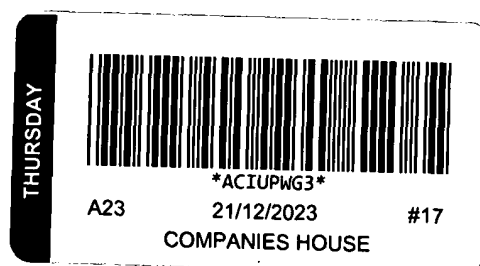


**PRESTON HEDGES TRUST
(FORMERLY PRESTON HEDGES ACADEMY TRUST)
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2023



***Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number: 08282041
(England & Wales)***

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE ACADEMY, TRUSTEES AND ADVISORS

Members	Dr P Walters Mrs Y Gill Mr C Gyles Mr N Prescott Mr S Saunders
Governors	Mr L Gentry Mrs R Hickford (Resigned as Chair 6 December 2022) Mr P Watson CEO Dr J Murray Mr D Hughes Mrs S Smith Mrs W Pearmain (Resigned May 2022) Mr C Dillow Mr M Brinkley (Appointed Chair 7 December 2022) Mr P Dawes Mr D Nyamatore Mrs S Balakrishan (Appointed 20 September 2022) Mrs L White
Chief Executive Officer	Mr P Watson, CEO
Executive Leadership Team	Mrs L Kerrison, Finance Director Mrs C Stewart, Principal Mrs T Coles, Principal Mrs C Cassidy, Principal Mrs H Rodgers, Principal
Senior Leadership Team	Mrs L Kerrison, Finance Director Mrs C Stewart, Principal Mrs T Coles, Principal
Principal and Registered Office	Preston Hedges Trust Wootton Hope Drive Wootton Fields Northampton NN4 6BU
Company name	Preston Hedges Trust
Company Registration Number	08282041
Independent Auditor	UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP 9-11 Vittoria Street Birmingham B1 3ND
Bankers	Lloyds Bank plc Northampton
Solicitors	Winkworth Sherwood Minerva House 5 Montague Close London SE1 9BB

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year from 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.

Structure, governance and management**Constitution**

The Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum of Association is the primary governing document of the academy trust. The Trustees of Preston Hedges Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law.

The charitable company is known as Preston Hedges Trust and was approved as an Academy Sponsor in August 2016. As of 1 September 2022, the Trust is made up of five schools. The Trust hopes to grow to ten schools by September 2026.

The principal activity of the Trust is to advance, for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom by establishing, maintaining, managing, and developing schools offering a broad curriculum.

Details of the Trustees who served during the year are included in the reference and administrative details in the Governance Statement.

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

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the charitable company has insurance in place to protect Trustees and Officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on charitable company business.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

As determined by the Articles of Association any new Trustees must only be appointed if agreed by the Trust Board.

During this period, two new Trustees were appointed to the Trust Board as detailed in the Governance Statement.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The Trust Board has a Trustee induction programme for all new Trustees. Every new Trustee is provided with a mentor who supports their induction to the Trust. The mentor who supports their induction provides copies of Trust policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and any other documents needed to undertake their role of Trustee effectively. The Trust annually reviews the skills and training requirements of Trustees and seeks to provide guidance and training appropriate to ensuring effective discharge of statutory duties and for effective governance in driving the strategic direction and leadership of the Trust (and its schools).

In 2023 the Trust introduced an annual training offer for Trustees including dedicated sessions workshops on safeguarding and performance data. An external training offer is also available to Trustees.

Organisational structure

The Trust has adopted a scheme of delegation which identifies the level of autonomy for the CEO, the Senior Leadership Team, Executive Team, and the Trust Committees.

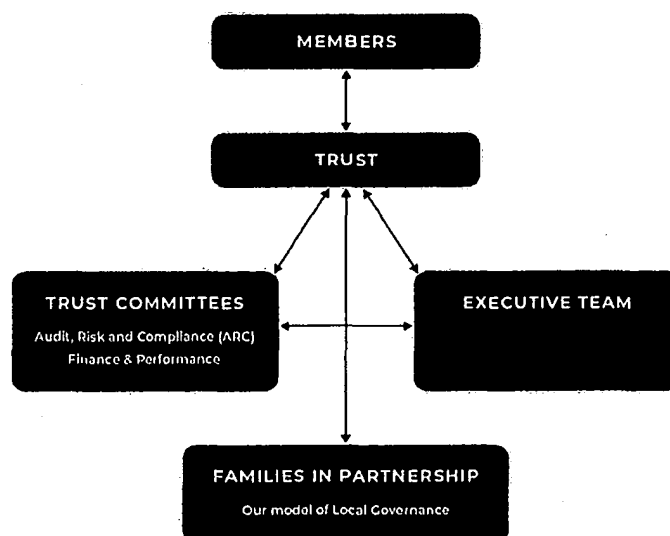
Our model for local governance delivered through our Families in Partnership groups. This approach enables the Trust to communicate and engage with our school communities, becoming 'anchor institutions' in their local area.

Otherwise, decision making of the Trust Board is as contained in the funding agreement including the Articles and Memorandum of Association.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

Organisational structure (cont'd)

Our Structure is as follows:

**Members**

Independent Members x5

Senior Leadership Team

Chief Executive Officer

Chief Operating Officer

Finance Director

Executive Principals x2

Trust Board

Trustees appointed x12 (including CEO)

Company Secretary

Executive Leadership Team

Audit & Risk*

Compliance *

**replaced by ARC (Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee in 2023)*

Finance

Performance

All of which have a Chair and appropriate Trustees with support from our senior school leaders as required.

Families in Partnership

Families in Partnership comprise of a Principal, Trustees, up to 3 appointed or elected parents and appropriate community representatives. The primary focus of the Families in Partnership model is to improve the way the Trust communicates and engages with our school communities. We want parents, carers and members of the local community to be at the heart of the Trust. At each meeting the agenda focuses on Trust updates, news and priorities for the school, the school priorities and matters raised by the local community.

Elected parents will be asked to attend where possible key school events, such as Sports Days and Parents' Evenings. As well as elected parents, members will also include figures from the local community and invited parents who may have skills and experience which could benefit the school and wider Trust.

- The meetings will be open for all parents to attend as and when they wish.
- There were a minimum of three meetings during 2022/23 at each school.

Our Purpose

We want every child to have an outstanding education and the best possible start in life. This is achieved by engaging each of them in the Trust's ethos of Fun, Creativity and Achievement:

FUN creating happy confident learners.

CREATIVITY providing exceptional curriculum experiences that sparks curiosity, imagination and encourages life-long learning.

ACHIEVEMENT Fulfilling every child's potential with the highest academic outcomes and preparing them as confident, tolerant and compassionate citizens in a global environment.

Our Vision

Our vision is to create fun working and learning environments to encourage happy and confident learners.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Our Vision (cont'd)**

We take great pride in our creative curriculum, with teachers and leaders delivering first class education experiences in creative and inspiring places and spaces.

We have a relentless energy and drive towards achievement allowing us to consistently deliver the highest educational outcomes for our children.

It is these three principles – Fun, Creativity and Achievement – which are central to everything we do to provide exceptional educational experiences for all our children.

Our Strategic Objectives 2022-23**Trust Growth**

To successfully identify and approach schools to fulfil our growth strategy whilst sustaining the performance of our schools.

People

To embed our values across the organisation and to clearly define an engagement/retention offer that supports our people to thrive.

Operational Excellence

To enhance operational excellence across the Trust through the recruitment of a COO creating the structure, processes and capacity to support our schools and our growth strategy.

To embed our Families in Partnership model within our communities, enabling the Trust to fulfil its civic duty.

Educational Excellence

To ensure the new Principal at Holne Chase is effective in his role through high quality induction and ongoing support.

To implement and embed all curriculum subjects at Holne Chase, ensuring that delivery is highly effective.

To stabilise Reading and Maths outcomes at age related at Holne Chase.

To improve Reading outcomes at age related at Parklands.

To stabilise Yr 2 outcomes in all subjects at Holne Chase.

To improve GD outcomes in Maths at Parklands.

To implement and embed the new PE curriculum across the Trust following feedback from Ofsted.

Pupil Premium persistent absence at Holne Chase is reduced from 50% in 2021-22 to no more than 20% in 2022-23.

Attendance at Holne Chase is consistently above national in 2022-23.

Pupil Premium persistent absence at Parklands is reduced from 29.7% in 2021-22 to no more than 11% in 2022-23.

Attendance at Parklands is consistently above 95% in 2022-23.

The Trust has successfully identified potential schools to join the Trust and is now working with them towards a joining date of September 2024. The Trust has also prepared and submitted a Free School bid in 2022/23 for opening in 2025.

Our values have been embedded throughout the Trust with a hugely successful Trust training day. All staff now have performance management in place which is based on our organisational values.

The Trust appointed a Chief Operating Officer who started their role in January 2023.

Our Families in Partnership model is now well established in the majority of our schools.

Our new Principal at Holne Chase had a very successful first year and managed to implement the full Trust curriculum.

Of our four pupil performance based objectives all bar our Reading outcomes at age related at Parklands and Holne Chase were fulfilled.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Educational Excellence**

Our new PE Curriculum is in place and has been scrutinised by the Performance Committee.

Both Holne Chase and Parklands have seen significant improvements in attendance in 2022-23. For example, Holne Chase persistent absence has been reduced by over 50%.

The Preston Hedges Trust board is carrying out its three core functions and has strong processes in place which supports this work. The Trust has recently undergone a significant internal review of the central function led by the Chief Operating Officer. A restructure has followed with new roles, process and approach being implemented for January 2024.

Following this process, the Trust will have a Head of Finance post which will be a strategic role supporting the Board and Executive leaders to fulfil our strategic objectives and priorities.

Finance

Key financial information is provided to key stakeholders through the Central team led by the Finance Director;

- Finance committee ensures Central team is functioning effectively, meeting essential deadlines and has performance management in place
- Ensure consistent financial reporting to the Trust Board and Finance Committee
- Trust Board ensures financial strategy in place to address the following: Curriculum Led Financial Planning utilising key performance indicators, benchmarks, and centralisation of resources where appropriate.
- All financial policies are updated, reviewed and in place.

Senior Leadership Team

The Senior Leadership Team utilise Trust resources to ensure sustained success for the Preston Hedges Trust Schools through collaboration, support and challenge in partnership with the Executive Team.

Parklands Primary School was inspected in 2022/23 and was graded good in all areas. This represents a significant improvement from the inadequate judgment of the predecessor school.

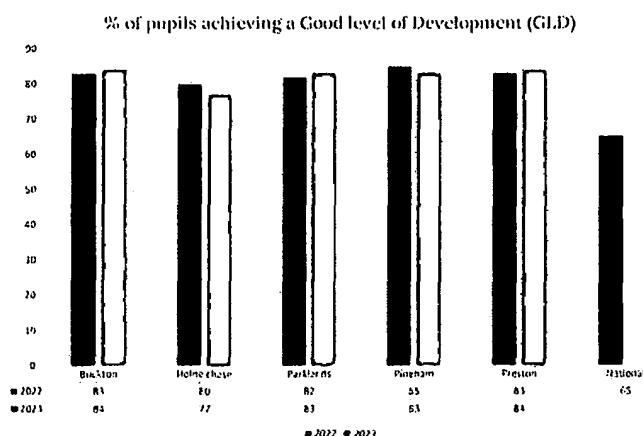
Holne Chase Primary School is due to be inspected in 2023/24 and our expectation is that this will also move from an inadequate judgement to a good judgement.

Preston Hedges Primary School must be inspected before September 2025.

Pupil Outcomes

As ever the Trust has ensured the Executive Team have been focused on maintaining the high academic performance of the Trust. Outcomes in 2022-23 were exceptionally strong and typically well above

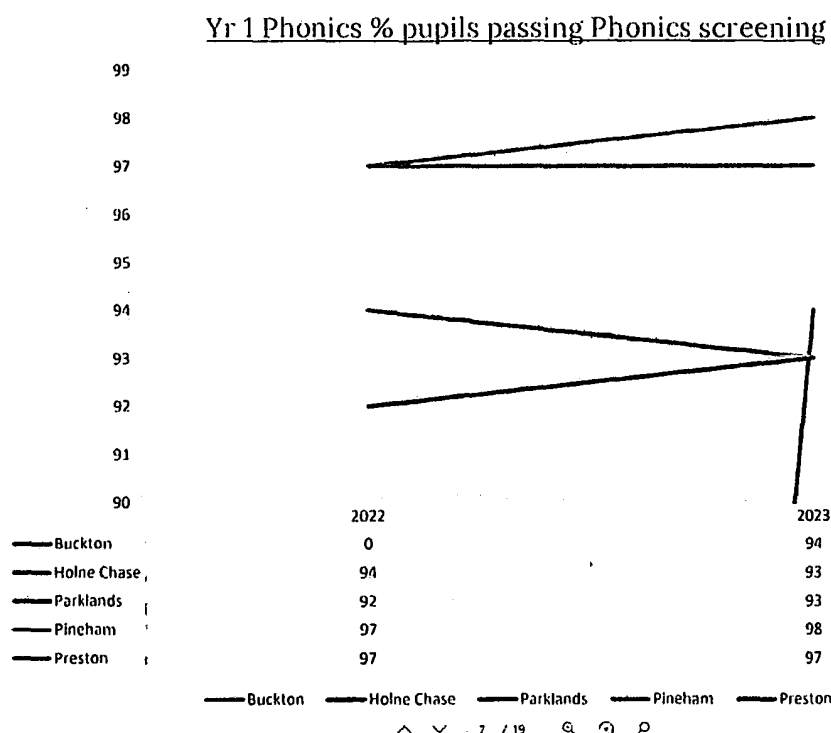
For example, the number of children achieving a good level of development in Year R over the last two years was significantly above national levels in 2022 as shown below.

Year R

This is also the case in Phonics where the percentage of children passing the screening is significantly above national outcomes.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

Pupil Outcomes (cont'd)



The number of children achieving age related outcomes in reading, writing and maths in Year 6 remained at 59% nationally in 2023. The Trust across its schools had an average of 75%. Reflecting the quality of teaching and learning, systems and processes and leadership and management.

Compliance

Through the Trust risk management procedures, and risk register it has considered its principle risks and areas of uncertainty and planned mitigating action wherever possible.

The Risk Register shows a small number of medium risks which are as follows:

- A building bit unfit for occupation.
- Quality of product/service risk in schools
- Technology and cyber-security risk
- Funding risk for Pineham Barns School in 24/25

All of the above have mitigations in place with Buckton Fields primary school currently occupying Pineham Barns Primary School. Additional leadership capacity has been placed in Holne Chase Primary School in 2023/24 to offset any performance risks. Annual cyber security training has been taken by all staff within the 2022/23 period. Ongoing dialogue is occurring with the ESFA around Pineham funding for 2024/25.

The Trust Board and our committees continue to:

- Review the Highest Risk Matrix of the Risk Register at each meeting ensuring it is fully updated.
- Ensure the ARC Committee review the register at each meeting to ensure no ongoing non-compliance
- Ensure all significant non-compliance reported to the Board

Public Benefit

The Academy Trust Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit as published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties. The trust has admitted students in accordance with its admissions policy for the benefit of the public.

Achievements and performance

The Academy Trust and Trustees have successfully ensured that all our schools continue to perform well. Our external advisor and Ofsted inspector shares this view.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Achievements and performance (cont'd)**

Our Trust Central team is undergoing a restructure to create a more efficient team to meet the needs of the organisation. Through a business partnering approach they will provide financial support to all our schools and insight to our Trustees and school leaders.

Going concern

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

Key performance indicators

We use several financial key performance indicators (KPI's) as part of curriculum led financial planning to monitor our financial success and progress improvement against target. The following KPI's have been applied to financial reporting and business monitoring.

Performance Indicator	MAT Average Benchmark	PHP	PKL	HCP	BFP	PBP
Primary Pupil Numbers	1,479	418	409	208	104	340
Staff % of Expenditure	71.40%	76.60%	67.90%	69.10%	66.30%	72.60%
Teaching Staff Salary per	£2,448	£2,568	£2,314	£2,311	£2,577	£2,505
Education Support Staff	£1,194	£1,038	£1,039	£1,583	£1,861	£1,133
Premises Costs per Pupil	£122	£133	£0	£198	£424	£114

Review of activities

Typically, the Trust pays for analysis, which enables it to compare Executive pay and benchmark its salaries against sector averages for Trusts of this size.

Factors relevant to achieve objectives

The key factor relevant to the Trust achieving the stated objectives relates to its growth and the expansion of the Trust. Particularly, as the Trust prepares for further growth between 2023-26 and its aspiration to grow to ten schools. The Trust must ensure it sustains sufficient capacity to fulfil its objectives and growth plans.

Financial Review

The majority of the Trust income is received from the Education and 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 during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure of these grants are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Academy Trust receives grants for Fixed Asset Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. The balance of the Restricted Fixed Asset Fund is reduced by depreciation charges on the assets acquired using these funds.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, the total expenditure (excluding depreciation charges and FRS 102 pension cost adjustments) of £8,015,000 (2022: £6,986,000) was covered by the recurrent grant funding from the ESFA, together with other incoming resources provided by Trust business activity (wraparound care, lettings and deployment).

The net book value of fixed assets at 31 August 2023 is £12,540,000 (2022: £13,068,000). The fixed assets held by the Academy Trust are used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to the pupils of the Academy Trust.

The balance of total funds held at 31 August 2023 was £14,066,000 (2022: £13,881,000) that comprised the following:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Restricted Pension Reserve deficit	(208)	(524)
Restricted Fixed Asset Fund	12,573	12,929
Restricted Funds	1,302	1,043
Unrestricted Funds	399	433

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Financial risk management objectives and policies**

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Trust and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate its exposure to major risks.

- 1 Financial Risk - relating to financial stability. We have a reserves policy in place to ensure we remain financially viable. Financial policies and control procedures ensure that our financial data is timely, accurate and meaningful. The Trust is undergoing a structure centrally and therefore whilst appropriate controls are in place the risk to our financial data reporting may increase during this transition.
- 2 Staffing – Ensuring that we are able to recruit for the key role within the new structure to ensure business continuity.
- 3 Building - The Trust has a Business Continuity Plan that puts in place measures, in the event of unforeseeable circumstances.
- 4 In August 2022 the Trust was told that Buckton Fields Primary School was unfit for occupation. The DFE are meeting the capital costs associated with this and any temporary school facilities. However, there will be non-capital expenditure linked to this which the Trust will account for.
- 5 The Trust has commissioned independent external expertise to ensure the schools do not have RAAC. All surveys conducted in summer 2023 have reported no concerns.

Reserves policy

Our Trust Reserves Policy is to hold 8% of the General Annual Grant (GAG) to cover capital works, legal fees and Trust Strategic development. Where a School is holding reserves that are more than 8% and/or the prudent level of reserves for the risks associated with the school, then a plan to use the reserves for the best interest of its children must be formed. Where reserves reach 12% of GAG without additional requirements the Trustees will consider transferring funds from the School to other areas in need across the Trust.

The Trust holds central reserves of £1,239,000 made up of restricted funds to reflect the 7% top slice, and additional recharges to support the Central function (including staff and Trust expenditure) during financial year 2022/23. The Schools hold £462,000, which is currently being utilised for educational purposes within the 3 Year Budget Plan. The Trust hold total reserves of £1,701,000 made up of restricted and unrestricted funds.

The deficit on the pension reserve relates to the non-teaching staff pension scheme where, unlike the teachers' scheme, separate assets are held to fund future liabilities as discussed in note 27. The deficit can be met in the longer term from any combination of increased employer or employee contributions, increased government funding or changes to the scheme benefits.

Investment policy and performance

The Trust has an investment policy in place. Surplus funds are securely invested on a short-term rolling period. The Finance Committee regularly review the policy and the funds that are invested.

Principal funding

Our principal funding is received through the ESFA General Annual Grant (GAG). We receive additional funding streams throughout the year which are variable.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Governance structure**

Our structure for governance is three tiered. This consists of the Trust Board, the Trust Committees and Families in Partnership groups.

Fundraising

Our approach to fundraising is to enable voluntary groups known as "Friends" of each School to raise funds. This practice does not involve the Friends working with our commercial partners.

Every Friends meeting is attended by a Senior Leader within the Trust to ensure any practice is in line with recognised standards. The Finance Director monitors any fundraising ideas through their reports to the Trust Board.

During 2022/23 there were no complaints made about any aspects of our fundraising practices. The Trust ensures the attendance of a Senior Leader at all meetings and fundraising activities. The Trust through regular evaluation ensures that all practices offer protection to the public, including vulnerable people and groups.

Plans for future periods**Future developments**

As the Trust moves into 2023/24, a key priority will be ensure that the impact of any temporary arrangements for Buckton Fields Primary School do not impact its performance. In addition, a priority will be to embed the change in structure centrally in order to remain highly effective and able to support the growth and main developments during 2023/24.

Pay policy for key management personnel

The Trust has its own separate teaching pay policy which includes an appraisal policy.

It is reviewed annually by the Trust Board. The Trust Board has identified appropriate leadership pay spines for all its Senior Leadership Team and they are reviewed annually.

An external advisor provides support to this process to ensure it is sufficiently robust.

Trade union facility time

Preston Hedges Trust did not have a union official for the financial year 2022/23, during which we have had growth from an average of 97 FTE to 98 FTE Teaching and Educational Support Staff and 28 FTE to 30 Administration and Support Staff. Our Trust has been proactive in engaging with the Trade Unions during the 2022/23 period and encourage union visits to our employees to discuss membership and the role of union official. We offer full support to employees who may wish to take on the role of union official and actively promote Trade Union relationships.

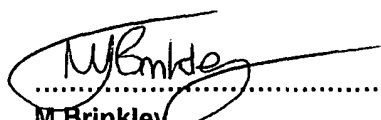
Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware;
- 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.

The auditor, UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP, has indicated its willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion re-appointing the auditor at a meeting of the Trustees.

The Trustees' report was approved by order of the Board of Trustees Annual General Meeting, as the company directors and members, on 5 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
M Brinkley
Chair of Trust

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**Scope of Responsibility**

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Preston Hedges 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 Chief Executive Officer, 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 Preston Hedges 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 10 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr M Brinkley, Chair	10	10
Mr L Gentry	6	10
Mrs S Smith	7	10
Mr D Hughes	10	10
Dr J Murray	7	10
Mr C Dillow	4	10
Mr P Dawes	8	10
Mr D Nyamatore	6	10
Mrs L White	6	10
Mr P Watson, CEO	10	10
Mrs S Balakrishnan (appointed Sept 23)	10	10
Mr S Andrews (appointed May 23)	3	3

Conflicts of Interest

The Trust has a dedicated Conflicts of Interest Policy in place. All trustees must complete the register of business interests annually and are asked at each meeting to declare any changes. This information allows the Academy Trust to see where any potential conflicts of interest might occur and act accordingly. Academy Trusts must describe the processes they have in place to manage conflicts of interest, including (but not limited to) maintaining an up-to-date and complete register of interests, and how the information on this register is used in the day-to-day management and governance of the academy trust.

Board of Trustees

There have been the following changes to the composition of the Trust Board. Mrs Sharanniya Balakrishnan, a chartered management accountant was appointed as Trustee September 2023 and Mr Stevyn Andrews an experienced marketing manager was appointed as a Trustees May 2023.

The Trust Board also merged the Audit and Risk Committee with the Compliance Committee creating the new ARC (Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee).

The objectives of the Trust Board are outlined in this report. The coverage of its work focussed on its four strategic pillars of Trust Growth, People, Educational Excellence and Operational Excellence. The Trust has started work in Summer 2023 on a revised strategic approach to reflect the new trust quality descriptors. This will be in place for 2023-2024.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**Board of Trustees (cont'd)**

The Finance Committee is a sub-committee of the Main Board of Trustees. They met 3 times during the year. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr D Hughes	3	3
Mrs L Kerrison (co-opted member)	3	3
Mr P Dawes	3	3
Mr M Brinkley	3	3
Mr P Watson	3	3
Mrs S Balakrishnan	3	3

The Audit and Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the Main Board of Trustees. They met 2 times during the year as Audit and Risk Committee and once as the new combined ARC Committee (Audit Risk and Compliance Committee from May 2023). Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr D Hughes	3	3
Mrs L Kerrison (invitee)	3	3
Mr D Nyamatore	3	3
Mr P Watson (invitee)	3	3
Mrs S Balakrishnan	3	3
Mr C Dillow (as part of ARC Committee)	1	1
Mr L Gentry (as part of ARC committee)	1	1

Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for ensuring that the trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Accounting Officer considers how the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate.

The Accounting Officer for the Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Official tender of good/services under a single contract for the Trust, as opposed to procuring individually for each school. Thereby reducing per pupil costs and ensuring quality, efficiency and deliverability are consistent across the Trust, for the below:
 - Trust Wrap around provision system. Reducing the need for a full-time member of staff to be in place and outsourcing the management of this service to an external provider.
 - Trust ICT Support Services. The Chief Operating Officer ensured that all hardware was sourced through a competitive process for 2023/24. Reducing cost and ensuring best value.
 - Trust procurement of energy. The energy procured was through a OJEU compliant route utilising a dynamic purchasing system to deliver competitive pricing. The procurement included bill validation and e-Metering installation for all the schools, which will allow the Trust to monitor usage and develop a strategy to drive efficiencies and keep costs down.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of 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.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**The Purpose of the System of Internal Control (cont'd)**

The system of internal control has been in place in Preston Hedges Trust for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Internal Scrutiny

Preston Hedges Trust, has a programme of internal scrutiny to provide independent assurance to the Board of Trustees that its financial and non-financial controls and risk management procedures are operating effectively.

The Board of Trustees uses the guidance provided by the Academy Trust Handbook (ATH) with a focus

- evaluating the suitability of, and level of compliance with, financial and non-financial controls. This includes assessing whether procedures are effective and efficient, and checking whether agreed controls and procedures have been followed.
- offering advice and insight to the board on how to address weaknesses in financial and non-financial controls, acting as a catalyst for improvement, but without diluting management's responsibility for the day to day running of the trust.
- ensuring all categories of risk are adequately identified, reported, and managed.

The Trust Board has conformed to effective internal scrutiny through:

- appointment of an audit and risk committee to review and scrutinise governance, risk, and internal control processes
- in March 2023 the Trust combined the compliance committee with its audit and risk committee. This was in recognition that safeguarding and estates management are a key part of the internal scrutiny process therefore the Trust considered establishing an ARC (Audit, Risk and Compliance) committee would further strengthen its internal control processes.
- following a recommendation from the ARC committee, the Trust Board have this year approved the appointment of an external internal scrutiny partner, Strictly Education. With appropriate qualifications and experience in risk management and compliance it was felt that they would be able to support in enhancing our internal scrutiny strategy and further strengthen our approach to internal control checks.

The Trust Board are satisfied that the audit and risk committee and internal scrutineer will provide appropriate feedback and recommendations based on the findings of the internal scrutiny report, and the Trust Board will act upon these within the risk register and committee objectives, to continually improve governance, risk and control arrangements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Trust Board has reviewed the key risks to which the trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Trust Board is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Trust's significant risks, which has been in place for the period of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Trust Board, and discussed within each Trust Committee.

The Risk and Control Framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees;
- regular reviews by the Board of Trustees 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 via the risk register.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**The Risk and Control Framework (cont'd)**

The Trust Board has considered the requirement for internal scrutiny during 2022/2023 and has reviewed its internal controls as part of this. The Trust Board has appointed an audit, risk and compliance committee to oversee internal controls and ensure internal scrutiny is performed and reviewed on a regular basis. As part of the internal scrutiny in 2022/2023, the Trust Board appointed Strictly Education as its Internal Scrutineer to perform their internal control checks and oversee all aspects of internal scrutiny.

The Internal Scrutineer reviews all internal controls checks carried out and makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees, through the Audit, Risk and Compliance committee, on further actions that should be carried out to ensure our Trust is compliant with our internal controls and scrutiny. The work undertaken during the internal scrutiny included:

- evaluating the Trust's safeguarding policies and procedures
- evaluating the educational provision and teaching and learning quality of each of the schools within the Trust
- review of the Trust's payroll management approach

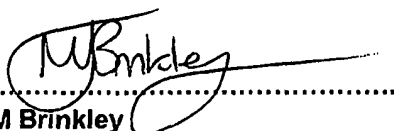
Review of Effectiveness

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

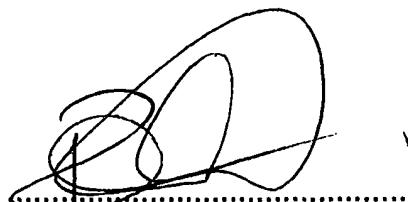
- the work of the Finance Director
- the work of the External Auditor
- the work of the Internal Scrutineer
- the financial management and governance self assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool
- the work of the Audit and Risk Committee / ARC Committee within the Trust 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 Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 5 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



M Brinkley
Chair of Trustees
5 December 2023



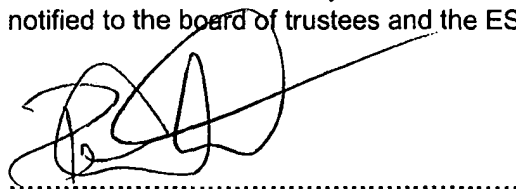
P Watson
Accounting Officer
5 December 2023

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

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



P Watson
Accounting Officer

5 December 2023

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The trustees (who act as trustees of Preston Hedges Trust and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Annual Accounts Direction issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

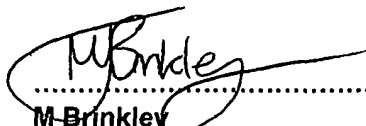
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards FRS102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the academy will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 5 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
M Brinkley
Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF PRESTON HEDGES TRUST FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Preston Hedges Trust (the charitable company) for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statement, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 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 financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statement 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 Preston Hedges 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 financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the financial statements. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF PRESTON HEDGES TRUST FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the Strategic Report, and the Trustees Report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 17, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the Preston Hedges 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 to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Based on our understanding of the Preston Hedges Trust and the industry in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the acts by the Preston Hedges Trust, which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations including fraud, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, Charities SORP 2019 and Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to inflated revenue and the Preston Hedges Trust's net income for the year.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF PRESTON HEDGES TRUST FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

Audit procedures performed included: review of the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation, review of correspondence with and reports to the regulators, including correspondence with the Education and Skills Funding Agency review of correspondence with legal advisors, enquiries of management and review of internal audit reports in so far as they related to the financial statements, and testing of journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

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

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF PRESTON HEDGES TRUST FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Use of our report**

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

**Malcolm Winston****Senior Statutory Auditor****UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP, Statutory Auditor****9-11 Vittoria Street****Birmingham****B1 3ND****5 December 2023**

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S AUDITOR'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO PRESTON HEDGES 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 6 July 2023 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 the Academy 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 the Preston Hedges Trust and the ESFA in accordance with our engagement letter. Our review has been undertaken so that we might state to the governing body and the ESFA those matters we are required to state to it 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 Preston Hedges Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Preston Hedges Trust's accounting officer and the reporting

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Preston Hedges Trust 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 and 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 Accountants issued by the 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.

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S AUDITOR'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON
REGULARITY TO PRESTON HEDGES TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING
AGENCY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)****Approach (con't)**

Summary of the work undertaken was as follows:

- Analytical review of the Academy Trust's general activities are within the Academy Trusts framework of authorities;
- Consideration of the evidence supporting the accounting officers statement on regularity, propriety and compliance;
- Review of the general control environment for the Academy Trust on financial statements and on regularity;
- Confirmation that a sample of expenditure has been appropriately authorised in accordance with the Academy Trust's delegated authorities;
- Formal representations obtained from the board of trustees and the accounting officer acknowledging the responsibilities including disclosing all non compliance with laws and regulations specific to the authorising framework;
- Confirmation that any extra contractual payments such as severance and compensation payments have been appropriately authorised;
- Review of credit card expenditure for any indication of personal use by staff, principal or trustees;
- Review of specific terms of grant funding within the funding agreement;
- Review of related party transactions for connections with the principal/finance manager or trustees;
- Review of income received in accordance with the activities permitted within the Academy Trust's charitable objectives.

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.

UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP

**Reporting Accountant
UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP
9-11 Vittoria Street
Birmingham
B1 3ND**

5 December 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023
(Including Income and Expenditure Account)


			Restricted	Fixed		
		Unrestricted	General	Asset	Total	Total
	Note	Funds	Funds	Funds	2023	2022
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	13	-	307	320	163
Transfer from local authority on conversion	3 & 29	-	-	-	-	2,230
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations	4	-	7,848	-	7,848	7,085
Other trading activities	5	406	-	-	406	372
Investment income	6	-	-	-	-	-
Total		419	7,848	307	8,574	9,850
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	249	-	-	249	217
Charitable activities:						
- Academy Trust's educational operations	7	-	7,905	459	8,364	7,879
- Impairment of land and buildings		-	-	241	241	-
Total	7	249	7,905	700	8,854	8,096
Net income/(expenditure)		170	(57)	(393)	(280)	1,754
Transfers between funds	16	(204)	167	37	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses						
Gain on property valuation	13	-	-	-	-	801
Actuarial gain on defined benefit pension schemes	27	-	465	-	465	2,934
Net movement in funds		(34)	575	(356)	185	5,489
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	27	433	519	12,929	13,881	8,392
Total funds carried forward	27	399	1,094	12,573	14,066	13,881

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

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	<u>12,540</u>	<u>13,068</u>
		<u>12,540</u>	<u>13,068</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	14	211	273
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>2,239</u>	<u>2,087</u>
		<u>2,450</u>	<u>2,360</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(716)</u>	<u>(1,023)</u>
		<u>(716)</u>	<u>(1,023)</u>
Net current assets		1,734	1,337
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>14,274</u>	<u>14,405</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	27	(208)	(524)
Total Net Assets		<u>14,066</u>	<u>13,881</u>
Funds of the Academy:			
Restricted funds			
- Fixed asset fund	16	12,573	12,929
- Restricted income fund	16	1,302	1,043
- Pension reserve	16	(208)	(524)
Total restricted funds		<u>13,667</u>	<u>13,448</u>
Unrestricted income fund	16	<u>399</u>	<u>433</u>
Total unrestricted funds		<u>399</u>	<u>433</u>
Total Funds	16	<u>14,066</u>	<u>13,881</u>

The financial statements on pages 24 to 47 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 5 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



 M Brinkley
 Chair of Trustees

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	20	17	771
Cash flows from investing activities	21	135	(433)
Cash flows from financing activities	22	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>152</u>	<u>338</u>
 Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September	23	 2,087	 1,749
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	23	<u>2,239</u>	<u>2,087</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Statement of Accounting Policies

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

Basis of Preparation

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

Preston Hedges Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going Concern

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

Income

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

• Grants

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

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

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

• Sponsorship Income

Sponsorship income provided to the Academy Trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is receivable, where receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

• Donations

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where there is certainty of receipt and the amount can be reliably measured.

• Other income

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

• Donated goods, facilities and services

Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in stock and 'Income from other trading activities'.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

- **Donated goods, facilities and services (cont'd)**

Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from other trading activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from other trading activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'. Where the donated good is a fixed asset it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Academy Trust's accounting policies.

- **Transfers of leasehold property**

Leasehold property transferred to the Academy from the local authority at little or no consideration will be revalued at fair value in accordance with FRS 102. This value will be recognised as incoming resources in the Statement of Financial Activities and will be included in the appropriate fixed assets category and depreciated over the life of the lease.

Expenditure

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

- **Expenditure on Raising Funds**

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

- **Charitable Activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Assets costing **£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 requiring the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

Depreciation Policy

Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis on the cost of tangible fixed assets, to write them down to their estimated residual values over their expected useful lives. The principal annual rates used for assets are:

Leasehold buildings	50 years
Furniture and fixtures	10 years
Computer equipment and software	3 years

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

Depreciation Policy (cont'd)

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.

Operating leases

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

Parklands Primary School has assets under Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts.

The Transfer Agreement does not transfer the ownership of the new school built by the Contractor until the end of the Project Agreement. Whilst the PFI Agreement remains between the Local Authority and the Contractor, the Trust makes an Academy Contribution to the unitary charge via the Schools Agreement to cover the services element of the charge. The Directors have considered the risks and rewards associated with the agreement and consider that these represent operating lease arrangements, as risks and rewards associated with the PFI buildings are not transferred to the Trust until the end of the contract. Accordingly, the Academy contributions are recognised as operating charges in the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the life of the contract.

At the end of the PFI contract, the risks and rewards will transfer to the Charitable Company, at which point the buildings will be capitalised.

Financial Instruments

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

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

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

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

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.

Pensions Benefits

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

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**Pensions Benefits (cont'd)**

The LGPS is a multi funded employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to net income / (expenditure) operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of the scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments.

They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the Academy Trust at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 27, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement

The critical judgements that the Trustees have made in the process of applying the Academy Trust's accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the statutory financial statements are discussed below:

The critical areas of judgement are accounting for government grants, accounting for the write down of assets through depreciation and accounting for the pension liability. Government grants are accounted for as restricted funds. The pension liability is assessed by an independent actuarial valuation. Depreciation rates are based on the expected life of the asset.

In assessing whether there have been any indicators of impairment assets, the Trustees have considered both external and internal sources of information such as market conditions, counterparty credit ratings and experience of recoverability. There have been no indicators of impairments identified during the current financial year.

2 GENERAL ANNUAL GRANT (GAG)

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023 (See note 16).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

3 DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Devolved formula capital grant	-	102	102	31
ESFA Capital grant	-	205	205	113
Transfer from local authority on conversion: (note 29)				
- Land and buildings	-	-	-	2,230
Donations	13	-	13	19
	<u>13</u>	<u>307</u>	<u>320</u>	<u>2,393</u>

The income from donations and capital grants was £320,000 (2022 : £2,393,000) of which £13,000 (2022 : £19,000) was unrestricted, £Nil (2022 : £Nil) restricted and £307,000 (2022 : £2,374,000) restricted fixed assets.

4 FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY TRUST'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG) (note 2)	-	6,657	6,657	6,166
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
Pupil Premium	-	211	211	191
Rates relief grant	-	87	87	23
PE and Sports grant	-	100	100	67
UIFSM grant	-	260	260	224
Sponsor capacity grant	-	-	-	1
DfE repairs grant	-	39	39	-
Mainstream schools additional grant	-	90	90	-
Post-opening grant - revenue	-	-	-	92
Pupil development grant	-	-	-	72
Early Years Framework	-	-	-	7
National Tutoring Programme	-	7	7	7
Supplementary grant	-	173	173	70
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	35	35	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>7,659</u>	<u>7,659</u>	<u>6,920</u>
Other Government grants				
Special educational needs grant	-	39	39	23
LA Pupil premium	-	6	6	13
Other LA grants	-	120	120	101
	<u>-</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>137</u>
COVID-19 DfE/ESFA additional funding				
Recovery Premium	-	22	22	19
NQT COVID-19 support	-	2	2	9
	<u>-</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>28</u>
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations				
Pupil catering	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>7,848</u>	<u>7,848</u>	<u>7,085</u>

The income from Funding for the Academy Trust's Educational Operations was £7,848,000 (2022 : £7,085,000) of which £Nil (2022 : £Nil) was unrestricted and £7,848,000 (2022 : £7,085,000) restricted.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

5 OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Hire of facilities	44	-	44	35
Trips, music and studio club income	359	-	359	337
Other Income	3	-	3	-
	<u>406</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>406</u>	<u>372</u>

The income from other trading activities was £406,000 (2022 : £372,000) of which £406,000 (2022 : £372,000) was unrestricted, £Nil (2022 : £Nil) restricted.

6 INVESTMENT INCOME	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Bank interest received	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The income from the Academy Trusts's investment income was unrestricted.

7 EXPENDITURE	Non Pay Expenditure			Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
	Staff Costs £'000	Premises £'000	Other Costs £'000		
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	-	-	-	-	-
- Allocated support costs	195	-	54	249	217
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	4,828	-	453	5,281	4,704
- Allocated support costs	1,176	1,148	1,000	3,324	3,175
	<u>6,004</u>	<u>1,148</u>	<u>1,453</u>	<u>8,605</u>	<u>7,879</u>
	<u>6,199</u>	<u>1,148</u>	<u>1,507</u>	<u>8,854</u>	<u>8,096</u>

The expenditure was £8,854,000 (2022 : £8,096,000) of which £249,000 (2022 : £217,000) was unrestricted, £7,905,000 (2022 : £7,457,000) restricted and £700,000 (2022 : £422,000) restricted fixed assets.

	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Net (income)/expenditure for the year includes:		
Operating lease rentals	62	58
PFI charges	216	174
Depreciation	459	422
Loss on impairment of fixed assets (note 13)	241	-
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- audit	18	16
- other services	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>

On 1 September 2023 based on a desk top valuation from the ESFA the land and buildings of Pineham Barnes was valued at £6,125,000 which resulted in an impairment of £241,805.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

8 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Direct costs - educational operations	5,281	4,704
Support costs - educational operations	3,324	3,175
	<u>8,605</u>	<u>7,879</u>

Analysis of Direct Costs

Teaching and educational support staff costs	4,828	4,293
Technology costs	22	20
Educational supplies	221	245
Staff development	48	35
Other direct costs	162	111
	<u>5,281</u>	<u>4,704</u>

Analysis of Support Costs

Support staff costs	1,176	1,537
Depreciation	459	422
Loss on impairment of fixed asset	241	-
Premises	689	486
Insurance	33	30
Technology	154	140
Catering	273	241
Legal costs - conversion	-	35
Legal costs - other	23	25
Governance	74	138
Other support costs	202	121
	<u>3,324</u>	<u>3,175</u>

9 STAFF COSTS**a Staff costs during the year were:**

	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Wages and salaries	4,641	3,982
Social security costs	375	299
Pension costs	1,151	1,532
	<u>6,167</u>	<u>5,813</u>
Agency staff costs	23	129
Apprenticeship Levy	9	5
Staff restructuring costs	-	62
	<u>6,199</u>	<u>6,009</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy payments	-	-
Severance payments	-	62
Other restructuring costs	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>62</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

9 STAFF COSTS (cont'd)**b Staff severance contractual payments**

The academy trust paid £Nil (2022: £18,574) severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

	2023	2022
0 - £25,000	-	1

c Special staff severance non contractual payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £Nil (2022 : £43,339).

d Staff numbers

The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the academy during the period ended 31 August 2023 expressed as whole persons was as follows:

	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Charitable Activities	No	No
Teachers	67	62
Administration and support - including Teaching Assistants	107	132
Management	10	7
	184	201

e Higher paid staff

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

	2023 No	2022 No
£60,001 - £70,000	2	1
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1
£80,000 - £90,000	2	2
£90,000- £100,000	-	1
£100,000-£110,000	1	-

f Key management personnel

The key management of the Academy Trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 3. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £861,830 (2022 : £763,451).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

10 CENTRAL SERVICES

Preston Hedges Academy Trust has provided the following central services to Preston Hedges Primary School, Pineham Barns Primary School, Parklands Primary School, Holne Chase Primary School and Buckton Fields Primary School:

- financial services;
- human resources; and
- educational support services.

All of these service costs were largely covered by centrally held funds and a central team was established in 2018/19, and therefore the trustees deemed it reasonable to request Pineham Barns Primary School and Parklands Primary School to make a contribution due to certain central costs being incurred by the school on behalf of the trust.

The academy trust charges for these services 7% (2022: 7%) top slice of general annual grant income, transfer of GAG reserves and recharges of costs incurred centrally.

The actual amounts charged

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Pineham Barns Primary School	258	207
Parklands Primary School	399	249
Preston Hedges Primary School	222	204
Holne Chase Primary School	145	250
Buckton Fields Primary School	75	46
	<u>1,099</u>	<u>956</u>

11 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS - TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Academy Trust. The Chief Executive Officer and other staff trustees receive remuneration in respect of their contracts of employment as Chief Executive Officer and staff and not in respect of their services as trustees. Other trustees did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the Academy Trust in respect of their role as trustees. The value of trustee's remuneration and other remuneration was as follows:

Mr P Watson, Chief Executive Officer and Headteacher

Remuneration	£105,000-£110,000	(2022 : £95,000 - £100,000)
Employers pension contributions	£20,000 - £25,000	(2022 : £20,000 - £25,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2023 P Watson was paid £1,133 (2022: £1,256) in expenses.

Other related party transactions including trustees are set out in note 28.

12 TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees' and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim. The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost of the ESFA's RPA scheme.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

13 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Leasehold			Assets	
	Land & Buildings	Furniture & Fixtures	Computer Equipment	Under Construction	Total
Cost	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
At 1 September 2022	13,470	387	618	345	14,820
Impairment	(623)	-	-	-	(623)
Additions	75	51	46	-	172
Transfers	219	126	-	(345)	-
At 31 August 2023	<u>13,141</u>	<u>564</u>	<u>664</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,369</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	1,138	179	435	-	1,752
Charged in year	297	56	106	-	459
Impairment	(382)	-	-	-	(382)
At 31 August 2023	<u>1,053</u>	<u>235</u>	<u>541</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,829</u>
Net book value					
At 31 August 2023	<u>12,088</u>	<u>329</u>	<u>123</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,540</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>12,332</u>	<u>208</u>	<u>183</u>	<u>345</u>	<u>13,068</u>

The leasehold land and buildings were donated to Preston Hedges Trust by Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) on a 125 year lease at a peppercorn rent. On 28 January 2019 an existing use valuation and useful asset life assessment was prepared by Montagu Evans, Chartered Surveyors in accordance with the requirements of the accounting standard FRS 102 for Pineham Barns Primary School that converted in September 2017 the leasehold land and buildings gifted had a depreciated replacement cost value for Pineham Barns Primary School of £6,700,000. On 1 September 2022 based on a desk top valuation from the ESFA the land and buildings for Pineham Barnes were reduced in value to £6,125,000 from a depreciated replacement cost of £6,366,085. On 20 May 2022 the land and buildings of Preston Hedges Primary School was revalued from £3,529,001 to £4,330,000 using depreciated replacement cost by Montagu Evans, Chartered Surveyors in accordance with the requirements of the accounting standard FRS 102, which resulted in a revaluation gain of £800,999. On 1 September 2022 based on a desk top valuation from the ESFA the land and buildings for Buckton Fields Primary School transferred from the DfE were valued at £7,860,000. However, due to the ongoing ESFA investigation and the building not being fit for use no value has been recognised in these financial statements.

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
14 DEBTORS		
Trade debtors	2	3
VAT recoverable	42	147
Other debtors	4	9
Prepayments and accrued income	163	114
	<u>211</u>	<u>273</u>

15 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Trade creditors	285	543
Taxation and social security	99	78
Other creditors	100	119
Accruals and deferred income	232	283
	<u>716</u>	<u>1,023</u>
Deferred Income		
	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	134	184
Resources deferred in the year	161	134
Amounts released from previous years	(134)	(184)
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	<u>161</u>	<u>134</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy was holding funds received in advance for 2023/24 for universal infant free school meals £159,276 (2022: £133,959) and for sundry items of £1,945 (2022: £418).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

16 FUNDS

The income funds of the academy comprise the following balances of grants to be applied for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £'000	Incoming Resources £'000	Resources Expended £'000	Gains, Losses & Transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £'000
General annual grant (GAG) (note i)	1,043	6,657	(6,565)	167	1,302
Rates relief grant (note ii)	-	87	(87)	-	-
Pupil premium grant (note iii)	-	218	(218)	-	-
PE and Sports grant (note iv)	-	100	(100)	-	-
UIFSM grant (note v)	-	260	(260)	-	-
Supplementary grant (note xvii)	-	173	(173)	-	-
DFE repairs grant (note xviii)	-	39	(39)	-	-
Recovery premium	-	22	(22)	-	-
Mainstream Schools Allocation Grant	-	90	(90)	-	-
Local Authority pupil premium grant (note iii)	-	6	(6)	-	-
Special educational needs grant (note xix)	-	41	(41)	-	-
Other LA government grants (note xx)	-	118	(118)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	37	(37)	-	-
	<u>1,043</u>	<u>7,848</u>	<u>(7,756)</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>1,302</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Fixed assets donation (LA) (note vii)	10,174	-	(497)	-	9,677
Fixed assets donation (ESFA)	2,193	-	(50)	-	2,143
Capital expenditure from GAG (note viii)	190	-	(74)	-	116
Capital expenditure from unrestricted funds	158	-	-	37	195
DFE/ESFA capital grants (note ix)	214	307	(79)	-	442
	<u>12,929</u>	<u>307</u>	<u>(700)</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>12,573</u>
Restricted pension scheme liability					
Pension reserve (note x)	(524)	-	(149)	465	(208)
	<u>(524)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(149)</u>	<u>465</u>	<u>(208)</u>
Total restricted funds	13,448	8,155	(8,605)	669	13,667
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted funds	356	419	(249)	(180)	346
LA prior year surplus	77	-	-	(24)	53
Total unrestricted funds	433	419	(249)	(204)	399
Total funds	13,881	8,574	(8,854)	465	14,066

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

16 FUNDS (cont'd)

Notes

- i) General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the School. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it would carry forward at 31 August 2023. (see note 2)
- ii) Income from the Rates Relief grant, directly offsets the rates charges by the local borough council.
- iii) Pupil Premium grant has been used to support children from low income families placed at the school.
- iv) Income offsets spend on various educational activities and resources relating directly to PE and sports.
- v) UIFSM grant is utilised directly to offset school catering costs
- vi) Income offsets teacher salary costs.
- vii) Land and buildings were gifted to the Academy Trust upon conversion from Northamptonshire County
- viii) The gross transfer from the unrestricted fund to the restricted fixed asset fund of £37,000 (2022 : £158,000) represents the total capital expenditure from the unrestricted fund during the year.
- ix) Restricted fixed assets were funded by government grants, a transfer from General Annual Grant (GAG) and by WCC donating Academy land and buildings on a 125 year lease at a pepper corn rent.
- x) The pension reserve represents the deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme (see note 27).
- xi) Pre-opening Grant is utilised on the various cost associated with opening a new academy trust school i.e. legal fees, ICT Licences, uniform, websites and promotional activities etc.
- xii) EIG grant predominantly offsets capital and programmed R&M project works.
- xiii) Funds the project works and management involved in opening a new school, this is varied spend and can span several areas but is predominantly offset against leadership and finance staffing resources.
- xiv) Catch up premium is spent predominantly on Teaching resources and ICT equipment/Licences to support those children for who the grant was intended.
- xv) Other covid grants are mainly utilised against equipment and cleaning/hygiene costs associated with Covid-19, as well as teaching resources to assist with pupil catch up.
- xvi) Post-opening grant is utilised to reflect the additional costs in establishing a new publicly-funded school which cannot be met through the general annual grant (GAG)
- xvii) Supplementary grant is utilised to provide support for the costs of the Health and Social Care Levy and wider costs.
- xviii) The National Tutoring Programme grant provides funding to spend on targeted academic support, delivered by trained and experienced tutors and mentors.
- xix) The Early Careers Framework funding is designed to help early career teachers (ECTs) succeed at the start of their teaching careers.
- xx) Other grants are grants received from the local authority for special educational needs.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

16 FUNDS (cont'd)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £'000	Incoming Resources £'000	Resources Expended £'000	Gains, Losses & Transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £'000
General annual grant (GAG) (note i)	814	6,166	(5,843)	(94)	1,043
Rates relief grant (note ii)	-	23	(23)	-	-
Pupil premium grant (note iii)	-	191	(191)	-	-
PE and Sports grant (note iv)	-	67	(67)	-	-
UIFSM grant (note v)	-	224	(224)	-	-
Sponsor capacity grant (note xi)	-	1	(1)	-	-
Post-opening grant (note xvi)	-	92	(92)	-	-
Supplementary grant (note xvii)	-	70	(70)	-	-
Early Years Framework (note xviii)	-	7	(7)	-	-
National Tutoring Programme (note xix)	-	7	(7)	-	-
Pupil development grant (note xiii)	-	72	(72)	-	-
Local Authority pupil premium grant (note iii)	-	13	(13)	-	-
Special educational needs grant (note xix)	-	23	(23)	-	-
Pupil Growth funding (note xx)	-	54	(54)	-	-
Other government grants (note xx)	7	47	(54)	-	-
Other COVID-19 funding (note xv)	-	28	(28)	-	-
	821	7,085	(6,769)	(94)	1,043
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Fixed assets donation (LA) (note vii)	9,649	-	(276)	801	10,174
Fixed assets donation (ESFA)	13	2,230	(50)	-	2,193
Capital expenditure from GAG (note viii)	139	-	(43)	94	190
Capital expenditure from unrestricted funds	-	-	-	158	158
DFE/ESFA capital grants (note ix)	123	144	(53)	-	214
	9,924	2,374	(422)	1,053	12,929
Restricted pension scheme liability					
Pension reserve (note x)	(2,770)	-	(688)	2,934	(524)
	(2,770)	-	(688)	2,934	(524)
Total restricted funds	7,975	9,459	(7,879)	3,893	13,448
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted funds	198	391	(217)	(16)	356
LA prior year surplus	219	-	-	(142)	77
Total unrestricted funds	417	391	(217)	(158)	433
Total funds	8,392	9,850	(8,096)	3,735	13,881

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

16 FUNDS (cont'd)

TOTAL FUNDS ANALYSIS BY ACADEMY

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Central Services	1,239	859
Preston Hedges Primary School	176	159
Pineham Barns Primary School	108	155
Parklands Primary School	69	174
Holne Chase Primary School	57	83
Buckton Fields Primary School	52	46
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	1,701	1,476
Restricted fixed assets fund	12,573	12,929
Pension reserve	(208)	(524)
	12,365	12,405
Total	14,066	13,881

TOTAL COST ANALYSIS BY ACADEMY

Expenditure incurred by each academy during the year was as

Academies	Teaching & Educational Support	Staff Educational Supplies	Other Costs (exc Depn)	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
	Support Staff Costs £'000	Staff Costs £'000			
Central Services	152	316	27	719	618
Preston Hedges	1,306	315	101	1,953	2,044
Pineham Barns	1,106	196	87	1,623	1,479
Parklands	1,223	183	106	1,890	1,798
Holne Chase	685	194	86	1,173	1,261
Buckton Fields	356	167	46	796	474
Academy Trust	4,828	1,371	453	8,154	7,674

17 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Pension Restricted Funds £'000	General Restricted Funds £'000	Fixed Assets Restricted Funds £'000	Total £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	12,540	12,540
Current assets	399	-	2,018	33	2,450
Current liabilities	-	-	(716)	-	(716)
Pension scheme liability	-	(208)	-	-	(208)
	399	(208)	1,302	12,573	14,066

Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Pension Restricted Funds £'000	General Restricted Funds £'000	Fixed Assets Restricted Funds £'000	Total £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	13,068	13,068
Current assets	433	-	2,066	(139)	2,360
Current liabilities	-	-	(1,023)	-	(1,023)
Pension scheme liability	-	(524)	-	-	(524)
	433	(524)	1,043	12,929	13,881

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

18 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	61	21
Authorised by trustees, but not yet contracted	61	21

19 LONG TERM COMMITMENTS INCLUDING OPERATING LEASES

a) Operating leases

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

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
• Within one year	50	58
• Between two to five years	52	101
• After five years	-	-
	102	159

b) Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

At 31 August 2023 the total of the Academy Trust's future minimum payments under other contractual commitments was:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Amounts due within one year	112	112
Amounts due between one and five years	449	449
Amounts due after five years	1,010	1,123
	1,571	1,684

The academy trust occupies premises which are subject to a private finance initiative (PFI) contract. The trust itself is not party to this service concession contract, however the academy trust has entered into a supporting agreement towards the costs of the local authority. The above relates to commitments to operating payments including costs for catering, cleaning, utilities, and other ancillary services.

20 RECONCILIATION OF NET (DEFICIT)/INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Net (deficit)/income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(280)	1,754
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation (note 13)	459	422
Loss on impairment of fixed assets (note 13)	241	-
Fixed Assets donation	-	(2,230)
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(307)	(144)
Interest receivable	-	-
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 27)	125	639
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 27)	24	49
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	62	(27)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(307)	308
Net cash provided by operating activities	17	771

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

21 CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Interest received	-	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(172)	(577)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	307	144
Receipts from sale of tangible fixed assets	-	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	135	(433)

22 CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Repayments of borrowing	-	-
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	-
Net cash provided by financing activities	-	-

23 ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	At 31 Aug £'000	At 31 Aug £'000
Cash in hand and at bank	2,239	2,087
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,239	2,087

24 ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 31 Aug 2022 £'000	Cash Flows £'000	At 31 Aug 2023 £'000
Cash at bank	2,087	152	2,239
	2,087	152	2,239

25 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

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

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

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

As a result of the Harpur Trust v Brazel (2011) case, the Supreme Court has ruled that employees who only work for part of the year are entitled to 5.6 weeks of holiday pay like employees that work all year round. This will potentially impact any employer with term time employees, zero hours employees or other working arrangements which involve employees being employed for a full year, but working only for part of that year.

The government hopes to amend legislation to allow holiday entitlement to be pro-rated for part-year and irregular hours workers, so that annual leave is directly proportionate to the time they spend working. Pending any law change being approved by parliament, there remains a potential obligation for the Trust of uncertain timing, value and likelihood.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**26 MEMBERS' LIABILITY**

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

27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS

The academy 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 Northamptonshire County Council Pension Fund. Both are defined multi employer benefit schemes.

The total pension cost to the Academy during the year ended 31 August 2023 was £1,151,000 (2022 : £1,532,000) of which £650,000 (2022 : £550,000) relates to the TPS and £501,000 (2022 : £982,000) relates to LGPS.

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 of the LGPS to the period ended 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £108,452 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022: £92,626) and are included within other creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme**Introduction**

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 30 October 2023. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2027.

The employers pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £650,000 (2022 : £550,000).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the [Teachers' Pensions website](#).

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (cont'd)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit scheme, with the assets held in a separate trustee administered funds. The total contributions made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £454,000 (2022: £379,000) of which employers contributions totalled £352,000 (2022: £294,000) and employees contributions totalled £102,000 (2022: £85,000). The agreed employers contributions for future years are 18.5% (2022: 18.5%) for Preston Hedges Primary School, 18.3% (2022 : 18.3%) for Pineham Barns Primary School, 21.6% (2022: 21.6%) for Parklands Primary School 22.0% (2022: 22.0%) for Holne Chase Primary School and 22.0% (2022: 22.0%) for Buckton Fields Primary School. The agreed contributions for employees are between 5.5% and 7.5% (2021: 5.5% and 7.5%) for employees.

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

Principal Actuarial Assumptions

The major assumptions used by the actuary were:

	At 31 August 2023 % per annum	At 31 August 2022 % per annum
Discount rate	5.2%	4.3%
Salary increases	3.5%	3.6%
Pension increase	2.9%	3.0%

Sensitivity analysis for the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities were as follows:

	At 31 August 2023 Approx £'000	At 31 August 2022 Approx £'000
Discount rate reduced by 0.1% per annum	76	89
Assumed pension increased by 0.1% per annum	86	87
Assumed salary growth increased by 0.1% per annum	3	4

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
Longevity at age 65 retiring today		
- Men	20.3	21.7
- Women	23.8	24.1
Longevity at age 65 retiring in 20 years		
- Men	21.9	22.8
- Women	25.6	25.8

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (cont'd)

Local Government Pension Scheme (cont'd)

	Fair value at 31 Aug 2023 £'000	Fair value at 31 Aug 2022 £'000
The Academy's share of the assets in the scheme were:		
Equity instruments	2,020	1,855
Debt instruments	753	473
Property	430	374
Cash	35	35
Other	76	57
Total market value of assets	3,314	2,794

Present value of scheme liabilities

- Funded	(3,314)	(2,794)
- Unfunded	(208)	(524)
Total liabilities	(3,522)	(3,318)
Deficit in the scheme	(208)	(524)

The actual return on the scheme assets in the year was £87,000 (2022 : £180,000 deficit).

Amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Current service cost	476	933
Interest cost	151	95
Interest income	(127)	(46)
Administration expenses	1	-
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	501	982

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

27 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (cont'd)

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Movement in deficit during the period		
Deficit in the scheme at 1 September 2022	524	2,770
Transferred in at admission date	-	-
Movement in year:		
- Employer service cost (net of employee contributions)	476	933
- Past service cost	-	-
- Employer contributions	(352)	(294)
- Expected return on scheme assets	(127)	(46)
- Interest cost	151	95
- Administration expenses	1	-
- Actuarial gains	(465)	(2,934)
Deficit in the scheme at 31 August 2023	208	524

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

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Scheme liabilities at 1 September 2022	3,318	5,384
Transferred scheme liabilities at admission date	-	-
Current service cost	476	933
Past service cost	-	-
Interest cost	151	95
Contributions by scheme participants	102	85
Benefits paid	(20)	(19)
Actuarial gains	(505)	(3,160)
Scheme liabilities at 31 August 2023	3,522	3,318

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

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Fair value of scheme assets at 1 September 2022	2,794	2,614
Expected return on scheme assets	127	46
Actuarial losses	(40)	(226)
Contributions by employer	352	294
Benefits paid	(20)	(19)
Contributions by scheme participants	102	85
Administration expenses	(1)	-
Fair value of scheme assets at 31 August 2023	3,314	2,794

The estimated value of employers contributions for the year ended 31 August 2024 is £357,000 (2023 : £298,000).

28 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Owing to the nature of the academy trust's operations and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the board of trustees may have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions. During the year ended 31 August 2023 there were no such transactions.

In entering into the transactions the trust has complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

29 CONVERSION TO AN ACADEMY TRUST

Buckton Fields Primary School

On 1 September 2021 Buckton Fields Primary School, converted to Academy status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to the Preston Hedges Trust from the Department for Education for nil consideration.

A valuation of the leasehold land and building has been obtained in 2022/23 in accordance with FRS102 for £7,860,000. However, due to the ongoing ESFA investigation and the building not being fit for use no value has been recognised in these financial statements.

Holne Chase Primary School

On 1 December 2020 Holne Chase Primary School converted to Academy status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to the Preston Hedges academy Trust from Northamptonshire County Council for nil consideration.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain/(loss) in the Statement of Financial Activities as donations transferred from local authority on conversion.

The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the Statement of Financial Activities.

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted	Total
	Funds	General	Fixed Asset	Funds
	£'000	Funds	Funds	£'000
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Leasehold land and buildings	-	-	2,230	2,230
Budget surplus on LA funds	245	-	-	245
LGPS pension deficit	-	(471)	-	(471)
Net assets/(liabilities)	245	(471)	2,230	2,004

The above net assets/(liabilities) include £245,000 that were transferred as cash.

30 EVENTS AFTER THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD

There are no material adjusting or non adjusting events arising after the balance sheet date.