Company Registration Number: 08718104 (England & Wales)

# TOGETHER LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

(A Company limited by guarantee)

## ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

TOGETHER LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A Company limited by guarantee)

CONTENTS

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

| | |
|---|---|
| **Directors** | S J Clasper<br>P Farrow (appointed 6 February 2023)<br>A Lazenby<br>J A B Muir<br>D Walker<br>K B L Wilson (appointed 22 May 2023)<br>S D Gowland (resigned 6 February 2023)<br>G R Norman (resigned 30 September 2022)<br>J Foster Jones |
| **Company registered number** | 08718104 |
| **Company name** | Together Learning Partnership |
| **Principal and registered office** | Cleves Cross Primary School<br>Cleves Cross<br>Ferryhill<br>County Durham<br>DL17 8QY |
| ***Senior management team*** | A Lazenby, Chief Executive Officer<br>C Brentnall, Head Teacher Cleves Cross<br>K Oliver, Chief Finance Officer<br>H Ashton, Headteacher Rosa Street |
| **Independent auditors** | Waltons Business Advisers<br>Chartered Accountants<br>Maritime House<br>Harbour Walk<br>The Marina<br>Hartlepool<br>TS24 0UX |
| **Bankers** | Lloyds Bank<br>102 Grey Street<br>Newcastle Upon Tyne<br>Tyne and Wear<br>NE99 1SL |
| **Solicitors** | Womble Bond Dickinson LLP<br>St Anne's Wharf<br>112 Quayside<br>Newcastle Upon Tyne<br>Tyne and Wear<br>NE1 3DX |

## DIRECTORS' REPORT
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The directors present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The directors confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the Trust comply with current statutory requirements, the requirements of the Trust's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective January 2019). The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees report and a directors' report under company law.

The Trust operates a primary academy in Ferryhill which has a pupil capacity of 210 and a 64 place nursery. Numbers are consistently high across the school. The Trust also operates a primary academy in Spennymoor with a pupil capacity of 210 and a 52 place nursery. We continue to build on the positive developments at Rosa Street Primary. The new nursery has proved successful in its first operating year and intake into Reception Class was at capacity for September 2023.

**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. The academy is constituted under a Memorandum and Articles of Association, dated 3 October 2013.

Details of the directors who served during the year, and to the date these financial statements are approved are included in the Reference and administrative details on page 1.

- **Members' liability**

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

- **Method of recruitment and appointment or election of directors**

The members may appoint up to 3 directors through such processes that they may determine. Directors themselves may co-opt further directors as long as they have not been co-opted themselves.

- **Policies adopted for the induction and training of directors**

Induction and appropriate training is provided for new directors through membership of the National Governance Association, an agreed Induction Policy and in house support.

**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

- **Organisational structure**

A Scheme of Delegation is agreed annually that outlines responsibilities for the board and trust committees as well as officers including the chief financial officer and the accounting officer. The board's responsibilities include setting the policy and delegation arrangements for the trust, agreeing an annual and three years budget plan and monitoring the impact of the trust strategic plan, including the success of the educational outcomes. The board will also maintain an oversight of capital planning and expenditure and ensure succession planning is in place for both the board and senior leadership of the trust and its academies. The day to day running of the academies is the responsibility of the head teachers, overseen by the chief executive officer.

- **Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel**

Pay and renumeration for key personal are kept under review with the advice of our HR support. There were no changes made during the current year. The CEO is included in the Pay Policy and Performance management processes applicable to all staff and directors receive advice and guidance from an external advisor to support the process. The Trust has appointed a Chief Financial Officer who also takes the role of the Trust Business Manager.

- **Related parties and other connected charities and organisations**

The Trust works with Approach Too – a Community Interest Company that is registered and provides both curricular and extra curricular opportunities to children in all of the schools in our area. Many of the activities focus on pupils playing an active role within their community. The company directors are also directors of the academy trust.

**Objectives and activities**

- **Objects and aims**

The object of the Trust is to advance for the public benefit education by establishing, maintaining, carrying on managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum providing education for children of compulsory school age.

Our Trust displays a clear commitment to collaboration and support – be it through our trustees, governors, staff, pupils or our wider community, is reflected in our very clear mantra that encompasses all that we do at TLP -
**'Working together, putting children first'.**

We believe that our schools are at the very heart of the community they serve, and our children are at the very heart of all that we do. Each school is unique and can respond to, and support their children, in their community, with their particular challenges and opportunities. Our children are our future, and we want them to be the very best they can be.

**Our Vision and Values**

Our vision is clear and simple – that Together Learning Partnership will be recognised as a leading Primary Trust in the North-East

Our values are central to schools and the Trust and reflect what is important to us as a trust and community:

**Objectives and activities (continued)**

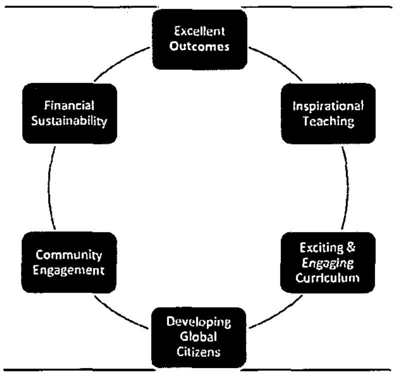
Care Ambition Respect

Resilience Teamwork

- **Objectives, strategies and activities**

Our Mission Statement clarifies how we intend to achieve our vision. It encompasses our strengths and belief in community, opportunity for all and high-quality teaching.

'All children within the Partnership achieve the best possible outcomes; we do this by working together, putting children first. Through inspirational, skilled teaching, in caring and supportive learning environments, and by being fully engaged in their local community and the wider world, our children soar.'




These headline statements are underpinned with the detail needed within our Strategic Plan and are supported by challenging and measurable Key Priorities for Improvement, outlined below.

The Trust engages the services of a governance advisor to support the chair, the chief executive officer and the board in ensuring that the leadership and management of the Trust is most effective and that training needs and support is identified timely and completed to the benefit of all involved. The Trust recognises its commitment to ensuring continued improvement in the standards of education within the school. Pupils also deserve, and are given, a wide range of opportunities to learn and develop as individuals. They are provided with many experiences that enhance both social and academic development to help achieve our vision.

Directors have developed, alongside each of the academies Local Governors, a planned programme of monitoring and evaluation activities in order to inform their view of areas for improvement. These are outlined under key priority areas within each schools' overview.

**Objectives and activities (continued)**

- **Public benefit**

The Trust serves the communities in both the immediate and wider areas of Spennymoor and Ferryhill. Children are admitted through clear criteria, regardless of academic or social background. Close involvement with local charities and organisations help us to promote the positive community ethos that we strive to achieve.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the directors have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

**Strategic report**

**Achievements and performance**

- **Outcomes 2022-2023**

**Headline Data Summary**

**2023 KS2 Progress Measures**

| | | Reading | Writing | Maths |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cleves Cross | | 1.5 | - | 0.8 |
| Rosa Street | | - 0.1 | - 0.3 | - 0.7 |
| National | | - | - | - |
| | | | | |

**Attainment compared to National %**

| | Reading AS | HS | Writing (TA) Exp | GD | GPS AS | HS | Maths AS | HS | R, W, M comb. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cleves Cross | 84% | 32% | 81% | 9% | 84% | 50% | 81% | 31% | 75% |
| Rosa Street | 82% | 24% | 76% | 9% | 74% | 26% | 82% | 21% | 74% |
| National | 73% | | 71% | | 72% | | 73% | | 59% |

**KS1 Data**

| | Reading | | Writing | | Maths | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Exp | GD | Exp | GD | Exp | GD |
| Cleves Cross | 87% | 20% | 67% | 3% | 73% | 13% |
| Rosa Street | 80% | 23% | 73% | 13% | 80% | 27% |
| National | 69% | | 61% | | 72% | |

**Strategic report (continued)**

**Achievements and performance (continued)**

**Phonics Screening (Y1)**

| | Met standard |
|---|---|
| Cleves Cross | 90% |
| Rosa Street | 80% |
| National | 79% |

**EYFS**

| | GLD (Good level of development) |
|---|---|
| Cleves Cross | 73% |
| Rosa Street | 72% |
| National 2023 (provisional) | 67% |

- **Principal activities**

The principal activity of the Trust is the operation of Cleves Cross Primary School and Rosa Street Primary School to provide education for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 2 and 11. The Trust aims to improve outcomes for all children by providing safe and stimulating learning environments supported by nurturing, enthusiastic and highly skilled staff.

- **Key priorities**

The following key priorities for improvement were identified across the Trust in 2022/23

Trust Developments

Objective 1: Reading – First and Foremost

- To further develop the teaching of phonics
- To continue to promote and develop children's love of reading
- To ensure that a wide range of quality literature is provided for children across school to enhance their understanding, language acquisition and enjoyment of reading

Evaluation - Little Wandle continues to have a positive impact on phonics and early reading. 90% of Y1 children achieved the Phonics Screening Check this year. KS2 rapid catch-up continues to have a positive impact. Love of reading – all classes visit Ferryhill Library termly. Librarian has seen an increase in children and their grown-ups attending the library to support with our Reading Passports. School library is open daily and Y6 librarians monitor usage and support children in the choosing of books. Story time is a sacred time and pupil voice shows that children really value this time.
Quality texts – English scheme of learning is a text-based approach throughout school. Texts are carefully chosen and are progressive. Story time – reading spine texts immerse children in language and there is a wide range of literature available.

**Strategic report (continued)**

**Achievements and performance (continued)**

Objective 2: Curriculum Development

- To enrich learning and develop a deeper understanding in foundation subjects.
- To motivate learners to reach their full potential in all curriculum areas.
- To continue an ambitious and bespoke curriculum that enables all pupils to acquire the knowledge and skills they need to be successful and able to be lifelong learners.

Evaluation - We have a fully developed curriculum that is continually being reviewed and refined. Schemes of learning and working environments reflect the essential learning of the National Curriculum and support children to know and remember more.
Subject leaders have worked collaboratively across the Trust, reviewing end points in each scheme of learning of foundation subjects.
Trust moderation of foundation subjects by subject leaders has shown that the monitoring of their subject is effective in ensuring that the curriculum enables pupils to acquire the skills and knowledge required.

Objective 3. Oracy

- To continue to develop children's ability to communicate effectively and confidently in front of a range of different audiences.
- To enable children to learn through talk using strategies previously identified in first year of Oracy Whole School Development.
- For assessment to be used effectively to identify future oracy priorities and needs.

Evaluation - Whole school oracy progression has been developed across the Trust. The progression outlines types of talk linked to curriculum areas for each year group.
Long term plans have oracy activities outlined for Year 1 to 6. EYFS outlined on the Talk Progression document. Children have a wide range of opportunities to communicate and perform. Performance poetry (whole school) – this is completed termly, it is recorded and shared on social media, class assemblies, end of year performances etc. Children participate in debates across the curriculum. They have become more articulate and confident in all areas of the curriculum, evidenced through deep dive and subject leader monitoring.

Objective 4. Early Years Foundation Stage

Objective:

- To make sure all children progress well from their starting point and achieve or exceed standards expected.
- That continuous provision provides progressive and purposeful play, allowing children to access all areas of learning sufficiently well.
- That continuous provision reflects ELG expectations by summer term, in readiness for KS1.

Evaluation - Progress – Assessment outcomes show that children across the trust made better than expected progress during their time in Reception classes. EYFS teams across the trust have worked on identifying milestones and expectations from 2 yr olds to Y1. Clear expectations for each term are evident in the planning and the provision. Staff are clear of expectations, ensuring children are ready for Y1. The environments are stimulating and promote curiosity - staff display high levels of interaction with children promoting communication skills and guiding learning. A progressive tracking system is in place and children in reception class are growing in independence. This ensures all children are accessing all areas.

**Strategic report (continued)**

**Achievements and performance (continued)**

- **Key financial performance indicators**

The key financial performance indicators of the Trust relate to the effectiveness of the use of funds for the benefit and education of the pupils.

1. To set balanced budgets and to not overspend within the year.
2. To use funds effectively to continue to enhance learning environments across the Trust schools.
3. Revenue reserves are at least 4% of GAG income.
4. Internal and External audit reports show no high-risk aspects.

These objectives have been met in 2022/23 with the use of reserves being needed to support the nursery build and development. The Trust aims to keep these objectives at the forefront of work in the coming year.

- **Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of directors has a reasonable expectation that the academy has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Trustees have borne in mind the future financial constraints that the trust will be faced with and have considered options that are available to them to address them. The building of the nursery at Rosa Street Primary School was a major investment that looks to have helped to secure the future pupil numbers at the school. Although this has impacted on school reserves, there remains sufficient reserves at Trust level to assure trustees.

For this reason they continue 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.

**Financial review**

- **Overview**

Most of the Trust's income is obtained from the Department for Education (DfE) via 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 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

In addition grants are also received for capital expenditure and these grants are shown as restricted income in the fixed asset fund.

Total income for the year excluding capital funds received in the year was £3,041k and expenditure excluding depreciation and capital spending on repairs was £3,008k, giving a surplus for the year of £33k.

All the expenditure in the year was in furtherance of the Trust's objectives.

At 31 August 2023 the net book value of fixed assets was £2,940k and the movements in the year are shown in note 18. All the assets are used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to the pupils of the Trust.

The provisions of FRS 102 have been applied to the pension liability resulting in a deficit of £302k being recognised in the balance sheet, this is an improvement of £502k. Payments to fund the deficit will be made out of future income.

- **Reserves policy**

The Reserves Policy details that 4% of the GAG income should be held in reserve to ensure that cash flow is not put at risk. Directors will regularly monitor this policy, and at least annually, review its fitness for purpose. Amounts held in reserve must ensure that the academy can continue its day to day business should there be an Interruption or delay in income funding.

The budgets for each year are balanced to £0 with expenditure matched to income.

Total reserves at the year end are £2,759k including £2,597k restricted fixed asset funds, a deficit on the pension reserve of £302k and other restricted funds of £24k.

The Trust currently holds unrestricted funds of £439k which includes unrestricted capital of £287k giving free reserves of £152k. Once the carried forward GAG funding of £24k is included the total revenue reserves are £176k.

This exceeds the target above which on current income would be £143k

- **Investment policy**

In order to maximise the return on cash balances, while maintaining the ease of access, surplus funds are invested within a 32 day call account. The rate of interest received is considered in light of the need for access to the funds.

- **Principal risks and uncertainties**

The principal risks and uncertainties are centred around changes in the level of funding for DfE/ESFA. In addition, the Trust is a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme, which has resulted in the recognition of a significant deficit on the Trust's balance sheet.

Funding provision for high needs pupils continues to be a concern with variations in allocations continuing to be made. The Trust constantly aims to identify early those children who are entitled to additional funding due to additional needs and pro actively seeks additional top up funding where at all possible.

The success for both school nurseries currently provides some certainty for future school numbers but directors are aware that this needs to remain under regular review.

The Trust's estate is effectively managed through a programme of maintenance which is informed by the completion of the GEMS (Good Estate Management for Schools) guidance. Policies for Health and Safety are kept up to date and effective and an annual external report is received highlighting any issues that should be addressed. The Trust makes appropriate applications for additional CIF monies to ensure larger projects are funded without impact on reserves.

## Fundraising

Fundraising is carried out within our own school community. We do not use external parties to fundraise on our behalf. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the Trustees.

Fundraising activities such as Summer Fairs, school performances and discos have continued very successfully, this academic year. Our usual wide range of extra-curricular and wider opportunities offer for our children is regularly reviewed and enhanced. Pro-active encouragement for take up of these wider opportunities is directed toward our disadvantaged pupils.

## Plans for future periods

The Trust will continue to advance the education of local children. It is anticipated that the Trust will continue to grow and the board has identified an ambitious growth plan to support this. The renaming of the trust to a more generic name, rather than a school focused reference was a key aspect of the growth strategy. Growth plans and strategy have been welcomed by the Department for Education and regular meetings with our relationship manager in the Department have taken place throughout the year.

## Statement of directors' responsibilities

The directors (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the directors' report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the directors 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 directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

The directors 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.

**Disclosure of information to auditors**

Insofar as the directors are aware:

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

The Directors' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of directors, as the company directors, on 12 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

**J A B Muir**
(Chair of Trustees)

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

### SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

As directors, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Together Learning Partnership 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.

As directors, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The board of directors 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 Together Learning Partnership and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of directors any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

### GOVERNANCE

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Directors' Report and in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities. The board of directors has formally met 5 times during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of directors was as follows:

| Director | Meetings attended | Out of a possible |
|---|---|---|
| S J Clasper | 5 | 5 |
| P Farrow (appointed 6 February 2023) | 3 | 3 |
| A Lazenby | 5 | 5 |
| J A B Muir | 5 | 5 |
| D Walker | 4 | 5 |
| K B L Wilson (appointed 22 May 2023) | 2 | 2 |
| S D Gowland (resigned 6 February 2023) | 1 | 2 |
| G R Norman (resigned 30 September 2022) | 0 | 0 |
| J Foster Jones | 5 | 5 |

The board undertook a self-review and was able to confirm coverage of all areas of responsibility in regard to the undertaking of their duties. A revised and agreed training and development plan was put in place for both trustees and local governors. This will ensure ongoing capacity and that those responsible for governance of the trust are kept up to date.

The new High Quality Trust document produced by the Department of Education in July 2023 has been considered by the board and an action plan to ensure these standards are met has been put in place. Trustees receive regular updates from the CEO in regard to progress toward this.

The board membership has increased over the past 12 months and, whilst additional capacity would be welcomed, numbers now allow the board to carry out it's duties and committees more efficiently.

A register of business interests is maintained by the Trust Business Manager and Governance Support. This is regularly updated to ensure transparency in all Trust activities.

Sub-committees of Finance, Risk and Audit, Pay Review and Performance and Outcomes continue to allow directors greater opportunities to examine and discuss aspects such as data analysis and budget monitoring in greater depth and to provide appropriate challenge to the Chief Executive Officer.

Terms of reference for the sub committees are outlined below:

## GOVERNANCE (CONTINUED)

### Finance, Risk & Audit Committee

Terms of Reference
This Committee will assist the Board in its on-going oversight of the Trust's arrangements for budgeting, financial planning, financial performance and financial reporting in respect of both revenue and capital activities and the associated resource planning. It assesses the scope and effectiveness of the systems established to identify, manage and monitor financial and non-financial risks to the Trust via the Risk Register. It also maintains an oversight of the Trust's governance, internal control, financial reporting and value for money frameworks to establish levels of compliance throughout the Trust.
The Committee ensures regularity and propriety in use of the Trust's funds, and helps to achieve economy, efficiency and effectiveness – thus ensuring that the Trust provides value for money in the use of the public funding it receives.

Responsibilities
- To review Trust and school budgets throughout the financial year, making recommendations about proposed actions to address adverse variances from planned budgets
- To recommend and set appropriate financial targets for each financial year to the Board and determine any additional financial and reporting targets for the Trust and its schools
- Agree any expenditure above the level of authorisation designated to the Executive Headteacher and Headteachers
- To authorise the acquisition of assets over the value defined in the Trust Finance Policy and authorise the disposal of assets in accordance with the Finance Policy
- To draft and recommend a Trust Pay Policy for Board approval
- Agree debts that may be written off as per the Finance Policy but not exceeding limits set in the Academies Financial Handbook.
- To recommend for Board approval the procurement of legal, financial and HR services on behalf of the Trust
- Agree the scope of the internal assurance programme with auditors
- Monitor responses to findings by Auditors and agree recommendations from internal and external audit and management responses to audit findings
- To provide assurance to the Board that risks are being adequately identified and managed
- Approve any related party transactions
- To recommend to Board the opening of any Trust bank account or other credit facility
- The maintenance and review of a fixed asset register
- To review and recommend any Capital Expenditure Plans for Board approval
- To undertake an annual review of the Trust's Scheme of Delegation for Board approval
- Ensuring financial reporting and auditing to the ESFA and other bodies is completed within agreed timescales
- To maintain and regularly review the Trust's financial and operational risk register, investigating on behalf of the Board of Directors any matter which may put the Trust at risk

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

| Director | Meetings attended | Out of a possible |
|---|---|---|
| A Lazenby | 4 | 4 |
| J A B Muir | 4 | 4 |
| J Foster Jones | 3 | 4 |
| S J Clasper | 1 | 2 |
| D Walker | 1 | 3 |
| P Farrow (appointed 6 February 2023) | 2 | 2 |
| K B L Wilson (appointed 22 May 2023) | 0 | 1 |

**GOVERNANCE (CONTINUED)**

**Board of Directors' Performance and Outcomes Committee**

Terms of Reference
This Committee will assist the Board on matters relating to the Trust's:

- Curriculum development
- Quality of teaching and learning and its impact on pupil standards and progress, behaviour and personal development
- End of key stage performance in statutory assessments
- How well the Trust and schools compare locally, nationally and with those in similar contexts.
- Holding Executive leadership to account for the Educational Performance of the Trust, its pupils, and the performance management of its staff.

Responsibilities

- To receive School Development Plans for each school (presentation from Headteacher and Chair of LGB)
- Monitor and review the development of curriculum plans across the Trust schools
- *Monitor and review standards across* the Trust
- Monitor and compare the performance of the Trust schools focusing on progress and achievements against individual school and Trust targets
- Review summary updates from external reviews (e.g., School Improvement Partners) and activities, and identify risks and concerns for action by Local Governing Bodies and Headteachers
- To agree and keep under review the Trust's Safeguarding and Child Protection policy and review the levels of incidents from a Trust perspective
- To evaluate the impact and effectiveness of strategies linked to improving the performance of SEND and disadvantaged pupils across the Trust
- Monitor levels of attendance across Trust schools
- Monitor number of exclusions as reported by each school within the Trust
- To review pastoral care to ensure the academic, social, moral, spiritual, cultural and appropriate medical needs of students are being met
- To monitor and review pupil wellbeing
- To maintain and regularly review the Trust's educational risk register, investigating on behalf of the Board of Directors any matter which may put the Trust at risk

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

| Director | Meetings attended | Out of a possible |
|---|---|---|
| A Lazenby | 3 | 3 |
| J A B Muir | 3 | 3 |
| D Walker | 3 | 3 |
| S J Clasper | 3 | 3 |
| J Foster Jones | 1 | 2 |
| S D Gowland (resigned 6 February 2023) | 0 | 2 |

**Board of Directors Staffing/Pay Review Committee**

Terms of Reference
Staffing / Pay Review Committee

Responsibilities

- To recommend for Board approval any pay progression decisions for all staff in line with the Pay Policy and legal requirements, based on recommendations received from the Executive Headteacher

**GOVERNANCE (CONTINUED)**

- To recommend for Board approval any pay progression decisions for the Executive Headteacher based on recommendations from the School Improvement Partner in their support of the Executive Headteacher's Performance Review

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

| Director | Meetings attended | Out of a possible |
|---|---|---|
| A Lazenby | 1 | 1 |
| J A B Muir | 1 | 1 |
| J Foster Jones | 1 | 1 |
| S J Clasper | 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 managment, 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 directors 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:

- Ensuring the replacement boiler system at Cleves Cross is installed in line with guidance and will produce significant savings over future years (installation of renewable energy in the form of an air-source heating system to replace the old gas boiler
- Evaluating service levels and costs of payroll providers and entering into a new contract giving greater control and ease of access for central office team

**THE PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL**

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

**CAPACITY TO HANDLE RISK**

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

**THE RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK**

Increasing costs of supplies and school-wide provisions continue to be an ongoing concern for the Trust.

## THE RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK (CONTINUED)

However, principles of best value remained, and suppliers used were those procured under the Local Authority procurement scheme or sourced locally by the academies if these proved to be even better. The situation within the energy markets and the employees pay award demands also give rise to concern and directors are aware of the continuing need to budget carefully for future costs.

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 directors
- regular reviews by the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of directors;
- regular reviews by the board of directors 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.

The board of directors has decided to employ Clive Owen LLP as internal auditor.

This option has been chosen to add an extra layer of security.

The role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Trust's financial systems. The checks carried out in the current year included, reviewing a sample of bank reconciliations for compliance with the Trust's procedures, checking a sample of receipts from the ESFA in comparison to budgets and electronic banking records, checking a sample of purchase orders for compliance with Trust procedures and best value principles and reviewing salaries. in comparison to budgeted amounts and approval of monthly salaries by senior members of the Trust.

The review also looked at any special payments, reviewed a sample of credit card payments to check expenditure was business related and properly authorised and looked at related party transactions.

On a termly basis, the internal auditor reports to the board of directors through the audit and risk committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of directors' financial responsibilities and annually prepares a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

No serious breaches were found and the Trust management team have looked into all minor issues found.

**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 internal auditor;
- the work of the executive managers within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- the work of the external auditors;

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the audit and risk 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 directors on 12 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

**J A B Muir**
**Chair of Trustees**

**A Lazenby**
**Accounting Officer**

## STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of Together Learning Partnership I have considered my responsibility to notify the Trust board of directors and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

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

ALazenby

**A Lazenby**
Accounting Officer
Date: 12 December 2023

## STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the directors 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 directors are required to:

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

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

The directors 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 directors and signed on its behalf by:

**J A B Muir**
(Chair of Trustees)
Date: 12 December 2023

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF TOGETHER LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

### UNQUALIFIED OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of Together Learning Partnership (the 'trust') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

### BASIS FOR OPINION

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

### CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the 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 directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF TOGETHER LEARNING PARTNERSHIP (CONTINUED)**

**OTHER INFORMATION**

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**OPINION ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006**

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

- the information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION**

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report including the Strategic Report.

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

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

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities, the directors (who are also the directors of the Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors 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 directors are responsible for assessing the 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 directors either intend to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## AUDITORS' 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 Auditors' 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:

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the audit engagement team:

- Obtained an understanding of the nature of the sector, including the legal and regularity framework that the Trust operates in and how they are complying with the legal and regularity framework
- Inquired of management and those charged with governance about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities including any known, actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud,
- Discussed matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessment of how and where the financial statements might be susceptible to fraud.

As a result of these procedures we considered the most significant laws and regulations which have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, Charities SORP (FRS 102), ESFA accounting requirements (including the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook and the Academies Accounts Direction), Companies Act 2006 and the Academies's governing document. We performed audit procedures to detect non-compliance which may have a material impact on the financial statements which included reviewing the financial statements including the director's report and remaining alert to new or unusual transactions which may not be in accordance with the governing documents.

The audit engagement team identified the risk of management override of controls and income recognition as the areas where the financial statements were most susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. We designed audit procedures to respond to the risk, recognising that 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.

Audit procedures performed included, but were not limited to:

- testing manual journal entries and other adjustments
- evaluating the business rationale in relation to significant or unusual transactions and transactions entered into outside the normal course of business
- challenging judgments and estimates
- reviewing income transactions around the year end to look for potential "window dressing".

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF TOGETHER LEARNING PARTNERSHIP (CONTINUED)**

## USE OF OUR REPORT

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

**Heather O'Driscoll FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**
for and on behalf of
**Waltons Business Advisers**
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Maritime House
Harbour Walk
The Marina
Hartlepool
TS24 0UX

Date: 18 December 2023

## INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO TOGETHER LEARNING PARTNERSHIP AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 28 September 2021 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 Together Learning Partnership during the year 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 Together Learning Partnership and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Together Learning Partnership and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Together Learning Partnership and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

### RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TOGETHER LEARNING PARTNERSHIP'S ACCOUNTING OFFICER AND THE REPORTING ACCOUNTANT

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Together Learning Partnership's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 November 2013 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 year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

### APPROACH

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes a review of the design and implementation of the Trust's internal controls and review processes on regularity, supported by detailed tests on samples of costs incurred by the Trust and specific transactions identified from our review.

This work included:

- Review minutes of meetings of directors
- Review Internal Assurance reports

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO TOGETHER LEARNING PARTNERSHIP AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)**

- Review payroll for evidence of authorisation and review any extra contractual payments
- Review a sample of purchases and expense claims
- Review of a sample of contracts entered into and procurement procedures
- Review a sample of credit card transactions
- Review lines of delegation and limits set
- Review register of interests
- Review related party transactions
- Review other income to ensure in line with funding agreement
- Review risk register and business continuity plans

**CONCLUSION**

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 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.

Reporting Accountant
**Waltons Business Advisers**
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors

Date: 18 December 2023

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

| | Note | Unrestricted funds 2023 £ | Restricted funds 2023 £ | Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £ | Total funds 2023 £ | *Total funds 2022 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **INCOME FROM:** | | | | | | |
| Donations and capital grants | 4 | **4,220** | **-** | **310,690** | **314,910** | *43,751* |
| Other trading activities | 6 | **205,352** | **-** | **-** | **205,352** | *190,057* |
| Investments | 7 | **1,109** | **-** | **-** | **1,109** | *138* |
| Charitable activities | 5 | **1,114** | **2,830,037** | **-** | **2,831,151** | *2,695,641* |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | | **211,795** | **2,830,037** | **310,690** | **3,352,522** | *2,929,587* |
| **EXPENDITURE ON:** | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | 9 | **12,770** | **54,399** | **-** | **67,169** | *81,345* |
| Charitable activities | 10 | **74,587** | **2,866,742** | **94,684** | **3,036,013** | *3,134,761* |
| **TOTAL EXPENDITURE** | | **87,357** | **2,921,141** | **94,684** | **3,103,182** | *3,216,106* |
| **NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS/(LOSSES)** | | **124,438** | **(91,104)** | **216,006** | **249,340** | *(286,519)* |
| **OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS/(LOSSES):** | | | | | | |
| Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes | 31 | **-** | **547,000** | **-** | **547,000** | *1,913,000* |
| **NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS** | | **124,438** | **455,896** | **216,006** | **796,340** | *1,626,481* |

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

| | Note | Unrestricted funds 2023 £ | Restricted funds 2023 £ | Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £ | Total funds 2023 £ | *Total funds 2022 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:** | | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | **314,898** | **(733,751)** | **2,381,196** | **1,962,343** | *335,862* |
| Net movement in funds | | **124,438** | **455,896** | **216,006** | **796,340** | *1,626,481* |
| **TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD** | | **439,336** | **(277,855)** | **2,597,202** | **2,758,683** | *1,962,343* |

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 31 to 61 form part of these financial statements.

TOGETHER LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

(A Company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 08718104

## BALANCE SHEET
## AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

| | Note | | 2023 £ | | 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **FIXED ASSETS** | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 18 | | **2,940,089** | | *2,601,905* |
| | | | **2,940,089** | | *2,601,905* |
| **CURRENT ASSETS** | | | | | |
| Stocks | 19 | **30,998** | | *30,998* | |
| Debtors | 20 | **75,008** | | *78,952* | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | **383,377** | | *393,671* | |
| | | **489,383** | | *503,621* | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 21 | **(314,646)** | | *(339,183)* | |
| **NET CURRENT ASSETS** | | | **174,737** | | *164,438* |
| Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year | 22 | | **(54,143)** | | - |
| **NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION LIABILITY** | | | **3,060,683** | | *2,766,343* |
| Defined benefit pension scheme liability | 31 | | **(302,000)** | | *(804,000)* |
| **TOTAL NET ASSETS** | | | **2,758,683** | | *1,962,343* |
| **FUNDS OF THE TRUST** | | | | | |
| **RESTRICTED FUNDS:** | | | | | |
| Fixed asset funds | 23 | **2,597,202** | | *2,381,196* | |
| Restricted income funds | 23 | **24,145** | | *70,249* | |
| Restricted funds excluding pension asset | 23 | **2,621,347** | | *2,451,445* | |
| Pension reserve | 23 | **(302,000)** | | *(804,000)* | |
| **TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS** | 23 | | **2,319,347** | | *1,647,445* |
| **UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS** | 23 | | **439,336** | | *314,898* |
| **TOTAL FUNDS** | | | **2,758,683** | | *1,962,343* |

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements on pages 26 to 61 were approved by the directors, and authorised for issue on 12 December 2023 and are signed on their behalf, by:

**J A B Muir**
(Chair of Trustees)

The notes on pages 31 to 61 form part of these financial statements.

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

| | Note | 2023 £ | *2022 £* |
|---|---|---|---|
| **CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES** | | | |
| Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities | 25 | **(22,560)** | *138,769* |
| **CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES** | 27 | **(47,734)** | *(108,042)* |
| **CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES** | 26 | **60,000** | - |
| **CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE YEAR** | | **(10,294)** | *30,727* |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year | | **393,671** | *362,944* |
| **CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR** | 28, 29 | **383,377** | *393,671* |

The notes on pages 31 to 61 form part of these financial statements

## 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

### 1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

### 1.2 Going concern

The directors 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 Trust to continue as a going concern. The directors 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 Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

Given the above the directors continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

### 1.3 Fund accounting

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

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

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

## 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

### 1.4 Income

All incoming resources are recognised when the 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 year is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

- **Donations**

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

- **Other income**

  Other income is recognised in the year it is receivable and to the extent the Trust has provided the goods or services.

### 1.5 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.

- **Expenditure on raising funds**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

## 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

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

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding requiring the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost of these assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

| | |
|---|---|
| Long-term leasehold property | - 125 years straight line |
| Leasehold improvements | - 10 years stright line |
| Plant and machinery | - 5 years straight line |
| Computer equipment | - 3 years straight line |

### 1.7 Stocks

*Stocks are valued at cost and are resources purchased in the summer term for use in the 2023-24* year and long term resources falling below the £1,000 capitalisation threshold.

### 1.8 Taxation

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

### 1.9 Liabilities

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

## 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

### 1.10 Financial instruments

The Trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the Trust and their measurement bases 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 20. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 21 and 22. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

### 1.11 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

### 1.12 Pensions

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

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

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

## 2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND AREAS OF JUDGMENT

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 31, 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 2022 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.

## 3. COMPANY STATUS

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales. In the event of the Trust being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the Trust.

The registered office address is:

Cleves Cross Primary School
Cleves Cross
Ferryhill
County Durham
DL17 8QY

## 4. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

| | Unrestricted funds 2023 £ | Restricted funds 2023 £ | Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £ | Total funds 2023 £ | *Total funds 2022 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Donations | **4,220** | **-** | **-** | **4,220** | *1,875* |
| Capital Grants | **-** | **-** | **310,690** | **310,690** | *12,927* |
| Kickstart & apprentice income | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | *28,949* |
| | **4,220** | **-** | **310,690** | **314,910** | *43,751* |
| *Total 2022* | *1,875* | *28,949* | *12,927* | *43,751* | |

## 5. FUNDING FOR THE TRUST'S CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

| | Unrestricted funds 2023 £ | Restricted funds 2023 £ | Total funds 2023 £ | *Total funds 2022 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Educational Operations** | | | | |
| **DfE/ESFA grants** | | | | |
| General Annual Grant (GAG) | - | 1,876,589 | 1,876,589 | *1,910,798* |
| Other DfE/ESFA grants | | | | |
| PE and Sport grant | - | 35,300 | 35,300 | *35,430* |
| Pupil premium | - | 202,437 | 202,437 | *188,634* |
| Teachers pay grant | - | 11,661 | 11,661 | *1,763* |
| Free school meals | - | 51,973 | 51,973 | *47,267* |
| Other government grants | - | 10,862 | 10,862 | *23,105* |
| Teachers pension grant | - | 2,635 | 2,635 | *4,982* |
| Turing Grant | - | 11,812 | 11,812 | *55,303* |
| Recovery Premium | - | 20,082 | 20,082 | *23,563* |
| Rates relief | - | 5,555 | 5,555 | *2,315* |
| Supplementary Grant | - | 84,349 | 84,349 | *23,283* |
| | - | 2,313,255 | 2,313,255 | *2,316,443* |
| **Other Government grants** | | | | |
| Funding for higher educational needs | - | 222,538 | 222,538 | *218,571* |
| Early years | - | 274,606 | 274,606 | *141,717* |
| Pupil premium local authority | - | 19,638 | 19,638 | *17,600* |
| | - | 516,782 | 516,782 | *377,888* |
| **Other income from the Trust's educational operations** | 1,114 | - | 1,114 | *1,310* |
| | 1,114 | 2,830,037 | 2,831,151 | *2,695,641* |
| **Total 2023** | 1,114 | 2,830,037 | 2,831,151 | *2,695,641* |
| *Total 2022* | *1,310* | *2,694,331* | *2,695,641* | |

## 6. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

| | Unrestricted funds 2023 £ | Total funds 2023 £ | *Total funds 2022 £* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Catering income | **39,234** | **39,234** | *35,816* |
| Breakfast club | **3,816** | **3,816** | *3,359* |
| Educational trips and visits | **59,193** | **59,193** | *19,232* |
| Other fundraising | **29,056** | **29,056** | *17,776* |
| Insurance claims supply | **25,373** | **25,373** | *7,611* |
| Scamps out of school club | **48,680** | **48,680** | *26,861* |
| Staff recharges | **-** | **-** | *79,402* |
| | **205,352** | **205,352** | *190,057* |
| *Total 2022* | *190,057* | *190,057* | |

## 7. INVESTMENT INCOME

| | Unrestricted funds 2023 £ | Total funds 2023 £ | *Total funds 2022 £* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Investment income | **1,109** | **1,109** | *138* |
| *Total 2022* | *138* | *138* | |

## 8. EXPENDITURE

| | Staff Costs 2023 £ | Premises 2023 £ | Other 2023 £ | Total 2023 £ | *Total 2022 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Expenditure on raising funds:** | | | | | |
| Direct costs | - | - | 67,169 | 67,169 | *81,345* |
| **Educational operations** | | | | | |
| Direct costs | 1,381,039 | - | 91,238 | 1,472,277 | *1,457,781* |
| Support costs | 1,138,103 | 155,289 | 270,344 | 1,563,736 | *1,676,980* |
| | 2,519,142 | 155,289 | 428,751 | 3,103,182 | *3,216,106* |
| *Total 2022* | *2,559,462* | *163,373* | *493,271* | *3,216,106* | |

## 9. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS

**Costs of raising voluntary income**

| | Unrestricted funds 2023 £ | Restricted funds 2023 £ | Total funds 2023 £ | *Total funds 2022 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Trips and activities | 12,655 | 51,360 | 64,015 | *80,271* |
| Other costs | 115 | 3,039 | 3,154 | *1,074* |
| | 12,770 | 54,399 | 67,169 | *81,345* |
| *Total 2022* | *4,069* | *77,276* | *81,345* | |

## 10. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES

| | Activities undertaken directly 2023 £ | Support costs 2023 £ | Total funds 2023 £ | *Total funds 2022 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Educational operations | **1,472,277** | **1,563,736** | **3,036,013** | *3,134,761* |
| *Total 2022* | *1,457,781* | *1,676,980* | *3,134,761* | |

### ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS

| | Total funds 2023 £ | *Total funds 2022 £* |
|---|---|---|
| Staff costs | **1,381,039** | *1,335,355* |
| Educational Support | **65,510** | *67,588* |
| Training | **10,714** | *13,792* |
| Insurance | **8,845** | *13,769* |
| HR and Professional fees | **6,169** | *27,277* |
| | **1,472,277** | *1,457,781* |

## 10. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (continued)

### ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

| | **Total funds 2023 £** | *Total funds 2022 £* |
|---|---|---|
| Staff costs | **1,138,103** | *1,221,408* |
| Depreciation | **71,349** | *57,930* |
| Catering | **70,123** | *112,222* |
| Postage and telephone | **12,855** | *11,485* |
| Repairs and maintenance | **72,521** | *97,769* |
| Energy | **59,406** | *36,070* |
| Rates and water | **18,199** | *21,838* |
| Cleaning | **12,148** | *7,695* |
| Insurance | **8,271** | *4,274* |
| Travel | **2,590** | *4,413* |
| Other support costs | **47,608** | *40,363* |
| Pension interest | **30,000** | *41,000* |
| Governance costs | **20,563** | *20,513* |
| | **1,563,736** | *1,676,980* |

In line with the clarification provided in the 2023 accounts direction teaching assistants are now classified as support costs. This has resulted in a total of £711,063 being moved from direct to support costs in the 2022 figures. This has no impact on total expenditure or reserves carried forward.

## 11. GOVERNANCE COST

| | **2023 £** | *2022 £* |
|---|---|---|
| Auditors' remuneration | **11,580** | *10,075* |
| Auditors' non audit costs | **2,430** | *1,750* |
| Legal fees | **987** | *2,021* |
| Governance support | **5,566** | *6,667* |
| | **20,563** | *20,513* |

## 12. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

| | 2023 £ | *2022 £* |
|---|---|---|
| Depreciation of tangible fixed assets | **71,349** | *57,930* |
| Fees paid to auditors for: | | |
| - audit | **11,580** | *10,075* |
| - other services | **2,430** | *1,750* |

## 13. STAFF

### a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

| | 2023 £ | *2022 £* |
|---|---|---|
| Wages and salaries | **1,888,621** | *1,766,082* |
| Social security costs | **168,043** | *158,931* |
| Pension costs | **436,824** | *619,118* |
| | **2,493,488** | *2,544,131* |
| Agency staff costs | **25,654** | *12,632* |
| | **2,519,142** | *2,556,763* |

### b. SEVERANCE PAYMENTS

The Trust paid 1 severance payment in the year *(2022* - Nil*)*, disclosed in the following bands:

| | 2023 No. | *2022 No.* |
|---|---|---|
| £0 - £25,000 | **1** | *-* |

### c. Special staff severance payments

The total value of special staff severance payments made in the year amounted to £9,677 (*2022 - £Nil*)

## 13. STAFF (continued)

### d. Staff numbers

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

| | **2023 No.** | *2022 No.* |
|---|---|---|
| Teaching staff | **16** | *18* |
| Admin and support | **52** | *47* |
| Management | **9** | *6* |
| | **77** | *71* |

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

| | **2023 No.** | *2022 No.* |
|---|---|---|
| Teaching staff | **14** | *17* |
| Admin and support | **29** | *34* |
| Management | **6** | *5* |
| | **49** | *56* |

### e. Higher paid staff

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

| | **2023 No.** | *2022 No.* |
|---|---|---|
| In the band £60,001 - £70,000 | **4** | *1* |
| In the band £70,001 - £80,000 | **-** | *1* |
| In the band £90,001 - £100,000 | **-** | *1* |

### f. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The key management personnel of the Trust comprise the directors and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Trust was £335,747 *(2022 - £363,327 ).*

## 14. CENTRAL SERVICES

The Trust has provided the following central services to its academies during the year:

- Finance and admin staff time

The Trust charges for these services on basis of staff time

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

| | 2023 £ | *2022 £* |
|---|---|---|
| Cleves Cross Primary School | **122,239** | *113,059* |
| Rose Street Primary School | **97,209** | *87,185* |
| **Total** | **219,448** | *200,244* |

## 15. DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

One or more directors has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Trust. The principal and other staff directors only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment. The value of directors' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

| | | 2023 £ | *2022 £* |
|---|---|---|---|
| A Lazenby, Executive Head | Remuneration | **70,000 - 75,000** | *90,000 - 95,000* |
| | Pension contributions paid | **10,000 - 15,000** | *20,000 - 25,000* |

During the year ended 31 August 2023, no director expenses have been incurred *(2022 - £NIL).*

## 16. DIRECTORS' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

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

## 17. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

| | Develop-ment £ |
|---|---|
| **Cost** | |
| At 1 September 2022 | **19,492** |
| At 31 August 2023 | **19,492** |
| **Amortisation** | |
| At 1 September 2022 | **19,492** |
| At 31 August 2023 | **19,492** |
| **Net book value** | |
| At 31 August 2023 | **-** |
| *At 31 August 2022* | *-* |

## 18. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

| | Long-term leasehold property £ | Leasehold improvements £ | Plant and machinery £ | Computer equipment £ | Total £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cost** | | | | | |
| At 1 September 2022 | **2,700,445** | **113,607** | **98,614** | **96,794** | **3,009,460** |
| Additions | **87,050** | **298,590** | **2,060** | **21,833** | **409,533** |
| At 31 August 2023 | **2,787,495** | **412,197** | **100,674** | **118,627** | **3,418,993** |
| **Depreciation** | | | | | |
| At 1 September 2022 | **206,772** | **43,032** | **84,268** | **73,483** | **407,555** |
| Charge for the year | **20,618** | **21,382** | **5,662** | **23,687** | **71,349** |
| At 31 August 2023 | **227,390** | **64,414** | **89,930** | **97,170** | **478,904** |
| **Net book value** | | | | | |
| At 31 August 2023 | **2,560,105** | **347,783** | **10,744** | **21,457** | **2,940,089** |
| *At 31 August 2022* | *2,493,673* | *70,575* | *14,346* | *23,311* | *2,601,905* |

The Trust continues to occupy the land and buildings which were used by the predecessor schools prior to conversion. These properties were gifted to the Trust on conversion on a 125 year lease by Durham County Council. The council continue to own the freehold and the Trust has the right to occupy the properties for a peppercorn rent. The properties are shown above in long term leasehold property and are written off over the life of the lease.

## 19. STOCKS

| | 2023 £ | *2022 £* |
|---|---|---|
| School supplies | **30,998** | *30,998* |

## 20. DEBTORS

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|
| **Due within one year** | | |
| Trade debtors | - | 4,586 |
| VAT | - | 26,873 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 75,008 | 47,493 |
| | 75,008 | 78,952 |

## 21. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Other loans | 5,857 | - |
| Trade creditors | 55,028 | 71,734 |
| Other taxation and social security | 59,885 | 40,393 |
| Other creditors | 51,354 | 50,607 |
| Accruals and deferred income | 142,522 | 176,449 |
| | 314,646 | 339,183 |

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Deferred income at 1 September 2022 | 95,551 | 56,693 |
| Resources deferred during the year | 38,639 | 95,551 |
| Amounts released from previous periods | (95,551) | (56,693) |
| | 38,639 | 95,551 |

At the balance sheet date the Trust was holding funds received in advance in relation to grant income intended for the following academic year and money received for trips in the autumn term.

## 22. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

| | 2023<br>£ | *2022*<br>*£* |
|---|---|---|
| Bank loans | 54,143 | - |

The aggregate amount of liabilities payable or repayable wholly or in part more than five years after the reporting date is:

| | 2023<br>£ | *2022*<br>*£* |
|---|---|---|
| Payable or repayable by instalments | 19,023 | - |
| | 19,023 | - |

## 23. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

| | Balance at 1 September 2022 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers in/out £ | Gains/ (Losses) £ | Balance at 31 August 2023 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Unrestricted funds** | | | | | | |
| General Funds | 94,189 | 211,795 | (73,226) | (81,032) | - | 151,726 |
| Unrestricted fixed asset fund | 220,709 | - | (14,131) | 81,032 | - | 287,610 |
| | 314,898 | 211,795 | (87,357) | - | - | 439,336 |
| **Restricted general funds** | | | | | | |
| General annual grant (GAG) | 56,290 | 2,021,875 | (2,054,020) | - | - | 24,145 |
| Pupil premium | - | 222,075 | (222,075) | - | - | - |
| Higher Educational needs | - | 222,538 | (222,538) | - | - | - |
| Universal free school meals | - | 51,973 | (51,973) | - | - | - |
| Early years funding | - | 274,606 | (274,606) | - | - | - |
| Other restricted funds | 2,020 | 10,862 | (12,882) | - | - | - |
| Teacher pay award | - | 14,296 | (14,296) | - | - | - |
| Turing scheme | 11,939 | 11,812 | (23,751) | - | - | - |
| Pension reserve | (804,000) | - | (45,000) | - | 547,000 | (302,000) |
| | (733,751) | 2,830,037 | (2,921,141) | - | 547,000 | (277,855) |

## 23. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

| | Balance at 1 September 2022 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers in/out £ | Gains/ (Losses) £ | Balance at 31 August 2023 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Restricted fixed asset funds** | | | | | | |
| Capital transferred on conversion | 2,041,702 | - | (17,527) | - | - | 2,024,175 |
| Other capital grants | 209,098 | 310,690 | (67,118) | - | - | 452,670 |
| Capital expenditure from GAG | 130,396 | - | (10,039) | - | - | 120,357 |
| | 2,381,196 | 310,690 | (94,684) | - | - | 2,597,202 |
| **Total Restricted funds** | 1,647,445 | 3,140,727 | (3,015,825) | - | 547,000 | 2,319,347 |
| **Total funds** | 1,962,343 | 3,352,522 | (3,103,182) | - | 547,000 | 2,758,683 |

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

General annual grant - this is the money provided to the academies for normal school running costs.

The pupil premium is paid based upon the number of pupils with service parents or who are entitled to free school meals. This funding has paid for support assistants within classrooms and additional resources.

The funding for higher educational needs has been used to pay for classroom assistants.

The funding for universal free school meals was spent on providing these meals.

The early years funding has funded staff in these year groups.

The teacher pay and teacher pension awards have been spent on teaching wages.

The Turing grant was received from the British Council towards an educational visit to Gran Canaria. The balance brought forward has now been spent.

The capital transferred on conversion represents the land and buildings and other assets transferred to the school at nil consideration from Durham County Council upon conversion to an Academy.
This fund is being depreciated in line with the assets represented.

## 23. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Other capital grants are government funds received for the purchase of capital equipment and expenditure on repair projects. The amount carried forward represents assets purchased in the period at their net book value and funding yet to be spent.

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

## 23. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

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

| | *Balance at 1 September 2021* £ | *Income* £ | *Expenditure* £ | *Transfers in/out* £ | *Gains/ (Losses)* £ | *Balance at 31 August 2022* £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Unrestricted funds** | | | | | | |
| General Funds | 242,493 | 193,380 | (333,236) | (8,448) | - | 94,189 |
| Unrestricted fixed asset fund | 224,484 | - | (12,223) | 8,448 | - | 220,709 |
| | 466,977 | 193,380 | (345,459) | - | - | 314,898 |
| **Restricted general funds** | | | | | | |
| General annual grant (GAG) | - | 1,995,389 | (1,838,736) | (100,363) | - | 56,290 |
| Pupil premium | - | 206,234 | (206,234) | - | - | - |
| Higher Educational needs | - | 218,571 | (218,571) | - | - | - |
| Universal free school meals | - | 47,267 | (47,267) | - | - | - |
| British council | 7,624 | - | (7,624) | - | - | - |
| Early years funding | - | 141,717 | (141,717) | - | - | - |
| Other restricted funds | 2,020 | 52,054 | (52,054) | - | - | 2,020 |
| Teacher pay award | - | 1,763 | (1,763) | - | - | - |
| Teacher pension grant | - | 4,982 | (4,982) | - | - | - |
| Turing scheme | - | 55,303 | (43,364) | - | - | 11,939 |
| Pension reserve | (2,455,000) | - | (262,000) | - | 1,913,000 | (804,000) |
| | (2,445,356) | 2,723,280 | (2,824,312) | (100,363) | 1,913,000 | (733,751) |

## 23. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

| | Balance at 1 September 2021 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers in/out £ | Gains/ (Losses) £ | Balance at 31 August 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Restricted fixed asset funds** | | | | | | |
| Capital transferred on conversion | *2,059,229* | - | *(17,527)* | - | - | *2,041,702* |
| Other capital grants | *213,594* | *12,927* | *(17,423)* | - | - | *209,098* |
| Capital expenditure from GAG | *41,418* | - | *(11,385)* | - | - | *130,396* |
| | *2,314,241* | *12,927* | *(46,335)* | - | - | *2,381,196* |
| **Total Restricted funds** | *(131,115)* | *2,736,207* | *(2,870,647)* | *(100,363)* | *1,913,000* | *1,647,445* |
| **Total funds** | *335,862* | *2,929,587* | *(3,216,106)* | *(100,363)* | *1,913,000* | *1,962,343* |

**Total funds analysis by academy**

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

| | **2023 £** | *2022 £* |
|---|---|---|
| Cleves Cross Primary School | **393,462** | *290,351* |
| Rosa Street Primary School | **68,225** | *53,652* |
| Trust | **1,794** | *41,144* |
| Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve | **463,481** | *385,147* |
| Restricted fixed asset fund | **2,597,202** | *2,381,196* |
| Pension reserve | **(302,000)** | *(804,000)* |
| **Total** | **2,758,683** | *1,962,343* |

## 23. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

### TOTAL COST ANALYSIS BY ACADEMY

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

| | Teaching and educational support staff costs £ | Other support staff costs £ | Educational supplies £ | Other costs excluding depreciation £ | Total 2023 £ | *Total 2022 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cleves Cross Primary School | 1,037,567 | 167,151 | 31,356 | 181,085 | 1,417,159 | *1,484,277* |
| Rosa Street Primary School | 941,097 | 189,897 | 24,782 | 166,294 | 1,322,070 | *1,167,860* |
| Trust | 91,749 | 91,681 | 9,372 | 99,802 | 292,604 | *506,039* |
| **Trust** | 2,070,413 | 448,729 | 65,510 | 447,181 | 3,031,833 | *3,158,176* |

## 24. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

### ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

| | Unrestricted funds 2023 £ | Restricted funds 2023 £ | Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £ | Total funds 2023 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tangible fixed assets | 287,610 | - | 2,652,479 | 2,940,089 |
| Current assets | 421,876 | 62,784 | 4,723 | 489,383 |
| Creditors due within one year | (270,150) | (38,639) | (5,857) | (314,646) |
| Creditors due in more than one year | - | - | (54,143) | (54,143) |
| Provisions for liabilities and charges | - | (302,000) | - | (302,000) |
| **Total** | 439,336 | (277,855) | 2,597,202 | 2,758,683 |

## 24. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS (continued)

### ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

| | *Unrestricted funds 2022 £* | *Restricted funds 2022 £* | *Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £* | *Total funds 2022 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tangible fixed assets | *220,709* | *-* | *2,381,196* | *2,601,905* |
| Current assets | *337,821* | *165,800* | *-* | *503,621* |
| Creditors due within one year | *(243,632)* | *(95,551)* | *-* | *(339,183)* |
| Provisions for liabilities and charges | *-* | *(804,000)* | *-* | *(804,000)* |
| **Total** | *314,898* | *(733,751)* | *2,381,196* | *1,962,343* |

## 25. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

| | **2023 £** | *2022 £* |
|---|---|---|
| Net income/(expenditure) for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities) | **249,340** | *(286,519)* |
| **Adjustments for:** | | |
| Depreciation and amortisation charges | **71,349** | *57,930* |
| Capital grants from DfE and other capital income | **(360,690)** | *(12,927)* |
| Interest receivable | **(1,109)** | *(138)* |
| Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost | **45,000** | *262,000* |
| Decrease/(increase) in debtors | **3,944** | *(3,537)* |
| (Decrease)/increase in creditors | **(30,394)** | *121,960* |
| **Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities** | **(22,560)** | *138,769* |

## 26. CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES

| | **2023 £** | *2022 £* |
|---|---|---|
| Cash inflows from new borrowing | **60,000** | *-* |
| **Net cash provided by financing activities** | **60,000** | *-* |

## 27. CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Dividends, interest and rents from investments | 1,109 | 138 |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets | (409,533) | (121,107) |
| Capital grants from DfE Group | 360,690 | 12,927 |
| **Net cash used in investing activities** | (47,734) | (108,042) |

## 28. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Cash in hand and at bank | 383,377 | 393,671 |
| **Total cash and cash equivalents** | 383,377 | 393,671 |

## 29. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

| | At 1 September 2022 £ | Cash flows £ | At 31 August 2023 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cash at bank and in hand | 393,671 | (10,294) | 383,377 |
| Debt due within 1 year | - | (5,857) | (5,857) |
| Debt due after 1 year | - | (54,143) | (54,143) |
| | 393,671 | (70,294) | 323,377 |

## 30. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|
| **Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements** | | |
| Acquisition of tangible fixed assets | - | 411,244 |

## 31. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The 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 Durham City Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020 and of the LGPS 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £47,132 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 *(2022 - £45,094)* and are included within creditors.

**Teachers' pension scheme**

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

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

**Valuation of the teacher's pension scheme**

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

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI, assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

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

## 31. PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £238,717 *(2022 - £238,737)*.

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2019/04/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx).

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded 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.

**Local government pension scheme**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £222,000 *(2022 - £199,000)*, of which employer's contributions totalled £170,000 *(2022 - £158,000)* and employees' contributions totalled £52,000 *(2022 - £41,000)*. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 21.9 per cent for employers and 5.5-12.5 per cent for employees.

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

**PRINCIPAL ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS**

| | **2023** | *2022* |
|---|---|---|
| | **%** | *%* |
| Rate of increase in salaries | **3.6** | *3.7* |
| Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation | **2.6** | *2.7* |
| Discount rate for scheme liabilities | **5.1** | *4.1* |
| Inflation assumption (CPI) | **2.6** | *2.7* |

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

| | **2023** | *2022* |
|---|---|---|
| | **Years** | *Years* |
| *RETIRING TODAY* | | |
| Males | **21.7** | *22.1* |
| Females | **23.9** | *24.2* |
| *RETIRING IN 20 YEARS* | | |
| Males | **22.9** | *23.2* |
| Females | **25.0** | *25.7* |

## 31. PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)

### SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

| | 2023 £000 | *2022 £000* |
|---|---|---|
| Discount rate +0.1% | **(50)** | *(68)* |
| Discount rate -0.1% | **53** | *71* |
| Mortality assumption - 1 year increase | **(69)** | *(83)* |
| Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease | **69** | *83* |
| CPI rate +0.1% | **48** | *56* |
| CPI rate -0.1% | **(45)** | *(56)* |
| Salaries +0.1% | **5** | *12* |
| Salaries -0.1% | **(5)** | *(12)* |

### SHARE OF SCHEME ASSETS

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

| | At 31 August 2023 £ | *At 31 August 2022 £* |
|---|---|---|
| Equities | **1,195,132** | *1,185,896* |
| Gilts | **248,888** | *244,984* |
| Corporate bonds | **220,712** | *95,392* |
| Property | **176,100** | *182,112* |
| Cash and other liquid assets | **46,960** | *30,352* |
| Other | **100,964** | *114,904* |
| Multi asset credit | **359,244** | *314,360* |
| **Total market value of assets** | **2,348,000** | *2,168,000* |

The actual return on scheme assets was £57,000 *(2022 - £225,000).*

The amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

| | 2023 £ | *2022 £* |
|---|---|---|
| Current service cost | **(185,000)** | *(379,000)* |
| Interest income | **91,000** | *39,000* |
| **Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities** | **(94,000)** | *(340,000)* |

## 31. PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)

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

| | 2023<br>£ | 2022<br>£ |
|---|---|---|
| **At 1 September** | **2,972,000** | *4,678,000* |
| Current service cost | **185,000** | *379,000* |
| Interest cost | **121,000** | *80,000* |
| Employee contributions | **52,000** | *41,000* |
| Actuarial gains | **(581,000)** | *(2,177,000)* |
| Benefits paid | **(99,000)** | *(29,000)* |
| **At 31 August** | **2,650,000** | *2,972,000* |

Changes in the fair value of the Trust's share of scheme assets were as follows:

| | 2023<br>£ | 2022<br>£ |
|---|---|---|
| **At 1 September** | **2,168,000** | *2,223,000* |
| Interest income | **91,000** | *39,000* |
| Actuarial losses | **(34,000)** | *(264,000)* |
| Employer contributions | **170,000** | *158,000* |
| Employee contributions | **52,000** | *41,000* |
| Benefits paid | **(99,000)** | *(29,000)* |
| **At 31 August** | **2,348,000** | *2,168,000* |

## 32. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 August 2023 the Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

| | 2023<br>£ | 2022<br>£ |
|---|---|---|
| Not later than 1 year | **2,639** | *2,639* |
| Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years | **660** | *3,298* |
| | **3,299** | *5,937* |

## 33. 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.

## 34. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Owing to the nature of the Trust and the composition of the board of directors being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the directors have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted 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 Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

Included within Educational Supplies is £600 (2022- £1,100) paid to Approach Too CIC a company in which A Lazenby is a director.

Included within repairs is £0 (2022- £460) paid to A Lazenby, the husband of one of the directors, for general maintenance work.