless transition from the voluntary aided to Academy status, whilst maintaining the Catholic ethos and high standards, values and achievements of the previous entity.

The strategic vision for the Academy is to strive to be:

- A community which provides excellent education rooted in the Catholic faith and Christian values.
- A community of well-disciplined, hardworking individuals where each member is valued and respected for who they are and what gifts they bring.
- A community with a keen focus on excellent teaching and learning, which engages and develops the potential of all within it.
- A community which is well respected by those around it, near and far, for its high standards, openness and support of others.

# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

## Governors' Report (continued)

### Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)

#### Implementation of 2022/2023 Development Plan (continued)

This vision for 2022/2023 was realised as follows:

#### Quality of Education

##### Pupil Outcomes

GCSE	P8	A8	Non-Dis P8	Dis P8	HABs	HAGs	MABs	MAGs	5EM (9-5)	LAC
<b>FFTD Target</b>	0.75	61.52	0.7	0.69	0.4	1.1	0.35	0.9	84.50%	1.335
<b>Results 2018-19</b>	0.3	54.41	0.42	0.086	-0.067	0.611	0.389	0.452	80%	0.751
<b>Results 2022-23</b>	0.42	57.41	0.57	-0.24	0.32	0.56	0.33	0.58	67.5%	-0.89 (2)
<b>St Mary's Target</b>	<b>0.5+</b>	<b>62.00+</b>	<b>0.7+</b>	<b>0.5+ (gap to &lt;0.2)</b>	<b>0.4+</b>	<b>0.75+</b>	<b>0.35+</b>	<b>0.6+</b>	<b>84%+</b>	<b>0.75+</b>

A level	VA	APS	Average Grade	Disadvantaged VA
<b>Results 2018-19</b>	-0.16	34.3	C+	-0.37
<b>Results 2022-23</b>	-0.51	35.77	B-	-0.45
<b>St Mary's Target</b>	<b>0.15+</b>	<b>40+</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>0.15</b>

#### The Curriculum

Following the review of the curriculum undertaken in 2019-2020, a two-year period of curriculum development and renewal took place between 2020-2022. During this time:

- Whole school curriculum aims and principles were agreed and embedded.
- Each department developed their own curriculum aims and intent.
- Each department refined long, medium and short term curriculum planning documentation.
- New qualifications were introduced in Key Stage 5: A level Photography; A level Computer Science; BTEC Applied Science (Level 3); and A level Politics.

# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

## Governors' Report (continued)

### Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)

#### Implementation of 2022/2023 Development Plan (continued)

In 2022-2023, departments refined their assessment approaches, in line with the whole school Assessment, Marking and Feedback policy, which stipulates that feedback must reflect the following principles:

- Consistent in quality (feedback should clearly identify strengths and areas for development)
- Closing the gap (feedback should enable pupils to close the gap between what they know, and what we would like them to know)
- Carefully crafted (there should be focus on deep marking carefully crafted assessments at key points)
- Culture of feedback (marking should elicit a response from pupils)

Additionally, in 2022-2023, each department devised and implemented a research-driven approach to disciplinary literacy, to be deployed alongside three, core, whole-school strategies: explicit vocabulary instruction; contextualisation; and the use of metacognitive strategies when approaching subject-specific reading activities.

Robust curriculum reviews were undertaken for each department in order to quality assure curriculum provision, which was found to be at least good for all departments but consistently outstanding in the majority (see SES and Curriculum Review Reports).

#### The Quality of Teaching and Learning

Evidence from learning walks demonstrate the quality of teaching and learning to be largely outstanding, with only very occasional areas for development highlighted (see Departmental Review Reports). The quality of teaching of teachers at the beginning of their careers has been good and, at times, outstanding. All ECT 1s have successfully passed their first ECT year, and 2 of the 3 ECT 2s have passed their second years, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> requiring an extension due to absence related to illness.

#### Behaviour and Attitudes

##### Attendance

Attendance	Overall FSM	Nat'l	Overall Non FSM	Nat'l	GAP	PA's FSM	Nat'l	PA's Non FSM	Nat'l	PA's GAP
2016-17	93.6%	92.8%	96.6%	95.9%	3%	20.3%	21.6%	5.4%	8.3%	14.9%
2017-18	93.1%	92.8%	96.6%	95.9%	3.5%	23.6%	21.6%	6.9%	8.3%	16.7%
2018-19	92.4%	92.8%	96.6%	95.9%	4.2%	16.7%	21.6%	6.1%	8.3%	10.9%
2019-20	90%	92.8%	95.8%	95.9%	5.8%	28.9%	21.6%	9.7%	8.3%	20.6%
2020-21	91.9%	92.8%	96.1%	95.9%	4.3%	18.4%	21.6%	11.2%	8.3%	7.2%
2021-22	90.5%	N/A	94.4%	N/A	3.9%	28%	N/A	13.9%	N/A	14.1%
2022-23	90.62%	N/A	95.02%	90.7%	4.4%	21.96%	N/A	10.01%	N/A	11.95%

# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

## Governors' Report (continued)

### Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)

#### Implementation of 2022/2023 Development Plan (continued)

##### Fixed Term Exclusions

FT Exclusions	Number Overall	Boys	Girls	PP	Non PP	% Overall	Boys	Girls	PP	Non PP
2016-17	53	49	4	29	24	5.3%	9.8%	0.8%	17.7%	2.9%
2017-18	20	16	4	7	13	2%	3.2%	0.8%	3.7%	1.6%
2018-19	21	19	1	11	10	2%	3.8%	0.2%	5.7%	1.2%
2019-20	15	13	2	5	10	1.5%	2.5%	0.4%	2.5%	1.2%
2020-21	21	12	9	5	16	1.5%	1.7%	1%	3%	1.2%
2021-22	26	18	8	14	12	1.8%	2.5%	1.1%	8%	0.9%
2022-23	38	27	9	25	12	2%	2%	0.9%	8%	0.5%

##### Attendance

Our new attendance policy was launched in July 2022, ready for use from September 2023. We engaged with the local authority attendance consultant to help monitor the impact of the policy, and we are very pleased with the outstanding attendance of our pupils. All our data shows that our pupils (including disadvantaged pupils) are the highest attenders in Derbyshire.

##### Behaviour

Evidence from learning walks and lesson observations demonstrates that there is a positive behaviour culture across the school, as outlined through teaching and learning data. The second year of our 'Aspire' rewards system has been successful, with its introduction in the sixth form and the use of the 'Chair of Governor's Award'.

##### Personal Development

###### Form time

The form time Inauro program has been successful. Our QA has shown that pupils value the personal development curriculum/opportunities offered, and that it has improved both their awareness of the importance of personal development as well as their understanding of how school supports it. Our QA has shown that the Inauro curriculum is taking place across the lower school.

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Governors' Report (continued)**

### **Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)**

#### **Implementation of 2022/2023 Development Plan (continued)**

##### **Extra-curricular engagement**

All departments have offered co-curricular opportunities for each Key Stage. An Inauro Booklet was again published for students and parents to highlight all of the groups on offer and encourage pupils to participate. Form tutors went to considerable effort capturing the detailed information on their pupils' participation in co-curricular. The final data capture of the year indicated that there was an increase across all cohorts, with 80% of the school participated in co-curricular activity (compared to 45% last year), and 40% of PP pupils participated (compared to 25% last year). A range of sixth form responsibility groups were launched, including targeted groups for pupils wanting to progress to elite institutions such as the stretch and challenge group and the Medics/Dentistry/Vets group. A new school council was elected.

##### **Faith in Action**

The newly launched 'Faith in Action' groups have been extremely successful. The chaplaincy department has worked with the Heads of Year to create 'Year Group Identity' through a focus on a patron saint. Each year group has participated in charity work and had a celebratory feast day. The whole school feast day saw a development of our charity partnership with Ashgate Hospicecare, which was further cemented during the whole-school sponsored walk day. All of the charities that we have worked with throughout the year were invited to a 'charity market' during the final term. The final INSET day of the term was used for CPD as 'Catholic Educators'. This year saw the first Faith in Action Awards, with over 50 pupils present for the awards ceremony presented by the Bishop. This was the highest number of pupils in the Diocese.

##### **Leadership and Management**

The capacity and skill of the team of senior leaders has been augmented by the appointment of a Head of Key Stage 5, a Head of Pupil Engagement, and a Head of Scholarship (from September 2023).

A review of the SEND department in the summer of 2022 led to a period of significant development, building upon the already strong practice in place with regard to SEND provision. The new tiered approach has been supported by a new staffing structure, and there have been several staffing changes within the team of Teaching Assistants. Internal and external reviews have highlighted significant areas of improvement and strength.

Following a period of informal departmental support, the Head of Maths has secured significant improvements to A level outcomes in both Maths and Further Maths.

Staffing challenges relating to long-term illness were dealt with effectively by the Heads of Science and DT.

##### **Culture of safeguarding**

The safeguarding of our pupils is of the upmost importance at St Mary's Catholic High School and we believe that Safeguarding is everyone's business and responsibility. We are committed to promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff, volunteers and visitors to share this commitment. We consistently work with other agencies to ensure effective arrangements are made to identify, assess, prevent and support any child who suffers harm. Staff are aware of who the most vulnerable pupils are in school so that they can tailor their approach and support them appropriately (Looked After Children/ Children with Social Workers/ Early Help/ Young Carers/ Disadvantaged). We are an Attachment Aware School and staff have received training on how to support vulnerable children using techniques such as emotion coaching, co-regulation and de-escalation techniques. All new staff receive twilight INSET on this area as part of their induction programme.

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Governors' Report (continued)**

### **Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)**

St. Mary's Catholic High School has a well-established and successful Early Help provision in house- The Wellbeing Team. We support over 80 young people and families on average each year. The Wellbeing Team is led by the DSL with support from the Early Help Coordinator & Family Resource Worker and two school counsellors. We are excited to welcome a Mental Health Support Team funded by the CCG in January 2023, following a successful bid to enrich our existing support.

All members of staff believe that St Mary's Catholic High School provide a safe, caring, positive and stimulating environment that promotes the spiritual, social, emotional, physical and moral development of all our children.

All staff at St Mary's receive regular Safeguarding and Child Protection training and are aware of procedures to report any concerns. All safeguarding concerns and interventions are securely logged on My Concern and monitored by the DSL. The DSL provides updates on changes to legislation and contextual safeguarding issues that affect our school community via CPD, email, bulletins and termly Safe@St.Mary's Newsletters are shared with all staff, parents/ carers and governors.

### **Outstanding Areas for Development from 2022-2023 School Development Plan**

#### **Quality of Education**

Although the A level data represents an improving picture upon 2019 outcomes, with an increase in attainment, there is still work to be done with regard to our progress/value added score, which does not yet reflect the outstanding progress made by schools within the top 10% at a national level.

The new 'Reading, Oracy and Literacy' strategy has been effectively rolled-out across the school. Whilst approaches to disciplinary literacy have been very well designed/deployed, further embedding of some areas is required.

The impact of COVID19 has been more pronounced upon the disadvantaged cohort that it has upon their non-disadvantaged peers. Despite targeted tutoring and intervention for these students, progress and attainment data still indicates a significant gap. Work in this area is ongoing and a new Head of Disadvantaged Strategy has been appointed to drive improvement in this area of provision.

#### **Behaviour and Attitudes**

Despite the second year of St. Mary's ASPIRE being successful, last year was only the first year of its use in the Sixth Form. Therefore, the use of ASPIRE in Key Stage 5 is less consistent than in the rest of the school. In addition, there are a few remaining outlying departments where the numbers of house points awarded are significantly below the rest of the school.

#### **Personal Development**

The participation of pupils in co-curricular has greatly improved over the past academic year. However, the participation by disadvantaged students is behind the rest of the school and this must remain a focus. The INAURO personal development programme has been very successful and all QA/analysis shows that it is making a real impact and valued by the pupils. However, it is less consistently delivered and received within the sixth form and therefore this must be a priority for this year.

#### **Leadership and Management**

Safeguarding- online safety will continue to be a key focus this year, with the development of the school website and implementation of *Smoothwall* firewall, filtering and monitoring system.



# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Governors' Report (continued)**

### **Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)**

#### **Significant Changes**

There have also been some significant changes to staffing this year. 9 new teachers have been appointed for September 2023, including 2 ECTs, 3 Heads of Department and a primary trained teacher of SEND. 8 teachers left the school. In addition, there have been changes within the pastoral staffing structure resulting in a cascade of internal appointments to new roles.

#### **Key Priorities 2023/24**

##### **Quality of Education**

**Secure a progress 8 score of 0.5 and a post-16 value added score of 0.15 to bring pupil progress in line with the top 10% of schools at a national level.**

- Build a culture of scholarship in which effective academic behaviours are developed and promoted across all year groups.
- Embed whole-school strategies to support the development of reading, oracy and literacy, driving excellence in the standards of written and spoken communication.
- 'Diminish the difference' between the attainment and progress of disadvantaged pupils, especially FSM and LAC, and the rest of the cohort.

##### **Behaviour and Attitudes**

- Embed and refine the ASPIRE systematic approach to recognising and rewarding achievement, thereby raising aspiration and engagement amongst pupils across all key stages.
- Increase clarity within the pastoral structure to increase the efficiency, efficacy and capacity of the team.

##### **Personal Development**

- Consolidate and ensure consistency within the form time programme.
- Bring Personal Development provision in the 6th form in line with that of the rest of the school.
- Ensure that all pupils receive a consistent experience of the Catholic life of the school.

##### **Leadership and Management**

- Build and strengthen the capacity for senior leadership within the team of middle leaders.
- Clearly embed safeguarding as the 'golden thread' that underpins the ethos and academic excellence of the school with all pupils.
- Enhance our online safety provision in both infrastructure and education.

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Governors' Report (continued)**

### **Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)**

#### **School Development Plan 2023-2024**

##### **Quality of Education**

##### **Build a culture of scholarship in which effective academic behaviours are developed and promoted across all year groups**

**Develop, implement and deliver a whole school scholarship approach to promote and drive effective academic behaviours amongst pupils:**

- Appoint a 'Head of Scholarship' (HoS) to research, design and implement a whole school 'Scholarship Programme' that identifies and instils key markers of scholarly behaviour
- Deliver half-termly assemblies outlining and promoting the academic behaviour focus for that half-term
- Monitor and evaluate the efficacy of the programme, including pupils' understanding of each focus area and the ensuing attitudes and behaviours displayed by pupils
- Adapt and refine the programme as appropriate

Additionally, in 6<sup>th</sup> Form

- Formalise the use of 6<sup>th</sup> Form study periods
- Refine the personal development programme to encourage academic engagement within and beyond the curriculum
- Refine Teams/shared area materials and reading lists
- Monitor and reward engagement with Teams/shared area materials and reading lists
- Create a 'Scholars Group' to work with Y11 students, championing student advocacy in this area

**Support the development of outstanding quality-first teaching across the school by further advancing the capacity of teaching staff to cultivate positive academic behaviours in line with the whole school approach:**

- All staff to attend half-termly Scholarship Assemblies
- Identify and share best practice in terms of the way in which departments cultivate and promote effective academic behaviours
- Deliver short half-termly CPD input during staff meetings to support staff understanding of each focus area
- Create mechanisms by which staff develop and model academic behaviours
- Refine quality-first assessment, marking and feedback approaches to assure the quality of work that pupils produce
- Utilise LG QA focus to review the efficacy of departmental approaches to the cultivation of positive academic behaviours

**Increase the impact of the parent/carer community by engaging and informing parents/carers about the ways in which they can foster and instil effective learning behaviours at home:**

- Design and build mechanisms to enhance the desire and capacity of parents to support scholarly behaviours
- Communicate half-termly focus areas to parents, outlining strategies for home support
- Develop and implement effective methods of sharing where students exceed or fail to meet our expectations around academic behaviours.

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Governors' Report (continued)**

### **Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)**

#### **Development Plan 2023-2024 (continued)**

##### **Instil and cement examination skill and confidence in pupils across all key stages:**

- Design and deliver opportunities for formal examination experiences in Key Stage 3:
  - Provide revision materials, guidance, skills input and support prior to exams
  - Deliver on exams conduct in assemblies
  - Hold formal core subject exams in the Sports Hall for all Key Stage 3 pupils
  - Deliver high-profile feedback following all Key Stage 3 exams
- Prioritise the building and practice of examination techniques and skills within lessons, particularly in Key Stages 4 & 5
  - Prioritise exam board CPD courses to ensure up-to-date knowledge of required examination techniques and skills
  - Encourage/support teaching staff to take on board examination marking
  - Refine and embed approaches to regular examination practice and feedback
- Increase the number of exam practice opportunities for all pupils in Key Stage 5

##### **Embed whole-school strategies to support the development of reading, oracy and literacy, driving excellence in the standards of written and spoken communication**

##### **Enhance the impact of the school's literacy intervention strategies:**

- Implement the Ruth Miskin Fresh Start programme for targeted Key Stage pupils requiring phonics-based intervention
  - Identify intervention cohorts from Y6 GL assessments
  - Train and deploy key staff in programme delivery
  - Track end of year progress and review programme efficacy
- Deploy SEND teacher and TA to support programme delivery in Key Stage 3 bottom sets and deliver additional targeted literacy sessions
- Expand the 'Switch On' programme for targeted Key Stage 3 pupils requiring automaticity/fluency-based intervention

##### **Further embed a cohesive, school-wide approach to literacy and disciplinary literacy:**

- Embed research-driven, whole school approach to disciplinary literacy
  - Re-establish core whole school strategies through twilight input
  - Re-establish and refine disciplinary approaches through departmental meetings
  - Continue with 'Literacy, Reading and Oracy' as an area of focus for departmental QA, where appropriate
- Continue to increase staff capacity and skill in the teaching of literacy
  - Facilitate best practice sharing of whole school approaches both within and beyond departments
  - Support, champion and share practice from bespoke departmental approaches
  - Deliver follow up Literacy twilight. All departments to be represented and all new staff to attend

##### **Ensure the provision, promotion and uptake of first class reading, oracy and literacy enrichment opportunities:**

- EB/SN to deliver further FT training to support effective delivery
- BR to carry out FT QA for Inauro Read activities
- Expand and firmly embed St. Mary's Literary Canon to expose students to seminal thinking within disciplinary fields
- Develop and champion a more cohesive approach to co-curricular reading, oracy and literacy ('Literacy in the Library' strand)

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Governors' Report (continued)**

### **Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)**

#### **Development Plan 2023-2024 (continued)**

#### **'Diminish the difference' between the attainment and progress between disadvantaged pupils and the rest of the cohort.**

**Prioritise quality first teaching and further embed 5 key elements of positive discrimination in all lessons: Learning Environment, Active Participation, Checking for Understanding, Priority Feedback and Praise.**

- Disadvantaged students and LACPP strategies to be a focus of QA
- Training on LACPP will be delivered to all new staff
- HODs to carefully consider which classes disadvantaged students are placed in to ensure they make the best progress possible

**Identify underperforming disadvantaged pupils, and devise, implement and monitor strategies to support their progress:**

- JX to highlight the progress of disadvantaged pupils in tracking data, including departmental and pastoral staff
- HODs to include progress of disadvantaged students as part of their department meetings in order to track, monitor and inform classroom teaching
- Where appropriate, disadvantaged students are given tutorial sessions, including as part of the NTP and 16-18 tutoring program
- Disadvantaged students not making the required progress will be targeted for RAP meetings and PEP reviews
- Students in KS3 who are identified as the weakest readers will receive interventions to improve their vocabulary, comprehension and fluency
- Disadvantaged students in Y11 and Y13 will be given additional support during the exam period, including help with study skills and supervised study by senior staff

**Implement strategies to promote parental engagement:**

- Pre-book parents evening appointments for the parents of disadvantaged students to ensure they can attend
- Invite the parents of disadvantaged students to meetings/ phone calls with AN to promote engagement with targets set as part of PEP meetings
- Disadvantaged parents will receive more regular communication (letters, text messages and phone calls) from the school, to keep them informed of events and opportunities at the school

**Remove barriers to encourage disadvantaged students to make the most of all opportunities offered by the school:**

- AN to meet disadvantaged pupils for a 'PEP meeting' to discuss all aspects of their experience at school and to set and monitor targets, communicating these targets to staff affected (e.g. those running Inauro activities or subject teachers)
- Parents of disadvantaged students to be contacted about any trips to inform them of the financial help available
- Disadvantaged students are to be helped with equipment to ensure they can participate in all lessons and Inauro activities
- Disadvantaged students will continue to be offered peripatetic music lessons free of charge

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Governors' Report (continued)**

### **Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)**

#### **Development Plan 2023-2024 (continued)**

- The sixth form bursary is offered to disadvantaged students to allow them to access all essential educational experiences
- Disadvantaged students are targeted for careers and pathways advice and guidance to ensure they make ambitious choices for their future

#### **Behaviour and Attitudes**

#### **Embed and refine the ASPIRE systematic approach to recognising and rewarding achievement, thereby raising aspiration and engagement amongst pupils across all key stages.**

**Implement a whole school system that captures achievement and engagement in all areas of school life whilst providing pupils with a platform to enable them to make the most of their education at St. Mary's.**

- Embed the language of 'ASPIRE' is used by all to demonstrate that the most successful pupils are those striving to achieve across all categories.
- Ensure that achievement and engagement for all aspects of school and by all cohorts can be consistently recognised.
- Implement St. Mary's ASPIRE into the Sixth Form.
- Continue to embed ASPIRE into the reporting structure.

**Raise the profile of achievement by implementing a hierarchy of meaningful rewards which will inspire and motivate students to achieve.**

- The St. Mary's 'Aspire' system to have set rewards that are without bounds to pupils of all cohorts.
- A clear hierarchy of meaningful rewards being consistently used.
- Improved contact between school and home recognising pupil achievements.
- Termly reports home on pupil behaviour and achievements.
- Pupil focus groups to be undertaken to gather pupil voice.

**Ensure the programme is firmly embedded and delivered with consistency.**

- Weekly staff bulletin used to raise the profile of the rewards system across the staff body.
- Analysis of rewards given across departments and shared with staff through the bulletin.
- Records of postcards home kept.
- Half term review of rewards at Senior Pastoral Meetings.
- Inclusion of ASPIRE points on pupil reports home.

#### **Increase clarity within the pastoral structure to increase the efficiency, efficacy and capacity of the team.**

**Ensure the lines of responsibility and accountability are clear.**

- Professional discussions to take place with pastoral team members to ascertain which areas of responsibility/accountability are unclear.
- Implement a revised 'pastoral structure', with clear levels of responsibility and accountability for each member of the pastoral 'team'.
- Amend line management structure so that the Heads of Key Stage are line managed by the Deputy Headteacher (Behaviour and Attitudes).
- Revise the 'Key Stage QA' reviews to include an analysis of the leadership & management of each key stage.

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Governors' Report (continued)**

### **Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)**

#### **Development Plan 2023-2024 (continued)**

**Further differentiate the roles of 'Heads of Key Stage' and 'Heads of Year' in order to increase the efficacy and capacity of the Pastoral Team.**

- Implement a new weekly pastoral meeting structure, that will facilitate the differentiation of the pastoral leadership roles.
- Review the Head of Year job description in order to create capacity for Heads of Year to fulfil their Behaviour & Attitudes remit.

**Improve the efficacy of the Head of Conduct role.**

- Review of the roles 'line managed' by the Head of Conduct.
- Streamline the pastoral procedures around high-level behaviour incidents, enabling the Head of Conduct to better monitor these events and ensure all pupils involved are fully supported.
- Implement improved monitoring of high-level behaviour events in order to enable earlier tracking of any emerging trends.
- Review attendance procedures to enable the Head of Conduct to better monitor intervention & impact.

### **Personal Development**

#### **Consolidate and ensure consistency within the form time programme**

**Ensure that tutors are fully supported with the delivery of the Inauro curriculum during tutor time.**

- Provide a form tutor handbook for all tutors that supports tutors with the delivery of the programme.
- Revise tutor meetings with a greater focus on the content of form time.
- ED (Inauro Depth), EB (Inauro Read) and CM (co-curricular) to be present at each form tutor meeting to provide CPD to tutors where necessary.
- The line management of tutors to come under the more experienced 'Heads of Key Stage'.
- Tutor meetings to be held as key stage groups rather than individual year groups, streamlining the tutor meeting process allowing a greater level of efficiency.

**Tighten the management of the form time content to ensure that tutors are not over-burdened.**

- Continue to develop the student briefing ensuring that it remains as effective as possible.
- Revise the Head of Conduct role to manage the form time content, monitoring what demands are being placed on tutors.
- LH & JC to visit two schools that make effective use of form time in order to provide CPD.

**Embed the use of the 'notices' email address, avoiding tutors from having to make individual notices.**

**Continue to tightly QA form-time to ensure consistency and effectiveness of the programme.**

- Embed the form time QA launched for the first time last year.
- Ensure that Heads of Key Stage are supported by the Head of Conduct for the key stage QA.
- Revise the QA to monitor the effectiveness of the form time programme, alongside the consistency.

**Feedback QA regularly to tutors through the tutor meeting structure.**

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Governors' Report (continued)**

### **Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)**

#### **Development Plan 2023-2024 (continued)**

##### **Bring Personal Development provision in the 6th form in line with that of the rest of the school.**

**Revise the teaching of PSHE within the sixth form to improve its effectiveness.**

- The Head of PSHE to take responsibility for PSHE within the sixth form.
- Delivery of PSHE to be taught by the Head of PSHE
- PSHE to no longer be taught as 'whole year groups', and instead taught in smaller groups enabling greater discussion, debate and allowing each students' voice to be heard.
- QA of PSHE within the sixth form to follow the same structure as that of lower school.

**The sixth form tutor group content to follow the same structure as lower school.**

- Set days to be introduced for form time content.
- Form tutors to be provided with more frequent and higher quality CPD in order to better deliver the content.
- Responsibility for form time content to fall under the Head of Key Stage 5.
- Make use of afternoon form periods in KS5 to provide 1-1 support by tutors where necessary.

**The scholarship programme to replace the use of VESPA.**

- Sixth formers to follow the study skills programme being launched across the school this year.
- The Head of Scholarship to support sixth form students with improving their independent study skills.
- The Head of Scholarship to support the Head of Key Stage 5 in formalising the use of study periods by students.
- QA of scholarship/independent study to take place regularly as a part of the Key Stage QA to monitor impact, alongside ensuring the programme is fit for purpose within the sixth form.

**Target all personal development opportunities (internal or external), with a particular focus on supporting disadvantaged pupils.**

- The Inauro Lead, supported by an intern, to monitor all opportunities advertised to the school by external organisations.
- Specific students to be targeted where opportunities would be beneficial to them, including their parents.
- A log of the personal development opportunities competed by sixth formers to take place through unifrog, and their impact monitored.

**Ensure that all disadvantaged students are partaking in suitable personal development opportunities.**

##### **Ensure that all pupils receive a consistent experience of the Catholic life of the school.**

**Ensure staff are confident in their roles as Catholic Educators.**

- INSET to be used July 2023 to be a focus on the role of 'Catholic Educator'.
- JC to attend all tutor meetings to support tutors regularly in fulfilling this role.
- Morning briefings to be used once per half term to provide staff with a model of how to deliver 'acts of worship'. This time will also be used to provide additional CPD as necessary, triggered by the QA findings.
- 'Working in a Catholic School' new staff session to be revised.
- Form tutor handbook to feature specific support for tutors with regard to providing a Catholic experience within form time.

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Governors' Report (continued)**

### **Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)**

#### **Development Plan 2023-2024 (continued)**

**Quality assure the Catholic life of the school to ensure all pupils are benefitting from the experience.**

- All acts of worship and feast days to be QA'd through student surveys and focus groups.
- Student parliament 'Inauro' members to now review 'Faith in Action' as a part of their student voice.
- Numbers of pupils participating in 'Faith in Action' to be recorded and monitored.
- Key Stage QA to include a focus on the Catholic experience that pupils receive.

**The revised Head of Year role to support the chaplaincy department in improving engagement with 'Faith in Action'.**

- Each year group to lead an Act of Worship throughout the course of the year.
- The Head of Year to support the launch of the Faith in Action groups, and to attend the meetings.
- Weekly pastoral meetings to now include an opportunity every other week for HOYs to engage with the chaplaincy department and review this aspect of their roles.

### **Leadership and Management**

#### **Build and strengthen the capacity for senior leadership within the team of middle leaders**

##### **Enhance professional development opportunities for middle leaders**

- Promote and support NPQSL
  - Advertise NPQSL to all middle leaders
  - Assign RB/FF/BR as mentors to all staff undertaking NPQSL
- Design and deliver short CPD sessions focussing on key aspects of middle/senior leadership (to be delivered in HODs/Pastoral meeting slots e.g. holding others to account, sharing best practice, handling complaints)

##### **Create opportunities for collaborative leadership amongst middle leaders**

- Offer a series of departmental and pastoral development topics to be undertaken by small 'research and practice' teams
  - Each team to design and implement (within their respective areas) a research-driven solution, strategy or approach to tackle the identified issue
- Utilise middle leaders to model and champion best practice in HoDs/HoYs meetings

##### **Provide mechanisms by which to support senior leadership experiences (secondment/model senior leader behaviours)**

- Work with neighbouring schools (e.g. DHFS) to facilitate external scrutiny
- Provide LG secondment opportunities to model senior leadership behaviours and practices

#### **Clearly embed safeguarding as the 'golden thread' that underpins the ethos and academic excellence of the school with all pupils.**

**DSL to continue to work with the Student Parliament to discuss any safeguarding concerns that the pupils have and respond accordingly to ensure that all pupils feel safe in school all the time.**



# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Governors' Report (continued)**

### **Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)**

#### **Development Plan 2023-2024 (continued)**

DSL to work with the Inauro Pathway Lead to establish 'Aspire to Embrace' with the Pupil Parliament. This will encompass aspects of diversity, mental health and wellbeing. This will provide pupils with a weekly safe space and peer support to discuss ideas, identify areas for development learn positive self-help strategies.

DSL to deliver an assembly to all year groups each half-term. They will focus on the most relevant contextual safeguarding issues that affect our school community. Including:

- Mental health & Wellbeing
- Radicalisation & Extremism
- Online Safety
- County Lines & Gangs
- Healthy relationships, consent & domestic abuse
- Child Criminal Exploitation/ Child Sexual Exploitation

Enhance our online safety provision in both infrastructure and education.

DSL & Link ICT to further embed firewall, filtering and active monitoring system from *Smoothwall* to ensure compliance with KCSIE 2023 and <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-digital-and-technology-standards-in-schools-and-colleges>

DSL to create a Safe@St.Mary's page on the school website. The content will include information and signposting on a range of safeguarding issues, school policies & useful national guidance- including online safety.

DSL to complete an online safety audit LGFL <https://360safe.org.uk/> with support from Head of ICT and PSHE Lead.

# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

## Governors' Report (continued)

### Public Benefit

The Governors can confirm that they have complied with their duty to give due regard to the guidance on public benefit by the Charities Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

The key public benefit delivered by the Academy has and will be the continued development of a high quality educational system, managed effectively and efficiently for the benefit of students and the community it serves.

Performance outcomes for 2022-2023 are evidenced in the achievements and performance section.

### Strategic Report

#### Achievements and Performance

##### Key Stage 4

This was an excellent year despite challenging circumstances for this cohort of Year 11s.

Our results placed the school as first in the County for attainment in all areas.

Our disadvantaged pupils have also had a difficult year with a negative progress 8 score, but this remains an area with a whole school focus and their progress 8 score is better than the national data in this area.

	All	PP	Non-PP	Boys	Girls	SEN
Provisional Progress 8	0.37	-0.24	0.57	0.26	0.59	-0.58
Attainment 8	57.41	43.37	60.58	56.06	58.89	32.57
9-4 English/Maths	83.0%	63.2%	87.5%	82.4%	83.7%	34.8%
9-5 English/Maths	67.5%	42.1%	73.2%	64.7%	70.4%	21.7%
9/8/7%	42%	17%	46.4%	40.6%	42.7%	15.4%
Grade 9s	145	4	141	88	57	2

##### Key Stage 5

Y13 pupils faced a challenging year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

77% went direct to university/higher education, 5.6% took a gap year, 1.6% went on to other further education and 13.6% went into employment or to apprenticeships.

The average grade of B- brings results back to pre-pandemic levels and, crucially, was an improvement on the 2019 results. The Value Added grade is so skewed because these pupils had been awarded TAGs and so were not being measured against GCSE exam grades, but teacher assessed grades.

	All	PP	Non-PP	Boys	Girls
Pass Rate	99.4	100	100	100	100
A*/A/B%	55.3	48.2%	56.3%	52.7%	57.2%
Average Points	35.79	32.62	36.25	34.93	36.41
Average Grade	B-	C+	B-	C+	B-

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Governors' Report (continued)**

### **Strategic Report (continued)**

#### **Achievements and Performance (continued)**

##### **Key Performance Indicators**

- Number on roll for years 7 – 11 remained stable.
- Number on roll for years 12 – 13 remained stable.

The percentage of children on Pupil Premium is 13%.

##### **Going Concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Academy Trust and Governing Body has a reasonable expectation that the Academy 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 Accounting Policies note of the financial statements.

## **Financial Review**

### **Financial Report for the year ended 31 August 2023**

The majority of the Academy's income is obtained from the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown in the statement of financial activities.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, total expenditure, excluding actuarial loss on the defined benefit pension scheme, was £9,784,793, which shows an overall net surplus for the year of £948,177.

At 31 August 2023, the net book value of fixed assets £3,962,004. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the students of the Academy.

#### **Financial position**

At 31 August 2023 the academy had a net surplus of fund balances of £4,791,490 comprising £587,222 of restricted reserves, £247,264 of unrestricted reserves, £3,962,004 in a fixed asset fund and a pension reserve deficit of £5,000.

#### **Funds in deficit**

The Academy's non-teaching staff are entitled to membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme. The Academy's share of the Scheme assets is currently assessed to be less than its liabilities and as a result the Academy's balance sheet shows a net liability of £5,000. However, the deficit does not mean that a liability will crystallise immediately, and the Academy continues to make the appropriate contributions.

#### **Reserves Policy**

The Academy's reserves are its funds after excluding restricted funds. Reserves are therefore the resources the Academy has or can make available to spend for any or all of the Academy's purposes once it has met its commitments and covered its other planned expenditure. The reserves represent income to the Academy which is to be spent at the Trust Members' and Governors' discretion to further any of the Academy's objects.

During 2022-2023 staffing has been revised to take into consideration positions required to fulfil the education needs of the Academy.

Currently our reserves are approximately £834,000. The Governing Body have prepared a 5-year financial plan. The objectives of this plan are to quantify resource requirements and operating costs to meet the objectives of the school. The current financial reserves will be incorporated into this plan.

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Governors' Report (continued)**

### **Financial Review (continued)**

#### **Investment Policy**

The Academy has adopted a low risk strategy and holds no investments other than its capital balance. It operates a main bank account linked to a deposit account and using sweeping methods, the Academy's bankers ensure adequate funds are available in the current account to meet liabilities as they arise whilst maintaining a balance as high as possible in the deposit account to take advantage of interest payments.

The Governors continue to review the Investment Policy and risk profile, taking into account the reduction in the academy's budget.

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

The Academy has financial risk strategies in place which have been adopted by the Governors and will be updated as necessary.

The principal risk for the Academy is the government funding for the education sector and ensuring funding continues to rise in line with increasing staffing costs. The Governing Body are continually assessing the 5-year plan which highlights the risk of the financial pressures on current staff resourcing and operating costs. The success of our school is founded on employing outstanding staff.

The school transport policy for faith schools continues to be highlighted by the Governing Body as a potential risk. The geographical spread of pupils attending St Mary's presents a unique challenge in terms of both the scale and diversity of transport requirements. The school continues to run non-profit commercial contracts to provide school transport.

#### **Risk Management**

The major risks facing the Academy have been identified and considered with action taken to reduce them.

The Governors have approved a number of changes to systems and procedures to manage and mitigate risk and where it cannot be eliminated adequate insurance cover has been put in place.

The comprehensive risk register is monitored on a quarterly basis, the responsible officers are identified and appropriate review procedures are in place.

#### **Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies**

The Academy has a Financial Procedures Policy and Scheme of Financial Delegation both of which have been adopted by the governors. Resources are used to maintain efficient staffing levels, ensure the continuing effectiveness of the organisation and good state of repair of the site and buildings.

#### **Fundraising**

At St Mary's Catholic High School, the students participate in school fund raising to support the whole school community. The students actively engage in an annual sponsored walk and non-uniform days for our school charity, Ashgate Hospice. The Sixth Form also raise funds on an annual basis for the school charity.

In 2022/23 the Academy did not work with any professional fundraisers and the Academy did not receive any complaints regarding the fundraising activities.

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Governors' Report (continued)**

### **Plans for Future Periods**

The Academy will continue to maintain the improvement in the performance of its students at all levels and aspires to maintain its OFSTED "outstanding school" status. It will endeavour to give all students support in both academic subjects and extra-curricular activities which provides a rich and satisfying school experience and allows them to reach their full potential.

The Academy is also keen to further develop the good relationships with the local primary "feeder" schools in the Diocese. The Immaculate Conception joined under the Umbrella Trust as part of the Diocesan Partnership Agreement from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014. We continue to develop strong working relationships between the financial teams of our feeder primary schools, sharing of ideas and working alongside one another on common practices.

The Governors recognise the good financial management and are taking opportunities to invest in the built environment to ensure the safety of all students. The school has continually invested during the financial year and has improved classrooms to support teaching and learning. Advantage will be taken of any future grants to develop existing buildings as the Academy believes that this will improve the quality of teaching space and maintain the exceptional levels of behaviour in the school.

The Condition Improvement Bid for Fire Safety and Compliance Phase 1 which was secured in the 2021/22 academic year to install new fire doors and fire compliant ceilings has now been completed. The Condition Improvement bid for Fire Safety and Compliance Phase 2 submitted in December 2022 was successful. The total amount granted was £661,180.

A further Condition Improvement Bid is being prepared and is due to be submitted to the DfE by mid December 2023.

### **Funds held as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others**

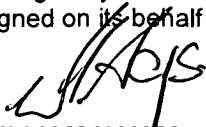
The Academy is committed to supporting education in Burkina Faso, Africa where it has built a primary school. Financial Governance is in partnership with the Director of Catholic Education for Diocese of Ouahigouya. St Mary's Burkina Faso commenced as an idea as part of our 140<sup>th</sup> year celebrations. Our sixth formers kindly chose this as their own chosen charity as part of our 150<sup>th</sup> year celebrations. This has enabled solar panels to be fitted to their buildings providing electricity. St Mary's Burkina Faso celebrated their 16th birthday in December 2021. The monies raised for this project are ring-fenced and held in a private account.

### **Auditor**

In so far as the governors are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the Academy Trust's auditor is unaware; and
- The Trust Members and Governors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Governors' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Members of the Trust and Governing Body of St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust, as the company directors, on 5 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



**MR WILLIAM HAYES**

**TRUST MEMBER AND CHAIR OF GOVERNING BODY**

**5 DECEMBER 2023**

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Governance Statement**

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

The Governing Body has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Head Teacher, 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 St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The Accounting Officer is also responsible for reporting to the Governing Body any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

### **Governance**

The Committees meet on a regular basis and the scope of each committee as well as the full breakdown of meeting attendance during the year can be found in the Governors Report.

In our latest Ofsted Inspection dated 2 - 3 October 2012 we were awarded Outstanding in all Categories.

- All aspects of the school's work are outstanding. This is because the leaders of the school and governing body have established a clear ethos around high expectations for all students. Leaders know the school extremely well and have clear plans in place to develop it further.
- Students in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 make outstanding progress during their time in the school, relative to their starting points. At the end of Key Stage 4, their attainment is high compared to national expectations and benchmarks.
- There is exemplary behaviour around the school. Students are unfailingly courteous and polite to adults, and each other. Students say that bullying is not a concern and it is very rare for any disruption to occur in lessons. Students are kept very safe in the school and it is clear from their attitudes to school and their attendance that students are extremely proud to be a part of the community of St Mary's Catholic High School.
- The sixth form is good as the progress that students make is outstanding in Year 12 and good in Year 13, compared to national expectations. However, attainment is high compared to national averages at the end of the sixth form.

The challenges the Governors have faced during 2022/23 were:

The Governing Board viewed this year as a period of consolidation after the disruption of Covid and its aftermath. An external review of Governance was undertaken across all Board activities and to ensure compliance with DFE guidance. It also provided the opportunity to review Governing Board Strategy and the effectiveness of the relationship with School leaders.

The output of the review provided reassurance that the Governing Board were compliant against all the requirements of the Governance Handbook and the Academy Trust Handbook.

Two new Directors have joined the Board during the year and provide additional areas of skill and expertise.

As a Board of Governors our strategy remains totally focussed on maintaining an environment and culture where pupil and staff welfare are the number one priority and each individual can maximise their potential. All our decisions are driven by this belief.

Sound financial management has allowed many improvements in the school infrastructure benefitting staff and pupils during the year. Our systems and process provide sound management of financial budgets and control over expenditure.

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Governance Statement (continued)**

### **Review of Value for Money**

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

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

- Continuous scrutiny of the teaching contracts during 2022/23 and amendments carried out where necessary to achieve greater value for money and autonomy.
- The IT department continue to obtain best value for purchasing equipment required to support teaching and learning. The leased photocopiers and printers continue to ensure better value for money throughout the whole school and the usage is continually monitored.
- The continuing scrutiny of our home to school bus contracts routinely occurs ensuring greater efficiency and also ensuring efficiency around pupil transport to events outside of school.
- St Mary's is registered with the Church Market Place enabling access to discounts due to multi academy buying and help through tendering processes. Government advice on Deals for Schools is embedded within the Finance Team and at the fore of all decision-making processes in addition to this.
- The academy continues to obtain three quotes for goods and services to ensure best value.

### **The Purpose of the System of Internal Control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust for the year ended 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

### **Capacity to Handle Risk**

The Governing Body 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 Governing Body is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year ending 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Governing Body.

# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

## Governance Statement (continued)

### The Risk and Control Framework

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

- a) Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body.
- b) Regular reviews by the Finance and Audit Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes.
- c) Setting targets to measure financial and other performance.
- d) Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines.
- e) Delegation of authority and segregation of duties.
- f) Identification and management of risks.

The internal auditor continues to work with the school and the role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy's financial systems. The Governing Body confirm the internal auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned, and no material control issues were identified.

### Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the Head teacher has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the period in question the review has been informed by:

- a) The work of the internal auditor.
- b) The work of the external auditor.
- c) The financial management and governance self-assessment process.
- d) The Risk Register.
- e) The work of the Finance and Audit Committee.

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.

Approved by order of the Members of the Trust and Governing Body on 5 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



MR W HAYES

TRUST MEMBER &  
CHAIR OF GOVERNING BODY

5 DECEMBER 2023



MRS M DENGATE

ACCOUNTING OFFICER

5 DECEMBER 2023



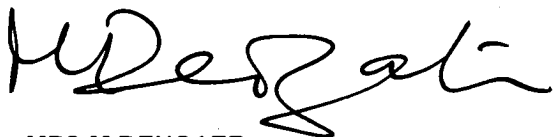
## **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

### **Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance**

As accounting officer of St Mary's Catholic High School Academy trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust governing body and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the academy trust, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

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

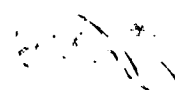
I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the board of trustees and ESFA.



**MRS M DENGATE**

**ACCOUNTING OFFICER**

**5 DECEMBER 2023**



# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Statement of Trust Members' and Governors' responsibilities**

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

Company law requires the Trust Members and Governors 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 Academy and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, of the Academy for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the Trust Members and Governors are required to:

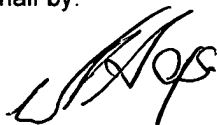
- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Academy will continue in operation.

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

The Trust Members and Governors are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the Academy applies financial and other controls which conform to the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from the Education & Skills Funding Agency and Department for Education have been applied for the purposes intended.

The Trust Members and Governors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Academy'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 Trust and Governing Body on 5 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



**MR W HAYES**

**TRUST MEMBER AND CHAIR OF GOVERNING BODY**

**5 DECEMBER 2023**

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and 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 & 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 & 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 trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

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

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

### **Other information**

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

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust (continued)**

### **Other information (continued)**

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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

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

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) 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 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 governors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 33, 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.

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.

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust (continued)**

### **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 regulation. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Our approach included obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the company and we determined those that are most significant. Based on the results of our risk assessment we designed audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. The specific procedures included:
  1. enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims.
  2. reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
  3. reviewing internal audit reports.
- In addition, and based on the results of our risk assessment we designed audit procedures to identify and address material misstatements in relation to fraud. Specifically we considered the risk of fraud through management override that may lead to misappropriation of assets or inappropriate financial reporting. In response, we performed audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of the academy and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

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

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

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the academy trust's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

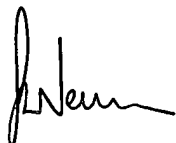
## **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust (continued)**

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the academy trust to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

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

### **Use of our report**

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



**Steven Newman LLB BFP FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

**For and on behalf of Wright Vigar Limited**

**Chartered Accountants and**

**Statutory Auditor**

**Alexandra House**

**43 Alexandra Street**

**Nottingham**

**NG5 1AY**

**5 December 2023**

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

## **Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust and the Education & Skills Funding Agency**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 23 November 2018 and further to the requirements of the Education & 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 St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust during the period from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

### **Respective responsibilities of St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 August 2012 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2020, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

### **Approach**

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

## **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

### **Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust and the Education Funding Agency (continued)**

#### **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 from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

*Wright Vigar Limited*

**Reporting Accountant  
Wright Vigar Limited  
Alexandra House  
43 Alexandra Street  
Nottingham  
NG5 1AY**

**5 December 2023**



# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2023 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Income from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	997,572	997,572	561,050
Other trading activities	4	2,960	-	-	2,960	11,696
Investment income	5	12,454	-	-	12,454	603
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the Academy's educational operations	6	-	9,719,984	-	9,719,984	8,503,380
<b>Total</b>		<b>15,414</b>	<b>9,719,984</b>	<b>997,572</b>	<b>10,732,970</b>	<b>9,076,729</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	7	5,500	-	-	5,500	5,500
Charitable activities:						
Academy's educational operations	7,8	-	9,547,419	231,874	9,779,293	8,550,355
Teaching schools	7,31	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,500</b>	<b>9,547,419</b>	<b>231,874</b>	<b>9,784,793</b>	<b>8,555,855</b>
<b>Net income</b>		<b>9,914</b>	<b>172,565</b>	<b>765,698</b>	<b>948,177</b>	<b>520,874</b>
Gross transfers between funds	17	-	(323,606)	323,606	-	-
<b>Net income for the year</b>		<b>9,914</b>	<b>(151,041)</b>	<b>1,089,304</b>	<b>948,177</b>	<b>520,874</b>
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	17, 27	-	756,000	-	756,000	3,149,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>9,914</b>	<b>604,959</b>	<b>1,089,304</b>	<b>1,704,177</b>	<b>3,669,874</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Funds brought forward to 1 September 2022	17	237,350	(22,737)	2,872,700	3,087,313	(582,561)
<b>Total Funds carried forward at 31 August 2023</b>		<b>247,264</b>	<b>582,222</b>	<b>3,962,004</b>	<b>4,791,490</b>	<b>3,087,313</b>

All of the Academy's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the period.

# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

## Balance sheet as at 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	12		3,962,004		2,872,700
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stock	13	6,319		1,401	
Debtors	14	1,167,734		387,356	
Cash at bank and in hand		828,494		1,543,462	
		<u>2,002,547</u>		<u>1,932,219</u>	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(885,343)</u>		<u>(918,891)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			1,117,204		1,013,328
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>5,079,208</u>		<u>3,886,028</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than One year	16		(282,718)		(107,715)
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>			<u>4,796,490</u>		<u>3,778,313</u>
Defined Benefit pension scheme liability	27		(5,000)		(691,000)
<b>Net assets including pension liability</b>			<u>4,791,490</u>		<u>3,087,313</u>
<b>Funds of the academy:</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Fixed asset fund	17		3,962,004		2,872,700
Restricted income fund	17		587,222		668,263
Pension reserve	17		<u>(5,000)</u>		<u>(691,000)</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>			<u>4,544,226</u>		<u>2,849,963</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	17		247,264		237,350
<b>Total funds</b>			<u>4,791,490</u>		<u>3,087,313</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 5 December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:



**MR W HAYES**  
**TRUST MEMBER AND CHAIR OF GOVERNING BODY**

Company Limited by Guarantee  
Registration Number 08107212

# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

## Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	21	(577,116)	598,792
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>	22	173,300	57,384
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	23	(311,152)	(101,180)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		<u>(714,968)</u>	<u>554,996</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2022</b>		1,543,462	988,466
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2023</b>	24	<u>828,494</u>	<u>1,543,462</u>

# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

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

### 1 Statement of accounting policies

#### General information and basis of preparation

St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England. The address of the registered office is given in the Reference and Administrative details given on page 3 of these financial statements and the principal place of business is that of the registered office. The nature of the Academy Trusts operations and principal activities are set out in the Trustees' Report on page 4.

The financial statements of the Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102) 2019), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

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.

#### 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 Academy to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of 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's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

#### Income

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

- **Grants receivable**

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

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

Capital grants are recognised when there is an unconditional entitlement to the grant. Unspent amounts of capital grant are reflected in the balance 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.

- **Sponsorship income**

Sponsorship income provided to the Academy 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.

# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

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

### 1 Statement of accounting policies (continued)

#### Income (continued)

- **Other income**

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

- **School fund**

The Academy runs a school fund which relates to income and expenditure for charitable activities. These funds are kept in a separate bank account and the transactions are not included within these financial statements.

- **Interest receivable**

Interest receivable is included within the statement of financial activities on a receivable basis where the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

- **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".

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's accounting policies.

#### Expenditure

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

- **Expenditure on raising funds**

This includes all expenditure incurred by the Academy 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's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the Academy apportioned to charitable activities.

# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

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

### 1 Statement of accounting policies (continued)

#### 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 restrictions 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, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line/reducing balance basis over its expected useful lives, as follows:

Improvements to property	10 or 20 years straight line
Furniture and equipment	20.0% straight line
ICT and computer equipment	33.3% straight line

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.

#### Land and buildings

The governors accounting policy for school buildings is not to recognise these in the accounts of the Academy.

The governors are aware that the Education & Skills Funding Agency's accounting guidance is that school buildings should be recognised in many cases in the accounts of Academies where properties are owned by the Diocese. This is on the basis that the Academy in substance has an interest akin to 'ownership'.

The governors have considered this guidance, together with the alternative view expressed in 'The Academy Treatment of Land and Buildings Occupied by Church Academies – Guidance for Academy Trust Companies' written by the Catholic Education Service.

The governors have applied these guidance notes to the circumstances of the Academy. Amongst others, the governors understand that the Academy's school buildings are operated under a revocable licence under which the Diocese permit the Academy to occupy the site but retain ultimate control.

Taking all factors into consideration the governors believe that it is more accurate for the Academy buildings not to be recognised as assets of the Academy.

#### Agency arrangements

The Academy acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 30.

#### 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.

# **St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust**

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

### **1 Statement of accounting policies (continued)**

#### **Provisions**

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

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

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

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15 and 16. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

#### **Stock**

School supplies are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

#### **Taxation**

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

#### **Pensions Benefits**

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Academy 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.

# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

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

### 1 Statement of accounting policies (continued)

#### Pension Benefits (continued)

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme, and the assets are held separately from those of the Academy 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 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 at the discretion of the trustees.

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

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

#### 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 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 27, 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.



# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

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

### 2 General Annual Grant (GAG)

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

### 3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Capital grants	-	997,572	997,572	560,850
Donated fixed assets	-	-	-	200
Other donations	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>997,572</u>	<u>997,572</u>	<u>561,050</u>

Income from donations and capital grants was £997,572 (2022 - £561,050) of which £Nil (2022 - £Nil) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £Nil (2022 - £Nil) was attributable to restricted general funds and £997,572 (2022 - £561,050) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

### 4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Hire of facilities	2,960	-	2,960	11,696
	<u>2,960</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,960</u>	<u>11,696</u>

Income from other trading activities was £2,960 (2022 - £11,696) of which £2,960 (2022 - £11,696) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £Nil (2022 - £Nil) was attributable to restricted general funds and £Nil (2022 - £Nil) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

### 5 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Short term deposits	12,454	-	12,454	603
	<u>12,454</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,454</u>	<u>603</u>

Investment income was £12,454 (2022 - £603) of which £12,454 (2022 - £603) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £Nil (2022 - £Nil) was attributable to restricted general funds and £Nil (2022 - £Nil) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

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

### 6 Funding for Academy's educational operations

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>DfE/ESFA revenue grants</b>				
General Annual Grant (GAG) (note 2)	-	7,558,128	7,558,128	7,163,876
Other DfE group grants	-	615,717	615,717	452,719
	<u>-</u>	<u>8,173,845</u>	<u>8,173,845</u>	<u>7,616,595</u>
<b>Other Government grants</b>				
Special educational projects	-	293,091	293,091	257,787
	<u>-</u>	<u>293,091</u>	<u>293,091</u>	<u>257,787</u>
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	-	1,253,048	1,253,048	628,998
	<u>-</u>	<u>9,719,984</u>	<u>9,719,984</u>	<u>8,503,380</u>

Funding for academy trust's educational operations was £9,719,984 (2022 - £8,503,380) of which £Nil (2022 - £Nil) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £9,719,984 (2022 - £8,503,380) was attributable to restricted general funds and £Nil (2022 - £Nil) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

Note 17 gives further details on the grants that were received.

### 7 Expenditure

	Staff Costs £	Non Pay Expenditure Premises £	Other Costs £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Expenditure on raising funds	-	5,500	-	5,500	5,500
Academy's educational operations					
Direct costs	6,099,932	-	1,148,757	7,248,689	6,416,735
Allocated support costs	1,169,477	434,628	926,499	2,530,604	2,133,620
	<u>7,269,409</u>	<u>434,628</u>	<u>2,075,256</u>	<u>9,779,293</u>	<u>8,550,355</u>
	<u>7,257,350</u>	<u>440,128</u>	<u>2,073,118</u>	<u>9,784,793</u>	<u>8,555,855</u>

£5,500 (2022 - £5,500) of the above expenditure on raising funds was attributable to unrestricted funds, £Nil (2022 - £Nil) was attributable to restricted general funds and £Nil (2022 - £Nil) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

£Nil (2022 - £Nil) of the above expenditure on the Academy trust's educational operations was attributable to unrestricted funds, £9,547,419 (2022 - £8,363,530) was attributable to restricted general funds and £231,874 (2022 - £186,825) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

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

### 7 Expenditure (continued)

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Net income/expenditure for the year includes:</b>		
Operating leases	100,507	100,507
Fees payable to auditor		
Audit	11,000	11,000
Other services	3,150	3,529
Depreciation -		
Written off owned tangible fixed assets	231,874	189,825

### 8 Charitable activities

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Direct costs – educational operations</b>	7,248,689	6,419,735
<b>Support costs – educational operations</b>	2,530,604	2,133,620
	<u>9,779,293</u>	<u>8,553,355</u>

	Educational operations £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Analysis of support costs</b>			
Support staff costs	1,169,477	1,169,477	1,037,472
Depreciation	231,874	231,874	186,825
Technology costs	147,547	147,547	192,527
Premises costs	434,628	434,628	403,677
Other support costs	504,579	504,579	275,880
Governance costs	42,499	42,499	37,239
	<u>2,530,604</u>	<u>2,530,604</u>	<u>2,133,620</u>

Costs have been allocated on a full cost basis. Apportionment was not required.

# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

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

### 9 Staff

#### (a) Staff costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs during the period were:		
Wages and salaries	5,391,217	4,676,856
Social security costs	533,026	463,710
Pension costs	1,285,076	1,375,150
	<u>7,209,319</u>	<u>6,515,716</u>
Supply staff costs	52,305	30,296
Staff restructuring costs	7,785	-
	<u>7,269,409</u>	<u>6,546,012</u>
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Other restructuring costs	<u>7,785</u>	<u>-</u>

#### (b) Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the Academy during the year, and the full time equivalents, was as follows:

	2023 Number	2023 Full-time equivalent	2022 Number	2022 Full-time equivalent
Teachers	100	87	91	81
Administration and support	93	49	96	44
Management	6	6	6	6
	<u>199</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>193</u>	<u>131</u>

#### (c) Higher paid staff

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

	2023	2022
£60,001 - £70,000	3	2
£70,001 - £80,000	0	0
£90,001 - £100,000	0	0
£100,001 - £110,000	0	0
£110,001 - £120,000	0	1
£120,001 - £130,000	1	0

#### (d) Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on pages 2 and 3. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £586,409 (2022: £559,516).

# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

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

### 10 Related party transactions - Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more trustees have been paid remuneration or have 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, and not in respect of their role as trustees. The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

Mrs M Dengate – Principal

Remuneration	£120,000 - £130,000 (2022 - £110,000 - £120,000)
Employers' pension contributions	£25,000 - £30,000 (2022 - £25,000 - £30,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2023, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £Nil (2022 - £Nil) were reimbursed to the trustees (2022 - None). Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 28.

### 11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

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

### 12 Tangible fixed assets

	Improvements to property £	Furniture and Equipment £	ICT and Computer Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 September 2022	3,567,282	138,494	207,602	<b>3,913,378</b>
Additions	1,309,934	6,079	5,165	<b>1,321,178</b>
Disposal	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2023	<u>4,877,216</u>	<u>144,573</u>	<u>212,767</u>	<u><b>5,234,556</b></u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 September 2022	717,925	120,423	202,330	<b>1,040,678</b>
Charged in year	221,533	7,927	2,414	<b>231,874</b>
At 31 August 2023	<u>939,458</u>	<u>128,350</u>	<u>204,744</u>	<u><b>1,294,322</b></u>
<b>Net book values</b>				
At 31 August 2023	<u>3,937,758</u>	<u>16,223</u>	<u>8,023</u>	<u><b>3,962,004</b></u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>2,849,357</u>	<u>18,071</u>	<u>5,272</u>	<u><b>2,872,700</b></u>

The land and buildings of the school have not been included as assets in the accounts. See accounting policy for further details.

### 13 Stock

	2023 £	2022 £
School supplies	<u>6,319</u>	<u>1,401</u>

### 14 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	3,795	4,958
VAT recoverable	181,316	143,181
Other debtors	68,412	15,902
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>914,211</u>	<u>223,315</u>
	<u><b>1,167,734</b></u>	<u><b>387,356</b></u>

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	173,595	467,569
Taxation and social security	250,970	113,600
Loans (see note 16)	5,000	6,703
Other creditors	167,845	126,980
Accruals and deferred income	<u>287,933</u>	<u>204,039</u>
	<u><b>885,343</b></u>	<u><b>918,891</b></u>

# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

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

### 15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (continued)

#### Deferred income

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	35,139	201,598
Resources deferred in the year	67,714	35,139
Amounts released from previous years	(35,139)	(201,598)
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	<u>67,714</u>	<u>35,139</u>

Deferred income at 31 August 2023 is represented by monies received in advance in respect of bus pass and trip income of £10,484, sixth form bursary fund of £39,658 and National Tutoring Programme income of £17,572.

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Loans	<u>282,718</u>	<u>107,715</u>

Loans of £50,000, £17,034, £62,384 and £178,300 from ESFA under the Condition improvement fund are repayable over 10 years incurring interest of 1.05%.

### 17 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains, Losses and Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	668,263	7,558,128	(7,315,563)	(323,606)	587,222
Pupil premium	-	183,104	(183,104)	-	-
Other grants	-	1,978,752	(1,978,752)	-	-
	<u>668,263</u>	<u>9,719,984</u>	<u>(9,477,419)</u>	<u>(323,606)</u>	<u>587,222</u>
Pension reserve	(691,000)	-	(70,000)	756,000	(5,000)
	<u>(22,737)</u>	<u>9,719,984</u>	<u>(9,547,419)</u>	<u>432,394</u>	<u>582,222</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
DfE/ESFA capital grants	2,168,119	914,614	(172,080)	-	2,910,653
DFC grants	199,223	82,958	(9,612)	-	272,569
Capital expenditure from GAG	381,731	-	(40,652)	323,606	664,685
Private sector capital sponsorship and other donations	123,627	-	(9,530)	-	114,097
	<u>2,872,700</u>	<u>997,572</u>	<u>(231,874)</u>	<u>323,606</u>	<u>3,962,004</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>2,849,963</u>	<u>10,717,556</u>	<u>(9,779,293)</u>	<u>756,000</u>	<u>4,544,226</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	237,350	15,414	(5,500)	-	247,264
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>3,087,313</u>	<u>10,732,970</u>	<u>(9,784,793)</u>	<u>756,000</u>	<u>4,791,490</u>

# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

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

### 17 Funds (continued)

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

- The General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy.
- Pupil premium and other grants relates to all other restricted funds received which must be used for the purpose intended. This mainly includes funding for SEN 1:1 (Special Educational Needs), Pupil Premium, post 16 funding, catering income, trip income, transport income and school supplies income.
- DfE/EFA capital grants includes Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) which has been spent on essential capital projects in accordance with the terms of the grant on gas works.
- The Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) grant has been spent in accordance with the terms of the grant on extension of building and other essential improvements.

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

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains, Losses and Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	271,196	7,163,876	(6,665,026)	(101,783)	668,263
Pupil premium	-	177,295	(177,295)	-	-
Other grants	-	1,162,209	(1,162,209)	-	-
	<u>271,196</u>	<u>8,503,380</u>	<u>(8,004,530)</u>	<u>(101,783)</u>	<u>668,263</u>
Pension reserve	(3,481,000)	-	(359,000)	3,149,000	(691,000)
	<u>(3,209,804)</u>	<u>8,503,380</u>	<u>(8,363,530)</u>	<u>3,047,217</u>	<u>(22,737)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
DfE/ESFA capital grants	1,748,451	532,449	(112,781)	-	2,168,119
DFC grants	202,206	28,401	(31,384)	-	199,223
Capital expenditure from GAG	313,078	-	(33,130)	101,783	381,731
Private sector capital sponsorship and other donations	132,957	200	(9,530)	-	123,627
	<u>2,396,692</u>	<u>561,050</u>	<u>(186,825)</u>	<u>101,783</u>	<u>2,872,700</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>(813,112)</u>	<u>9,064,430</u>	<u>(8,550,355)</u>	<u>3,149,000</u>	<u>2,849,963</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	230,551	12,299	(5,500)	-	237,350
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>(582,561)</u>	<u>9,076,729</u>	<u>(8,555,855)</u>	<u>3,149,000</u>	<u>3,087,313</u>



# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

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

### 18 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	-	-	3,962,004	3,962,004
Current assets	247,264	1,755,283	-	2,002,547
Current liabilities	-	(885,343)	-	(885,343)
Non-current liabilities	-	(282,718)	-	(282,718)
Pension scheme liability	-	(5,000)	-	(5,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>247,264</b>	<b>582,222</b>	<b>3,962,004</b>	<b>4,791,490</b>

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

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	2,872,700	2,872,700
Current assets	237,350	1,694,869	-	1,932,219
Current liabilities	-	(918,891)	-	(918,891)
Non-current liabilities	-	(107,715)	-	(107,715)
Pension scheme liability	-	(691,000)	-	(691,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>237,350</b>	<b>(22,737)</b>	<b>2,872,700</b>	<b>3,087,313</b>

### 19 Capital commitments

	2023 £	2022 £
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	273,966	665,827

### 20 Commitments under operating leases

#### Operating leases

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts due within one year	46,429	46,429
Amounts due between one and five years	77,856	124,284
Amounts due after five years	-	-
	<b>124,284</b>	<b>170,713</b>

# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

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

### 21 Reconciliation of net income to net cash inflow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	948,177	520,874
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation (note 12)	231,874	186,825
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA and other capital income	(997,572)	(561,050)
Interest receivable (note 5)	(12,454)	(603)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 27)	40,000	226,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 27)	30,000	60,000
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	(4,919)	-
(Increase) in debtors	(780,377)	(88,965)
Increase in creditors	(31,845)	182,711
<b>Net cash provided by from operating activities</b>	<b>(577,116)</b>	<b>598,792</b>

### 22 Cash flows from financing activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Repayments of borrowing	(5,000)	(5,000)
Cash inflows from borrowing	178,300	62,384
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>	<b>173,300</b>	<b>57,384</b>

### 23 Cash flows from investing activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Interest receivable from investments	12,454	603
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,321,178)	(662,833)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	997,572	560,850
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	-	200
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(311,152)</b>	<b>(101,180)</b>

### 24 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	828,494	1,543,462
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>828,494</b>	<b>1,543,462</b>

# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

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

### 25 Contingent Liabilities

During the period of the Funding Agreement, in the event of the sale or disposal by other means of any asset for which a Government grant was received, the Academy is required either to re-invest the proceeds or to repay to the Secretary of State for Education the same proportion of the proceeds of the sale or disposal as equates with the proportion of the original cost met by the Secretary of State.

Upon termination of the Funding Agreement, whether as a result of the Secretary of State or the Academy serving notice, the Academy shall repay to the Secretary of State sums determined by reference to

- a) the value at that time of the Academy's site and premises and other assets held for the purpose of the Academy and
- b) the extent to which expenditure incurred in providing those assets was met by payments by the Secretary of State under the Funding Agreement.

### 26 Members' Liability

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

### 27 Pension and similar obligations

The Academy'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 Derbyshire County Council. Both are multi-employer defined-benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £165,898 (2022: £126,095) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 and are included within creditors.

#### Teachers' Pension Scheme

##### *Introduction*

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme to which both the member and employer makes contributions, as a percentage of salary – these contributions along with those made by the employers 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 every four years in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury. 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.

# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

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

### 27 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

#### *Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (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 charge;
- Total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million;
- the Superannuation Contributions Adjusted for Past Experience (SCAPE) discount 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 is 4.45%.

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2023 once details are finalised.

The pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £960,772 (2022: £859,875).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the [Teachers' Pension 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 scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £359,252 (2022: £277,286), of which employer's contributions totalled £288,556 (2022: £218,011), and employees' contributions totalled £70,696 (2022: £59,275). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 22.4% for employers and rates between 5.5% and 8.5% for employees depending upon their salary.

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

<b>Principal Actuarial Assumptions</b>	<b>At 31 August 2023</b>	<b>At 31 August 2022</b>
Rate of increase for pensions in payment	3.00%	3.05%
Rate of increase in salaries	4.00%	3.75%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.20%	4.25%

#### **Sensitivity Analysis**

<b>Change in assumptions at 31 August 2023</b>	<b>Approximate % increase to Employer Liability</b>	<b>Approximate monetary amount £000</b>
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	2%	90
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	7
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	2%	85

# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

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

### 27 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

#### Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

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

	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2022
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	20.8 years	21.1 years
Females	23.8 years	23.8 years
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	21.6 years	22.2 years
Females	25.3 years	25.6 years

The Academy's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	Fair value at 31 August 2023 £000	Fair value at 31 August 2022 £000
Equity instruments	2,988	2,803
Debt instruments	981	879
Property	357	377
Cash	134	125
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>4,460</b>	<b>4,184</b>

The actual return on scheme assets was a loss of £75,000 (2022 loss of £248,000).

#### Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	328	513
Interest income	(183)	(72)
Interest expense	213	132
Benefit changes, gain/(loss) on curtailment and gain/(loss) on settlement	-	-
<b>Total operating charge</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>573</b>

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

	2023 £000	2022 £000
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>4,875</b>	<b>7,745</b>
Current service cost	328	513
Past service cost	-	-
Interest cost	213	132
Employee contributions	71	53
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(912)	(3,469)
Curtailments and settlements	-	-
Benefits paid	(110)	(99)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>4,465</b>	<b>4,875</b>

# St Mary's Catholic High School Academy Trust

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

### 27 Pension and similar obligations (continued) Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

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

	2023 £000	2022 £000
<b>At 1 September</b>	4,184	4,264
Interest income	183	72
Return on plan assets (excluding interest income)	(258)	(320)
Actuarial gain/(loss)	-	-
Other experience	102	-
Employer contributions	288	214
Employee contributions	71	53
Benefits paid	(110)	(99)
Assets distributed on settlements	-	-
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>4,460</b>	<b>4,184</b>

### 28 Related Party Transactions

Owing to the nature of the Academy'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 a member of the board of trustees has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the Academy's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

No related party transactions took place in the period of account.

### 29 Ultimate Controlling Party

The trustees have ultimate control of the Academy.

### 30 Agency arrangements

The Academy distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2023 the trust received £46,419 (2022 - £19,946) and disbursed £22,401 (2022 - £16,124) from the fund.

An amount of £39,658 (2022: £15,640) is included in accruals and deferred income relating to undistributed funds.