

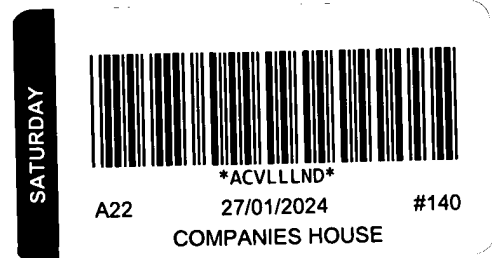
Company registration number 08273802 (England and Wales)

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023



Lakelands
Academy



McLintocks
Xeinadin Group

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and administrative details	1 - 2
Trustees' report	3 - 13
Governance statement	14 - 19
Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance	20
Statement of Trustees' responsibilities	21
Independent auditor's report on the accounts	22 - 24
Independent reporting accountant's report on regularity	25 - 26
Statement of financial activities including income and expenditure account	27 - 28
Balance sheet	29
Statement of cash flows	30
Notes to the accounts including accounting policies	31 - 48

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

Mr G Corfield
Mr V Sanchi
Mr I Ward
Mr G Hutchinson
Mr P Longhurst

Trustees

Mr G Corfield
Mrs D A Simmonds
Mrs S Tinn
Mrs H S Bellis (Resigned 31 August 2023)
LT Colonel T Lowry
Mr P Cartledge
Rev P Hawkins
Mrs L Aspey
Mr A Lowry (Resigned 28 October 2022)
Mrs L Chadwick
Mr J Evans
Mrs P Knight
Mr M Hignett (Appointed 21 September 2023)

Senior leadership team

- Headteacher
- Deputy Headteacher
- Assistant Headteacher
- Junior Assistant Headteacher
- Business Manager
- SENDCo

Mrs H S Bellis
Mr G Pyburn
Mr A Parkhurst
Miss K Preece
Mr C Simmons
Miss A Warren

Company secretary

Mr C Simmons

Company registration number

08273802 (England and Wales)

Principal and registered office

Oswestry Road
Ellesmere
Shropshire
SY12 0EA

Independent auditor

Xeinadin Audit Limited
2 Hilliards Court
Chester Business Park
Chester
Cheshire
CH4 9QP

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc
7 Cross Street
Oswestry
SY11 1PW

until 31 August 2023

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Lloyds Bank Plc
114 - 116 Colmore Road
New Street
Birmingham
B3 3BD

from 1 November 2022

Solicitors

Browne Jacobson
Mowbray House
Castle Meadow Road
Nottingham
NG2 1BJ

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the accounts and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The Academy Trust operates an academy for pupils aged 11-16 serving a catchment area in North Shropshire. It has a pupil capacity of 590 and had a roll of 575 in the school census in October 2023.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

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

In the year under review the principle governing documents of the Trust were its Articles of Association, Funding Agreement and amendment to the Funding Agreement to include the operation of Resourced Provision (known as the Kettlemere Centre) from September 2015.

The charitable company is known as Lakelands Educational Trust.

The Trustees of Lakelands Educational Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the Trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

Trustees benefit from indemnity insurance purchased at the Academy Trust's expense to cover the liability of the Trustees which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of an negligence, default or breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Academy Trust, provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Trustees knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty which was committed by the Trustees in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not and provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Trustees in their capacity as Directors of the Academy Trust. The limit of this indemnity is £10,000,000 for any one loss and any one membership year.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The process for the appointment of Trustees is set out in the Articles of Association.

The Academy Trust shall have the following Trustees (known as Governors) as set out in its Articles of Association:

- up to 1 Trustee, appointed by the members
- 2 Parent Trustees elected by Parents
- up to 2 Staff Trustees elected by Academy staff
- up to 7 Community Trustees appointed by the Trustees
- the Headteacher
- up to one co-opted Trustee

The number of Trustees shall be not less than three but is not be subject to any maximum.

Trustees are appointed for a four year period except for Staff Trustees who are elected annually or the Headteacher who is a Trustee by virtue of their position. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee may be re-appointed or re-elected.

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

When appointing new Trustees, the board will give consideration to the skills and experience of existing Trustees to ensure that the Board has the necessary mix of skills and experience.

The Academy has a Trustee Recruitment, Induction and Training procedure. The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend upon their existing experience but would always include a tour of the Academy and a chance to meet staff and students.

Alongside the provision of regular educational updates on topical matters, members of the Academy Senior Leadership Team brief trustees regularly on governance, financial and educational matters. Trustees are encouraged to participate in training programmes and courses. Specific training is available on technical issues to keep Trustees updated on all relevant developments affecting their role and responsibilities.

Organisational structure

The Trustees fulfil a strategic role: setting general policy, approving the annual plan and budget, monitoring performance against the plan and budget and making decisions about the Trustees of the charitable company, capital expenditure and Senior Leadership Team appointments. Detailed decisions are delegated to the Headteacher and thereafter to the Senior Leadership Team and Faculty Leaders. The Headteacher is the Accounting Officer.

The Board establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Academy and determines the membership and terms of reference of committees. Agendas, papers and minutes of the main committees are shared with all Trustees.

There are two committees that meet on a regular basis;

Finance, Staffing and General Purposes Governors Committee – this met 5 times in 2022-23 and is responsible for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing policy and performance in relation to financial management, compliance with reporting and regulatory requirements, agreeing staffing levels and monitoring premises, site and health and safety matters.

Teaching and Learning Governors Committee – this met 3 times in 2022-23 to monitor, evaluate and review Academy policy, practice and performance in relation to curriculum issues, target setting and assessment, examinations and pastoral issues. This committee also monitors the staffing establishment and performance management procedures.

Additional Governors committees meet as necessary during the year for example Admissions Committee, Appraisal Salary, and Grading Committee and Student Discipline Committee.

The Senior Leadership Team consists of the Headteacher, the Deputy Headteacher, Assistant Head, two Senior Leaders and the Business Manager. These leaders control the Trust and Academy at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the Trustees and reporting back to them. As a group the Senior Leadership Team is responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed limits and the appointment of staff. Some spending control is devolved to budget holders with limits above which a senior lead must countersign. The recruitment process for posts in the Leadership Team always contains a Trustee.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Following advice and guidance from the academy HR advisors, the Governing Body annually review and adopt the Academy Pay Policies which detail the process which needs to be followed in determining the remuneration of teaching staff and Senior Leaders. As described in the Leadership Pay Policy, key personnel i.e. the Headteacher, Deputy Head, Assistant Head, Senior Leaders and Business Manager's annual salary are determined by the Governors' Appraisal, Salary and Grading Committee. The Committee meets annually to assess whether the outcomes of individuals' appraisals meet the criteria for pay progression.

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	1
Full-time equivalent employee number	1.00

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	-
Total pay bill	3,256,968
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	-

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	-
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Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The trust is not part of a wider network having a relationship which might impact on its operating policies. There are no related parties which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of the Academy Trust. There are no formal Parent Teacher Associations associated with the Academy.

Objectives and activities

The principal activity of the Charitable Company is to 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 school offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

In accordance with the Articles of Association, the charitable company has entered into relevant Funding Agreements with the Secretary of State. The Funding Agreements specify, amongst other things, the basis for admitting pupils to the academy, the catchment area from which the pupils are drawn, and that the curriculum should be broad and balanced.

Commencing September 2015 the funding agreement with the Secretary of State was amended to include funding to support resourced provision for pupils with communication and interaction needs named by the Trust as the Kettlemere Centre.

Objects and Aims

Lakelands' objective is to provide the best possible education for young people aged 11-16 in Ellesmere and surrounding areas, inspiring all pupils to fulfil their potential through a curriculum that is diverse, challenging and inspiring – designed to help them develop into well-rounded, confident young people, with the integrity, resilience and high aspirations to thrive in the future.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The main objective for last year was to implement a robust behaviour management strategy responsive to the challenges that emerged as a result of Covid-related disruption. The second key objective was to ensure consistency of teaching across the whole school and over time. The third objective was to raise staff aspirations.

Lakelands has a rigorous appraisal policy for all staff. The Governing Body is involved in the annual review of the pay policy, appraisal procedures and staffing structures to ensure the effective deployment of staff.

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Public benefit

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

The primary purpose of the Trust is the advancement of education within the local area. The Trust has given a high priority to providing public benefit to a cross section of the community and regardless of family background, but perhaps the greatest benefit that the Trust can offer is the provision of an education that maximises each pupil's potential to develop into principled, informed, open minded and confident citizens who respect the beliefs of others and who are determined to make a positive contribution to society. The Trust fully complies with all statutory guidance and seeks to support its wider educational objectives via a strong community role.

The Trust also has a due regard in offering public benefit to the wider community, through its collaborations with the local primary schools, such as inviting pupils to attend the Academy Creative Arts Productions throughout the year. Due to the presence of the North Shropshire School Games Organiser on the Academy site the primary school pupils also have access to academy sporting activities and facilities.

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic report

Key performance indicators

The main Key Performance Indicators for 2022-23 were as follows:

A: A ROBUST BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT STRATEGY RESPONSIVE TO THE CHALLENGES THAT EMERGED AS A RESULT OF COVID-RELATED DISRUPTION	
Key Performance Indicators 2022-23	Achievements and Performance
1. A curriculum that engages all	Timetable adapted to enable more mixed ability Alternative provision in place for those that require it
2. Clarity of communication	Pastoral Team Briefing and weekly Pastoral Bulletin introduced, with positive feedback from staff
3. Training to ensure 'Warmth & Competence' are the guiding principles of behaviour management	Staff appraisal target on behaviour management introduced Training took place on PD Days
4. Strong leadership	Pastoral Team expanded, with 5 instead of 4 Heads of Year Wellbeing Centre rota introduced, staffed by SLT New Mental Health Lead role on SLT, training completed
5. Robust monitoring systems	Faculty Review Weeks were focused on behaviour and showed more than 95% of lessons with high engagement
6. Calm at break and lunchtimes	New 'Transition Duty' introduced at lunchtimes New Head of Year rota at lunchtimes in the Wellbeing Centre Increased range of lunchtime activities
7. Calm, orderly cover lessons	Seating plans for all classes now stored on the T:Drive Monitoring
B: CONSISTENCY OF TEACHING ACROSS THE WHOLE SCHOOL AND OVER TIME	
Key Performance Indicators 2022-23	Achievements and Performance
1. Embed Impactful Teaching strategies	November Faculty Review Week Whole-school Evaluation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High expectations and well established routines Effective support of the less able in many lessons –targeted support and adaptation of tasks where appropriate Culture of aspiration in many lessons, with challenge built into the WILFs and extension tasks provided to stretch the more able Targeted questioning, with a strategic approach to open and closed questions; a no hands up approach in many lessons, which involves a wider range of students and increases motivation
2. Embed strategies to meet needs of SEN (Ladder of Adaptation)	November Faculty Review Week Whole-school Evaluation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers need to ensure there are always starter activities that recall prior learning and give momentum to the lesson Teachers need to ensure instructions are always clear and that any potentially difficult vocabulary is highlighted, explained and reinforced It is the teacher's responsibility to support and monitor the progress of SEND students –teachers must not over-rely on TA support and ensure there is appropriate scaffolding of learning
C: RAISING STAFF ASPIRATIONS	
Key Performance Indicators 2022-23	Achievements and Performance
1. Spend time in other schools to learn new ideas and extend professional experience	Corbet School cancelled joint PD Day so this did not take place. All staff given half day entitlement in another school, although only one member of staff took up this offer.
2. Investigate leadership courses to promote aspiration	One teacher undertook NSCL Teaching & Learning Leadership course and one teacher undertook NSCL Pastoral Leadership course
3. Ensure external CPD has a measurable impact on practice	All staff who undertook courses gave feedback to faculties and completed an evaluation, explaining the impact of the CPD undertaken
4. Establish a Staff CPD Library	CPD library set up in the Staffroom Teaching & Learning Bulletin published every half-term with recommendations / examples of good practice

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The main Key Performance Indicators for 2022-23 were as follows (continued):

GCSE Outcomes	
Key Performance Indicators 2022-23	Achievements and Performance
Progress 8: -0.5 or higher	-0.41 (not official figure, this only compared with other schools using the 4 Matrix data system). DfE provisional figure currently at -0.38
Attainment 8: 45	41.62
EBacc 4+: 40%	27%
Grade 7+: 13%	12%
English 4+: 78%	73%
Maths 4+: 70%	65%
English and Maths Threshold 4+: 65%	58%

The coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic that started in 2020 and ran until 2022 remains a concern for Lakelands and the Education Sector overall. It could not have been imagined at the time of the outbreak, but pupil attendance levels have not fully recovered as a direct consequence of the pandemic and specifically school lockdown closures. As with many schools Lakelands has witnessed an increasing number of pupils struggling with their own mental health and wellbeing which has given rise to a worrying increase in behavioural issues.

Recognising this is the landscape we are having to manage, the main focus for senior management and the pastoral team in 2022/23 has been to maintain a programme of reinforcement of the key values which are synonymous with the Academy. These include providing the right opportunities for meaningful and lasting social experiences for pupils, guided/targeted mental health support following the successful introduction and appointment of a new Senior Mental Health Lead created within the Senior Leadership Team. Upholding strong support for disadvantaged pupils and lastly developing a robust, coherent, behavioural management strategy to keep pupils educated in school.

Against this backdrop, prudent financial management of the whole school budget remains a strength for the Academy. Pressure on an already stretched budget is never far away especially having to take into consideration the two annual staff pay awards for teachers and support staff. In July, the Government agreed to fund schools 3% of the national teacher pay award which was settled at 6.5%. While the support staff pay award was structured differently funding has not been forthcoming to meet this cost which is left for the Academy to finance and runs for 12 months from April 2023.

Rising energy costs continue to be a threat and require careful management particularly during the winter months when consumption is at its peak. Funding is not provided directly to meet this operating cost which does prove challenging for the Academy to cover. However, it still remains the overriding aim of the Trust board and senior management to ensure there is sufficient budget available that allow pupils the opportunities to develop themselves and to continue their educational journey after Lakelands.

Going concern

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

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Financial review

Most of the Academy income is received from the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA in the period ended 31st August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Trust also received grants from the ESFA and other organisations. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2015), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the restricted general fund and fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

During the period ended 31st August 2023, total income amounted to £4,281,768 (2022: £3,896,698), from which was deducted expenditure of £4,454,776 (2022: £4,380,987), leaving a net deficit of £173,008 (2022: £484,289). This deficit has been reduced by an actuarial gain on the Local Authority Pension Scheme of £867,000 (2022: £1,590,000).

At 31st August 2023 the net book value of fixed assets amounted to £8,316,934 (2022: £8,518,137) and movements in fixed assets are shown in note 13 to the financial statements. The academy continues to have positive net current assets of £153,196 (2022: £113,560) and overall net assets of £7,960,443 (2022: £7,466,451).

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the Trust to seek to have free cash reserves to provide sufficient funds to cover unexpected costs or events such as the failure of plant or machinery, for example building repairs, to ensure adequate investment in the maintenance of its new all-weather pitch or to meet part of the academy's Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities with the Shropshire Council Pension Fund in the event of additional short term costs arising from revaluation.

The Trustees review the level of reserves annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of the reserves.

The Trusts current level of free reserves (total reserves less the amounts held in fixed asset reserve and restricted fund reserve) is £237,157.

Additionally the Trustees have decided that it is prudent to build a reserve of restricted funds which equates on average to an average of two months' expenditure to safeguard against unforeseen circumstances, late ESFA payments, emergencies and other catastrophes. This is sound commercial practice designed to safeguard the quality of education received at the Academy within the Trust. Currently this policy is not yet met.

In addition the net liability due to the Trusts participation in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) amounts to £492,000. Whilst this is not immediately payable by the Trust it remains of concern to the Trustees.

Investment policy

The Trust aims to invest surplus cash funds to optimise returns, whilst ensuring the investment instruments are such that there is no risk to the loss of these cash funds. The investment policy is considered annually by Trustees. In accordance with the law and its Articles of Association, the policy sets out the principles and typical circumstances which the Trust may adopt to invest surplus cash funds. In the 2022-23 academic year risk free bank deposit accounts were held with Barclays Bank plc and Lloyds Bank Plc from 1 November 2022.

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Principal risks and uncertainties

A risk register has been prepared which sets out the principal risks facing the Trust and the controls that exist to mitigate their effect. The Trustees consider that the principal risks and uncertainties facing the Trust are:

- Balancing the Trust budget with increasing staff, operating costs, whilst maintaining the quality of provision
- Loss of reputation through failing standards at the Academy, falling student numbers,
- Failure to safeguard our students,
- Financial risk with regard to the size of the academy's bank balances being above the maximum compensation payable in the event of bank default,
- Failure to protect the academy against cyber-attack, and insufficient insurance cover should a cyber-attack arise,
- Ongoing premises and health and safety issues needing to be addressed, which are both costly and challenging to manage with income being stretched.

Key controls in place to mitigate these risks are:

- Financial planning, budgeting and regular management and trustee reports highlight key areas of financial risk anticipated for the current and future four years.
- Robust due diligence procedures alongside sound financial management and internal control processes.
- Availability of contingency budgets should further unscheduled cuts be applied, i.e. where information from the ESFA has not confirmed funding proposals, support for salary/pension increments or per pupil amounts (AWPU).
- Processes which regularly track, monitor and report student progress data alongside a range of tailored interventions to provide additional support to those most in need.
- Vetting procedures as required by legislation for the protection of the vulnerable.
- Defining the IT responsibilities and risk boundaries between the academy and IT Service provider.
- Maintaining regular site and compliance checks to make sure all maintenance and health and safety issues are dealt with in a timely manner.

Fundraising

The Academy Trust carries out a limited amount of fundraising, mindful of the communities in which it operates. In the circumstances where fundraising is undertaken, systems and controls are in place to separate and protect funds. The Trust is mindful of its responsibilities under the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 and legal rules, and ensures all activities are agreed and monitored at Senior Leadership Team level in compliance with relevant legal rules. Recognised standards are applied to ensure that fundraising is open, honest and respectful, protecting the public from undue pressure to donate. Should complaints be received these would be handled through the Trust's complaints procedure. The Trust does not work with any commercial participators or professional fundraising organisations.

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Plans for future periods

Objectives, Strategies and Activities (2023-24)

The key priorities for the 2023-24 ADP are:

- A. Ensure the Action & Impact process leads to positive changes in practice and improved outcomes.
- B. Strengthen parental engagement so parents/carers are well informed of their child's progress, achievements and wellbeing, which will reinforce the academy's reputation for good communication and prompt response to parents / carers.
- C. Continue with the next stage of pastoral monitoring development to ensure pastoral work is consistent, proactive, preventative and responsive, leading to concrete and timely actions.
- D. Develop Career Stage aspirations and responsibilities to enhance staff leadership skills.

Based on our self-evaluation, Objective A is driven by our need to refine our data analysis and the resulting strategies that are implemented in the classroom to raise attainment and progress.

Objective B aims to strengthen parental engagement, refining our reporting of data and ensuring communication is proactive and frequent to build a strong partnership for the benefit of our young people.

Objective C is focused on improving our pastoral monitoring, through the introduction of a pastoral calendar and a more proactive approach in our Pastoral Team.

Objective D is carried over from last year's priorities as we were not able to fit this into our CPD Calendar due to other priorities. The aim is to ensure that our UPS staff are playing a more dynamic role with whole-school impact, and to encourage opportunities for leadership development.

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Objectives, Strategies and Activities (2023-24)

Key Objectives	Key Performance Indicators 2023-24
A. Ensure the Action & Impact process leads to positive changes in practice and improved outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FLs (Faculty Leaders) analyse data with SLT – attainment & progress of subjects & groups (SEN, HLP, PP, gender etc) • FLs share data with their teams at Faculty meetings; agree on actions • Teachers implement strategies as agreed on Action & Impact plans (including Adaptive Teaching strategies) • Teachers work with coaching partners to evaluate effectiveness of actions • Impact Evaluations later in the year review success of Action & Impact plans
A. Strengthen parental engagement so parents/carers are well informed of their child's progress, achievements and wellbeing, which will reinforce the academy's reputation for good communication and prompt response to parents / carers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased phone calls home by HOYs, tutors, teachers & FLs • Pre-emptive action by FLs in run-up to reports, to ensure they accurately reflect progress and attitude to learning, so parents have an accurate picture of child's progress • Communication with hard-to-reach parents before Parents' Evenings • Follow-up on hard-to-reach parents who don't attend Parents' Evenings • Coffee mornings with SEND parents • Refresh Newsletter design • Coordinate social media presence to raise the profile of the school • Celebrate achievement through electronic postcards and positive phone calls • Rainbow Programme • Strengthen Pupil Premium parental engagement to improve attendance and progress
B. Continue with the next stage of pastoral monitoring development to ensure pastoral work is consistent, proactive, preventative and responsive, leading to concrete and timely actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up and implement Pastoral Calendar • Staged system for issuing of behaviour reports – key part of HOYs' monitoring • Strategic use of CPOMs by HOYs for overview of behaviour, MH&WB, pastoral concerns – to inform actions • Follow-up on reports by HOYs • Revisit role of Form Tutor • FLs – system across faculties for monitoring of behaviour • Manage and support emotional regulation in children and young people. • Prioritise PP engagement in lessons
C. Develop Career Stage aspirations and responsibilities to enhance staff leadership skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the Teacher Standards as a reflection tool for professional practice • Formalise staff half-day in another school with clear plan and measuring of impact on practice/learn • Every staff member to reflect on what they contribute to Lakelands beyond the parameters of their core role • Formalise UPS 'whole-school impact' on Appraisal forms • UPS teachers delivering CPD • Create opportunities for staff aspiring to UPS to gain experience of 'whole-school impact' • Conduct action research projects on specific aspects of T&L • Investigate leadership courses to promote aspiration • Build Staff CPD Library stock
GCSE Outcomes	
Key Outcomes	Key Performance Indicators 2023-24
Progress 8 overall	-0.2
Attainment 8	44
Progress 8 Disadvantaged Gap	-0.5
English and Maths Threshold 4+	65%
English and Maths Threshold 5+	37%
EBacc 4+	33%
EBacc 5+	20%
EBacc APS	4.2
Grade 7+	14%

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

The Academy and its Trustees do not act as the Custodian Trustees of any other Charity.

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Auditor

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

Xeinadin Audit Limited was appointed auditor to the charitable company. A resolution proposing re-appointment will be put to the members.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 19/12/2023 and signed on its behalf by:


Mr G Corfield

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Scope of responsibility

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Headteacher, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Lakelands Educational Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 6 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mr G Corfield	6	6
Mrs D A Simmonds	5	6
Mrs S Tinn	5	6
Mrs H S Bellis (Resigned 31 August 2023)	6	6
LT Colonel T Lowry	5	6
Mr P Cartledge	5	6
Rev P Hawkins	2	6
Mrs L Aspey	6	6
Mr A Lowry (Resigned 28 October 2022)	1	1
Mrs L Chadwick	5	6
Mr J Evans	6	6
Mrs P Knight	4	6
Mr M Hignett (Appointed 21 September 2023)		

Governors are satisfied that the data provided to them is of a high quality and suited to their needs. The school responds positively to requests for additional information or clarification. Governors have access to external sources of data to verify information provided to them.

Following the exam results in 2023 governors focused on ensuring that the school had robust plans in place for monitoring and improving outcomes for all students. Governors continued their focus on monitoring the management of the budget at a time of significant financial challenges and delivering a broad and ambitious curriculum against the background of behaviour and child exploitation issues affecting many schools nationally and locally.

The successful recruitment of a new Headteacher required a significant investment of governor's time to ensure that the right candidate was chosen to lead the academy into the future.

Due to the largely settled nature of the governing body since its last evaluation, it was not considered necessary to carry out a detailed self-evaluation exercise during 2022/23. Governors anticipate carrying out a review on 2023/24.

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

FS&GP attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mr G Corfield	5	5
Mrs S Tinn	3	5
Mrs H S Bellis (Resigned 31 August 2023)	5	5
LT Colonel T Lowry	5	5
Mr P Garfedge	4	5
Mrs L Aspey	3	5
Mrs L Chadwick	4	5

Review of value for money

I accept that as accounting officer of Lakelands Academy Trust I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. I am aware of the guide to academy value for money statements published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and understand that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

I set out below how I have ensured that the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

Improving educational results:

Our internal self-evaluation clearly shows that we were successful in improving our behaviour management strategy in response to the increasing challenges post-Covid. This objective was driven through intensive staff training, our appraisal programme, the structure of our Pastoral Team, staff duties, classroom layout and alternative curriculum opportunities for those who needed it.

Our evaluation of Teaching and Learning in Autumn 2022 and June 2023 showed that there were high expectations and well established routines across lessons; effective support of the less able in many lessons –targeted support and adaptation of tasks where appropriate; a culture of aspiration in many lessons, with extension tasks provided to stretch the more able, and targeted questioning, with a strategic approach to open and closed questions.

An increasing number of staff undertook leadership CPD, and there was an increase in engagement with Teaching and Learning pedagogy as a result of the introduction of the Teaching and Learning Bulletin and Staff CPD Library.

Our GCSE outcomes show an improvement in progress, from -0.79 Progress 8 score, up to -0.36. EBacc 4+ was 13% below target, due to the high number of students with very poor absence who consequently did not sit all their GCSEs, thus impacting on the EBacc pillars. Our 7+ figure was only 1% off target, English and Maths 5% below target. Nevertheless, outcomes are on an upward trajectory from last year's set of results, with clear improvements in English, Maths and Science, despite a lower baseline for this cohort. At 4+, we have closed the gender gap, with males achieving above national average. Due to an intensive focus on progress and attainment of Pupil Premium in English and Maths, the gap between Pupil Premium and non-Pupil Premium has narrowed on last year at 4+ in both subjects – from 14% to 6% in English Language and from 16% to 10% in Maths; this is in spite of our Pupil Premium cohort having a markedly lower ability baseline.

Lakelands has a rigorous appraisal policy for all staff. The Governing Body is involved in the annual review of the pay policy, appraisal procedures and staffing structures to ensure the effective deployment of staff.

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

We recognise that our staff are our greatest resource in maintaining our high standard of results. We have a very low turnover of staff which means that students benefit from a consistent, experienced team of teachers and support staff.

In order to continue to improve, we have done the following: -

- We have reviewed our staffing structure to ensure good curriculum provision.
- We have protected certain areas of the curriculum to ensure there is sufficient breadth at both key stages, including a rich variety of option choices for our students at KS4.
- We continue to have smaller size teaching groups in all practical subjects and for lower ability groups in core subjects, to enable greater personalisation and efficient allocation of resources.
- We have maintained the employment of technicians to assist teachers in science and technology subjects.
- All governors have been involved in discussions to expand the number of students on roll to increase revenue. The number of pupils on roll has grown from 510 in 2018 to 554 at October 2022 and NOR for October 2023 has increased further to 575.

Target setting and intervention for students is very detailed.

Lakelands has managed the differing needs of pupils through the provision of numerous intervention strategies to provide support for those students who need one to one support and those that require more stretch.

The academy carefully monitors Pupil Premium expenditure and its impact on improving attainment for children on Free School Meals and those who have qualified within the last six years. Use of the grant and its expenditure is published on the school website. Achievement of all pupils in receipt of the Pupil Premium is monitored by the Deputy Head who closely checks the impact of a wide range of interventions.

Ensuring the operation of the trust demonstrates good value for money and efficient and effective use of resources:

Governors apply the principles of best value to all financial transactions so that the allocation of resources best meets the aims and principles of the academy and has the greatest impact on pupil progress, attainment and wellbeing.

The staffing structure has been kept under continual review throughout this period. Salary commitments have been modelled over 3 years to ensure that Lakelands Academy does not over-commit on salary expenditure.

Tender exercises are regularly undertaken to ensure that high value contracts are assessed against the marketplace on a regular basis to ascertain that long term contracts (3 to 5 years) remain competitive.

Services and contracts are reviewed annually or at the end of each contract term to ensure value for money.

For purchases between £5,000 and £30,000 three written quotations and Headteacher authorisation is required.

Governors have agreed financial key performance indicators which are monitored regularly.

- Pupil Numbers
- Budget Income
- Staffing Costs as a percentage of overall budget

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Maximising Income generation:

The academy explores every opportunity to generate income.

Income is also generated through grant applications and bids. In previous years substantial sums of CIF funding has aided improvement of the school site and infrastructure.

This year the letting of the school's facilities has generated a healthy income for the academy, however the catering service has generated a deficit, both had been affected in recent years by Covid and national lockdowns and the catering service continues to be affected by the cost of living crisis.

Financial Governance and Oversight

The Governing Body approve the annual budget forecast of the academy trust and review admissions numbers/forecasts. Governors consider the annual and long term financial state of the academy and review the three year budget plan on an annual basis. They ensure that the Trust is viable as an on-going concern through financial prudence. The Governing Body receives and approves the financial statements and the external auditor's management report and takes action on any recommendations made by them.

The Headteacher allocates the approved budget to Faculty/Subject. Spending is reviewed and evaluated regularly and the Business Manager alerts the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team of any potential overspend on any code. In turn, the Governing body regularly reviews the functions of the school, challenging how and why services are provided and monitors targets and performance indicators for improvement.

The Finance, Staffing and General Purposes Governors Committee meet termly to review budget monitoring reports and to approve larger expenditure items in compliance with the trust's tender arrangements. In accordance with the Academies' Financial Handbook, management accounts are provided to the Chair of Governors on a monthly basis and presented at trust board meetings.

The academy uses Xeinadin Audit and they are responsible for auditing the annual end of year accounts which are duly signed and submitted to the ESFA within appropriate timescales.

All other ESFA returns have been submitted on time.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Lakelands Educational Trust for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems; monthly management accounts are reviewed by the chair and annual budgets and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees;
- regular reviews by the Finance, Staff and General Purposes committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- Identification and management of risks.

Independent assurance that the Trust's financial and other controls and risk management mechanisms has again been provided during the 2022-23 academic year through a process of internal scrutiny directed by the Trust's Internal Scrutiny Committee (ISC) who report its actions and findings to the Finance, Staff and General Purposes Governors Committee and thereafter to the Trust Board.

The following Governors continued to form the Internal Scrutiny Committee for a further period of 12 months to undertake the Internal Scrutiny function:

Mr P Cartledge (ISC Lead)
Lt Colonel T Lowry
Mrs D Simmonds

The continued aim of the committee is to provide independent assurance that the trust's financial and other controls, as well as risk management procedures are operating effectively, reporting to the Trust Board. The Committee met 3 times in 2022-23 and provided reports to Trust Board meetings.

During 2022-23, the committee continued its on-going review of the Risk Register to provide an optimum framework with which to better manage the strategic and operational risks arising in the Academy.

Scrutiny of financial, reputational, health and safety, human resources, information technology and estate and premises risks has been carried out. No concerns were expressed with the financial management of the Academy which remains very sound. Training in safeguarding is being carried out both at staff and governor level. Work is ongoing with regard to estate and premises. No concerns have been noted with regard to RAAC concrete which is not present in the school. Work on asbestos has been successfully completed. Fire doors have been of concern, but work is on-going to correct these. IT risk (cybersecurity) has been a focus this year with increasing risks of attacks with the potential to breach our systems and cause financial loss, reputational loss and sanctions for non-compliance. A new Wireless Access Point (WAP) system is now in use, reducing attack risk through outdated systems. A partnership with the North West Cyber Resilience Centre has enabled us to test our security, train staff in risk awareness and improve our relationship with our service supplier. Security tests results were found to be above average. On-going, we are now exploring an improved email management system to better allow us to control access, secure our work systems against accidental data loss and so increase user and board confidence.

The work of the Internal Scrutiny Committee/internal auditor is crucial and valued by the Trust. Senior management in particular recognise the need to be held to account for the functions of responsibility that fall under scrutiny of the ISC. Issues identified by the ISC which require remedial action have been tackled enthusiastically and with commitment in order to embed a culture of continuous improvement that will reduce the level of risk to Trust operations.

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Review of effectiveness

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

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

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance, Staffing and General Purpose governors committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on 19/12/2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr G. Corfield



Mr M. Hignett

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

As Accounting Officer of Lakelands Educational Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees 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 Academies Financial Handbook 2022.

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

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

Mr M Hignett
Accounting Officer



LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Lakelands Educational Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 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 Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 19/12/2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr G Corfield

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Lakelands Educational 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 accounts, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company'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;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts' 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 accounts 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 included in the annual report other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the accounts 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 accounts 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 accounts themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts 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 accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the accounts, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts 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 accounts.

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

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

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

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the academy through discussions with Governors and other management, and from our knowledge and experience of academy sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the academy, including the Companies Act 2006, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, food hygiene and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management team and inspecting legal correspondence; and identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

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

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

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

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

Use of our report

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



Helen Furlong FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Xeinadin Audit Limited

20.12.23

Accountants
Statutory Auditor

2 Hilliards Court
Chester Business Park
Chester
Cheshire
CH4 9QP

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 22 March 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Lakelands Educational Trust during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Lakelands Educational Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

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

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Review of governing body and committee minutes
- Review of Internal Assurance reports
- Review of Register of Interests
- Review of related party transactions
- Review of internal control procedures

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Conclusion

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

Xeinaidu Audit

Reporting Accountant

Xeinaidu Audit Limited

Dated 20.12.23

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £ Fixed asset £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	40,201	13,442
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	4,202,500	4,202,500	3,847,937
Other trading activities	5	35,742	-	35,742	34,879
Investments	6	3,324	-	3,324	440
Total		39,066	4,202,500	4,281,767	3,896,698
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	4,074	4,256,193	4,454,776	4,380,987
Total	7	4,074	4,256,193	4,454,776	4,380,987
Net income/(expenditure)		34,992	(53,693)	(173,009)	(484,289)
Transfers between funds	19	-	(15,526)	15,526	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	21	-	667,000	667,000	1,590,000
Net movement in funds		34,992	597,781	493,991	1,105,711
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		202,165	(1,137,623)	8,401,909	7,466,451
Total funds carried forward		237,157	(539,842)	8,263,127	7,466,451

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Comparative year information		Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
Year ended 31 August 2022		Funds	General	Fixed asset	2022
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	13,442	13,442
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	3,847,937	-	3,847,937
Other trading activities	5	34,879	-	-	34,879
Investments	6	440	-	-	440
Total		35,319	3,847,937	13,442	3,896,698
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	9,028	4,171,938	200,021	4,380,987
Total	7	9,028	4,171,938	200,021	4,380,987
Net income/(expenditure)		26,291	(324,001)	(186,579)	(484,289)
Transfers between funds	19	(40,000)	24,549	15,451	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	21	-	1,590,000	-	1,590,000
Net movement in funds		(13,709)	1,290,548	(171,128)	1,105,711
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		215,874	(2,428,171)	8,573,037	6,360,740
Total funds carried forward		202,165	(1,137,623)	8,401,909	7,466,451

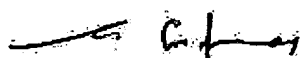
LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	8,316,934	8,518,137
Current assets			
Stocks	14	837	837
Debtors	15	131,542	125,954
Cash at bank and in hand		248,682	284,792
		<u>381,061</u>	<u>411,583</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(227,866)	(298,023)
Net current assets		<u>153,195</u>	<u>113,560</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>8,470,129</u>	<u>8,631,697</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	17	(17,687)	(38,246)
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>8,452,442</u>	<u>8,593,451</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	21	(492,000)	(1,127,000)
Net assets		<u><u>7,960,442</u></u>	<u><u>7,466,451</u></u>
Funds of the Academy Trust:			
Restricted funds	19		
- Fixed asset funds		8,263,127	8,401,909
- Restricted income funds		(47,842)	(10,623)
- Pension reserve		(492,000)	(1,127,000)
Total restricted funds		<u>7,723,285</u>	<u>7,264,286</u>
Unrestricted income funds	19	<u>237,157</u>	<u>202,165</u>
Total funds		<u><u>7,960,442</u></u>	<u><u>7,466,451</u></u>

The accounts on pages 27 to 48 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 19/12/2023 and are signed on their behalf by:



Mr G Corfield

Company Number 08273802

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	22		(28,041)		30,426
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		3,324		440	
Capital grants from DfE Group		40,201		13,442	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(22,314)		(56,142)	
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities			21,211		(42,260)
Cash flows from financing activities					
Repayment of government loans		(28,893)		(28,893)	
Finance costs		(388)		(388)	
Net cash used in financing activities			(29,281)		(29,281)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(36,111)		(41,115)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			284,793		325,908
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			248,682		284,793

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

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

1.2 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 charitable company to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the accounts and have concluded that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

Donations

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

Other income

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

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the Academy Trust's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management, Trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £500 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding that require the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. 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 basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Leasehold land and buildings	2% on cost
Leasehold improvements	2% on cost
Computer equipment	33.3% on cost
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	20% on cost
Motor vehicles	25% on cost

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.

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Liabilities

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

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

Trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities

Trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition.

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

1.9 Stock

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

1.10 Taxation

The Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

1.11 Pensions benefits

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

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

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

1.12 Fund accounting

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

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

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

1.13 Concessionary Loans

Concessionary loans are initially recognised as a liability at the amount received, with the carrying amount being adjusted in subsequent years to reflect repayments made.

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 21, 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.

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

3	Donations and capital grants				
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£
	Capital grants	-	40,201	40,201	13,442
4	Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations				
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£
	DfE/ESFA grants				
	General annual grant (GAG)	-	3,567,937	3,567,937	3,332,328
	Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
	- Pupil premium	-	194,420	194,420	190,327
	- Others	-	101,935	101,935	-
		-	3,864,292	3,864,292	3,522,655
	Other government grants				
	Local authority grants	-	286,361	286,361	264,441
	Other incoming resources	-	51,847	51,847	60,841
	Total funding	-	4,202,500	4,202,500	3,847,937
5	Other trading activities				
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£
	Hire of facilities	35,742	-	35,742	33,772
	Catering income	-	-	-	1,107
		35,742	-	35,742	34,879
6	Investment income				
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£
	Short term deposits	3,324	-	3,324	440

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Premises & equipment £	Other costs £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	2,951,967	194,509	388,133	3,534,609	3,272,080
- Allocated support costs	505,055	243,347	171,764	920,166	1,108,906
	<u>3,457,022</u>	<u>437,856</u>	<u>559,897</u>	<u>4,454,775</u>	<u>4,380,986</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	6,300	6,500
- Other services	200	200
Operating lease rentals	14,230	-
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	223,517	237,170
CIF loan interest payable	388	388
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	42,000	41,000

8 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Direct costs - educational operations	4,074	3,530,535	3,534,609	3,272,080
Support costs - educational operations	-	920,166	920,166	1,108,906
	<u>4,074</u>	<u>4,450,701</u>	<u>4,454,775</u>	<u>4,380,986</u>

	2023 £	2022 £
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	505,054	677,305
Depreciation and amortisation	29,009	37,150
Technology costs	31,524	26,224
Premises costs	214,339	238,837
Other support costs	132,399	116,763
Governance costs	7,841	12,627
	<u>920,166</u>	<u>1,108,906</u>

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

9 Governance costs

	Total 2023	Total 2022
All from restricted funds:	£	£
Amounts included in support costs		
Legal costs	981	5,325
Auditor's remuneration		
- Audit of financial statements	6,300	6,700
Other governance costs	560	602
	<u>7,841</u>	<u>12,627</u>

10 Staff costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	2,570,535	2,326,134
Social security costs	238,916	218,770
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	553,326	712,064
Staff costs	<u>3,362,777</u>	<u>3,256,968</u>
Supply staff costs	88,180	118,241
Staff restructuring costs	-	40,000
Staff development and other staff costs	6,064	10,701
Total staff expenditure	<u>3,457,021</u>	<u>3,425,910</u>

Staff numbers

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Teachers	33	31
Administration and support	50	54
Management	6	6
	<u>89</u>	<u>91</u>

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

10 Staff costs

(Continued)

Higher paid staff

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	3	4
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-
£90,001 - £100,000	-	1
£100,001 - £110,000	1	-
	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior leadership team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £496,784 (2022: £465,880).

11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more of the Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Academy Trust. The Headteacher and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Headteacher and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as Trustees.

The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

H S Bellis (Headteacher and Trustee)

Remuneration £90,000 - £95,000 (2022: £80,000 - £85,000)

Employers pension contributions paid £20,000 - £25,000 (2022: £15,000 - £20,000)

S Tinn (Staff Trustee)

Remuneration £15,000 - £20,000 (2022: £15,000 - £20,000)

Employers pension contributions paid £0 - £5,000 (2022: £0 - £5,000)

J R Evans (Staff Trustee)

Remuneration £40,000 - £45,000 (2022: £25,000 - £30,000)

Employers pension contributions paid £5,000 - £10,000 (2022: £5,000 - £10,000)

There were no trustees' expenses paid during the year ended 31 August 2023 nor for the year ended 31 August 2022.

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

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

12 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim and has been provided by the Risk Protection Assurance Scheme offered by the Department of Education through the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

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

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Leasehold improvements £	Computer equipment £	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 September 2022	6,553,000	3,575,249	289,613	45,786	18,495	10,482,143
Additions	-	-	4,577	17,737	-	22,314
At 31 August 2023	6,553,000	3,575,249	294,190	63,523	18,495	10,504,457
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2022	1,185,524	473,681	250,495	35,811	18,495	1,964,006
Charge for the year	123,012	71,497	21,085	7,923	-	223,517
At 31 August 2023	1,308,536	545,178	271,580	43,734	18,495	2,187,523
Net book value						
At 31 August 2023	5,244,464	3,030,071	22,610	19,789	-	8,316,934
At 31 August 2022	5,367,476	3,101,568	39,118	9,975	-	8,518,137

The land and buildings occupied by the Academy are leased from the Local Authority on a 125 year peppercorn lease. The Trustees are of the opinion that the risks and rewards associated have been substantially transferred to the Academy and as such the land and buildings have been capitalised, with a corresponding entry shown in the Statement of Financial Activities, as donated income. The valuation basis has been estimated by reference to the expected rebuild costs and reinstatement costs as surveyed for insurance purposes.

The trustees are satisfied that this basis most closely reflects an appropriate fair value for the asset.

14 Stock

	2023 £	2022 £
Stock	837	837

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

15 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	1,944
VAT recoverable	30,562	22,451
Other debtors	27,311	7,467
Prepayments and accrued income	73,669	94,092
	<u>131,542</u>	<u>125,954</u>

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Government loans	20,559	28,891
Trade creditors	-	1,502
Other taxation and social security	58,207	53,161
Other creditors	51,982	40,833
Accruals and deferred income	97,118	173,636
	<u>227,866</u>	<u>298,023</u>

17 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Government loans	<u>17,687</u>	<u>38,246</u>
Analysis of loans	2023	2022
	£	£
Wholly repayable within five years	38,246	67,137
Less: included in current liabilities	(20,559)	(28,891)
Amounts included above	<u>17,687</u>	<u>38,246</u>
Loan maturity		
Debt due in one year or less	20,559	28,891
Due in more than one year but not more than two years	17,687	20,700
Due in more than two years but not more than five years	-	17,546
	<u>38,246</u>	<u>67,137</u>

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

17 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

(Continued)

The above loans are Salix Loans received from the ESFA, these loans are interest free and repayable over 8 years. Also included is a CIF loan amounting to £40,000 which is repayable over 7 years at an interest rate of 1.67%.

18 Deferred income	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	15,336	86,319
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	86,319	18,479
Released from previous years	(86,319)	(18,479)
Resources deferred in the year	15,336	86,319
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	15,336	86,319

19 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	(19,804)	3,567,937	(3,613,636)	(15,526)	(81,029)
Pupil premium	-	194,420	(194,420)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	101,935	(68,749)	-	33,186
Other government grants	-	286,361	(286,361)	-	-
Other restricted funds	9,180	51,847	(61,027)	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,127,000)	-	(32,000)	667,000	(492,000)
	(1,137,624)	4,202,500	(4,256,193)	651,474	(539,843)
Restricted fixed asset funds:					
Inherited on conversion	5,366,976	-	(123,012)	-	5,243,964
DfE group capital grants	2,797,791	40,201	(66,657)	(13,366)	2,757,969
Capital expenditure from GAG	237,142	-	(4,840)	28,892	261,194
	8,401,909	40,201	(194,509)	15,526	8,263,127
Total restricted funds	7,264,285	4,242,701	(4,450,702)	667,000	7,723,284
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	202,165	39,066	(4,074)	-	237,157
Total funds	7,466,450	4,281,767	(4,454,776)	667,000	7,960,441

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 Funds

(Continued)

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.

Capital grants are awarded by the DfE/ESFA to fund building and maintenance projects within the Academy.

The gross transfer from restricted general fund to restricted fixed asset fund represents the General Annual Grant (GAG) surpluses on capital projects.

The costs and income associated with the Local Authority Pension Scheme have been recorded in the restricted funds in the current year. This does not mean that an immediate liability for this amount will crystallise.

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	43,773	3,332,328	(3,420,452)	24,549	(19,802)
Pupil premium	-	190,327	(190,327)	-	-
Other government grants	15,056	264,441	(279,497)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	60,841	(51,661)	-	9,180
Pension reserve	(2,487,000)	-	(230,000)	1,590,000	(1,127,000)
	<u>(2,428,171)</u>	<u>3,847,937</u>	<u>(4,171,937)</u>	<u>1,614,549</u>	<u>(1,137,622)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	5,495,500	-	(128,524)	-	5,366,976
DfE group capital grants	2,864,447	13,442	(66,657)	(13,441)	2,797,791
Capital expenditure from GAG	213,090	-	(4,840)	28,892	237,142
	<u>8,573,037</u>	<u>13,442</u>	<u>(200,021)</u>	<u>15,451</u>	<u>8,401,909</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>6,144,866</u>	<u>3,861,379</u>	<u>(4,371,958)</u>	<u>1,630,000</u>	<u>7,264,287</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>215,874</u>	<u>35,319</u>	<u>(9,028)</u>	<u>(40,000)</u>	<u>202,165</u>
Total funds	<u>6,360,740</u>	<u>3,896,698</u>	<u>(4,380,986)</u>	<u>1,590,000</u>	<u>7,466,452</u>

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	General £	Restricted funds: Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	42,398	8,274,536	8,316,934
Current assets	237,157	117,067	26,837	381,061
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(207,308)	(20,559)	(227,867)
Creditors falling due after one year	-	-	(17,687)	(17,687)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(492,000)	-	(492,000)
Total net assets	237,157	(539,843)	8,263,127	7,960,441

	Unrestricted Funds £	General £	Restricted funds: Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	49,091	8,469,046	8,518,137
Current assets	202,165	209,419	-	411,584
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(269,132)	(28,891)	(298,023)
Creditors falling due after one year	-	-	(38,246)	(38,246)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(1,127,000)	-	(1,127,000)
Total net assets	202,165	(1,137,622)	8,401,809	7,466,452

21 Pension and similar obligations

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

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016, and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £44,604 (2022: £40,833) 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 teachers in academy trusts. All teachers have the option to opt out of the TPS following enrolment.

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

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

21 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% 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 SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. The assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £381,970 (2022: £483,114).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

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

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 and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on GOV.UK.

Total contributions made	2023 £	2022 £
Employer's contributions	190,000	183,000
Employees' contributions	54,000	49,000
Total contributions	<u>244,000</u>	<u>232,000</u>

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

21 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions	2023 %	2022 %
Rate of increase in salaries	4.05	4.15
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.9	3
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.4	4.3
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.8	2.9

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

	2023 Years	2022 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.7	22.9
- Females	24.1	25.1
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	23	24.1
- Females	25.9	26.7

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Discount rate + 0.5%	270,000	1,064,000
Mortality assumption + 1 year	566,000	1,196,000
CPI rate + 0.5%	632,000	1,191,000
Pay growth + 0.25%	520,000	1,131,000

The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme

	2023 Fair value £	2022 Fair value £
Equities	1,233,000	1,060,000
Other bonds	414,000	434,000
Cash	33,000	45,000
Property	78,000	97,000
Other assets	605,000	611,000
Total market value of assets	2,363,000	2,247,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £38,000 (2022: £(14,000)).

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

21 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Current service cost	187,000	367,000
Interest income	(91,000)	(32,000)
Interest cost	133,000	73,000
Administration expenses	(7,000)	5,000
Total operating charge	222,000	413,000

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations

	2023 £
At 1 September 2022	3,374,000
Current service cost	187,000
Interest cost	133,000
Employee contributions	54,000
Actuarial gain	(722,000)
Benefits paid	(164,000)
Effect of non-routine settlements and administration expenses	(7,000)
At 31 August 2023	2,855,000

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

	2023 £
At 1 September 2022	2,247,000
Interest income	91,000
Actuarial loss	(55,000)
Employer contributions	190,000
Employee contributions	54,000
Benefits paid	(164,000)
At 31 August 2023	2,363,000

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

22 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(173,008)	(484,288)
Adjusted for:		
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA and other capital income	(40,201)	(13,442)
Investment income receivable	(3,324)	(440)
Finance costs payable	388	388
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	(10,000)	189,000
Defined benefit pension net finance cost	42,000	41,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	223,517	237,170
(Increase) in debtors	(5,588)	(32,571)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(61,825)	93,609
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	(28,041)	30,426

23 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	31 August 2023 £
Cash	284,793	(36,111)	248,682
Loans falling due within one year	(28,891)	8,332	(20,559)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(38,246)	20,559	(17,687)
	217,656	(7,220)	210,436

24 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts due within one year	17,976	-
Amounts due in two and five years	34,454	-
	52,430	-

25 Related party transactions

No related party transactions took place in the period of account other than certain Trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 11.

LAKELANDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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 or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he or she ceases to be a member.