Company Registration Number: 08842867 (England)

THE DUCHY ACADEMY TRUST

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Bishop Fleming

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THE DUCHY ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	Laetitia Mayne Neil Helson Philip Brown
Trustees	Michael Elliott[1,2] Laetitia Mayne, Chair of Trustees[1,2] Antony Fugill, Chief Executive Officer[1,2] Justine Collins[1,2] Bryan Mayward[1,2] [1] Staffing and Finance [2] Standards and Attainment
Company registered number	08842867
Company name	The Duchy Academy Trust
Principal and registered office	24 Saltash Road Callington Cornwall PL17 7EF
Company secretary	Julia Stoneman
Accounting officer	Antony Fugill
Senior management team	Antony Fugill, Chief Executive Officer Louise Barrington, Chief Finance Officer
Independent auditors	Bishop Fleming LLP Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors Salt Quay House 4 North East Quay Sutton Harbour Plymouth PL4 0BN
Bankers	Lloyds Bank 13 Broad Street Launceston Cornwall PL15 8AG
Solicitors	Wolferstans 60-66 North Hill Plymouth Devon PL4 8EP

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the Charitable Company for the year ended 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purpose of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

The Trust operates academies for pupils aged 2 to 11 in Cornwall. It has a pupil capacity of 596 and had a roll of 486 in the school census during October 2023.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution
The Academy Trust was incorporated on 13th January 2014 and opened as a Multi-Academy Trust on 1st February 2014 is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The Trustees of The Duchy Academy Trust are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company operates as The Duchy Academy Trust.

Details of the Trustees who served throughout the year, and to the date the accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administration Details on page 1.

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

Trustees' Indemnities
Trustees benefit from indemnity insurance purchased at the Academy Trust's expense to cover the liability of the Trustees which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default or breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Academy Trust, provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Trustees knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty or which was committed by the Trustees in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not and provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Trustees in their capacity as Directors of the Academy Trust. The limit of this indemnity is £1 million.

TRUSTEES

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees
The Trust's Board of Trustees comprises the Headteacher, a minimum of two Parent Trustees, up to three Staff Trustees (providing that the total number of Trustees, including the Headteacher, who are employees of the Trust, does not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees) and up to ten other Trustees.

The Trust shall have the following Trustees as set out in its Articles of Association and funding agreement:

- up to ten Trustees who are appointed by members.
- up to two Parent Trustees who are elected by Parents of registered pupils at the Trust.
- up to three staff Trustees appointed by Trustee board.
- the Headteacher who is treated for all purposes as being an ex officio Governor.

Trustees are appointed for a four-year period, except that this time limit does not apply to the Headteacher. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be re-appointed or re-elected.

When appointing new Trustees, the Board will give consideration to the skills and experience mix of existing Trustees in order to ensure that the Board has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the Trust's development.

Policies and Procedures adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees
The Trust has a Recruitment, Induction and Training policy available from the Governance Professional to the Trustees.

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend upon their existing experience but would always include a tour of the Academies and a chance to meet staff and pupils. All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees. As there are normally only one or two new Trustees a year, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual. Advantage is taken of specific courses offered by the Local Authority, National Governance Association, and other bodies.

Organisational Structure
The Board of Trustees normally meets once each term. The Board establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Trust and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of Committees and other groups. It receives reports including policies from its committees for ratification. It monitors the activities of the Committees through the minutes of their meetings. The Board may from time to time establish Working Groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

There are two committees as follows:

- Staffing and Finance Committee - this meets at least six times a year and is responsible for monitoring, evaluating, and reviewing policy and performance in relation to financial management, compliance with reporting and regulatory requirements and reporting, receiving reports from the internal and external auditors, and drafting the annual budget including setting staffing levels. It also incorporates the role of an audit committee.
- Standards and Attainment Committee - this meets once a term to monitor, evaluate and review Trust's policy, practice, and performance in relation to curriculum planning, communications, target setting and assessment, examinations and all pastoral issues.

The following decisions are reserved to the Board of Trustees: to consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Trust and its committee structure, to appoint or remove the Chairman and/or Vice Chairman, to appoint the Headteacher and Clerk to the Trustees, to approve the Annual Development Plan and budget.

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, approving the statutory accounts, monitoring the Trust by the use of budgets and other data, and making major decisions about the direction of the Trust, capital expenditure and staff appointments.

The Trustees and Board of Trustees have devolved responsibility for day-to-day management to the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Finance Officer. Heads of School, and the Business Manager.

The Trust has a leadership structure which consists of the Trustees and The Senior Leadership Team. The Senior Leadership Team are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets; a summary of this is in the Scheme of Delegation. Some spending control is devolved to Budget Holders, which must be authorised in line with the Scheme of Delegation.

The Trust comprises three primary schools – Boyton, Callington and Lewannick. The Trust has amalgamated the local governing bodies at all three schools, referred to as Local Governing Boards.

The Chief Executive Officer is the Accounting Officer.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel
The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the senior leadership team comprise the key management personnel of the Trust in charge of directing and controlling, running, and operating the Trust on a day-to-day basis. All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year.

Details of Trustees' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

The pay of key management personnel is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings.

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
3	1.94

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	3
1%-50%	
51%-99%	
100%	

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Provide the total cost of facility time	NIL
Provide the total pay bill	NA
Provide the percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (total cost of facility time / total pay bill) x 100	0%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours calculated as: (total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period / total paid facility time hours) x 100	NA

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

There are no related parties which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of The Duchy Academy Trust. There are no sponsors associated with the Trust.

Callington Primary School Parents and Staff Association (registered charity number 1076374) and Friends of Lewannick School (registered charity number 1104378) are registered charities and are associated with the Trust.

Engagement with Employees (including disabled persons)
The Trust engages with their employees through many means and methods, including:

- Consulting with employees on key matters, including engaging the relevant union officials.
- Regular updates to all staff members, via briefings and newsletters, covering both financial and non-financial performance.
- Regular meetings of staff and their line managers.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and Aims
The principal object and activity of the Trust is to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools, offering a broad range of curriculum for pupils of different abilities, with a strong emphasis on children guiding their own learning.

The aims of the Trust during the year ended 31 August 2023 are summarised below:

- to continue to raise the standard of educational attainment and achievement of all pupils.
- to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, including extra-curricular activities.
- to develop the foundation subject curriculum across all schools in the academy
- to develop students as more effective learners.
- to enhance the tertiary provision and outcomes.
- to maintain and develop Academy sites so to enable students to achieve their full potential.
- to ensure that every child enjoys the same high-quality education in terms of resourcing, tuition and care.
- to improve the effectiveness of the Trust by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review.
- to provide value for money for the funds expended.
- to develop greater coherence, clarity, and effectiveness in school systems.
- to comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements.
- to maintain close links with industry and commerce.
- to develop the Trust's capacity to manage change, and
- to conduct the Trust's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity, and openness.

At The Duchy Academy Trust, we aim to achieve the best for, and from, each child. We place the children at the centre of everything we do, with the vision that they are able to access exceptional teaching which inspires them to persevere and be creative in every aspect of their academic and personal lives.

Our Trust is a community in which children, staff and parents should be part of a happy and caring environment.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities
The key objectives contained within the Trust Development Plan provides the strategic direction, vision and structure for The Duchy Academy Trust.

It highlights and articulates the overarching organisational goal of the Trust and through clearly identified priorities and robust strategic planning, clarifies how the Trust will achieve its goal and the impact this will have for the children, communities, and staff within its duty of care.

The Trust is driven by the pursuit of the very best outcomes for every child irrespective of starting point or circumstance. We are committed to ensuring that we maintain and enable the acquisition of the highest aspirations for our children within every academy in our trust.

All our work is supported by core values and our commitment to these. Central to our goal, vision and ethos is the unwavering drive to ensure we enact the values of:

- Inclusivity
- Diversity
- Sustainability
- Fiscal responsibility
- The best outcomes for all

These goals are reflected in our ethos statement: 'Together we inspire, together we nurture, together we achieve.'

Everything in The Duchy Academy Trust is underpinned by ensuring what we always have the children and their best interests and outcomes at its core.

The organisational goal, and overarching aim for the Trust is:

- To ensure that all pupils and staff are enabled to achieve the maximum possible outcomes.
- To ensure that all pupils, staff and academies are fiscally supported and empowered to achieve these maximum possible outcomes.
- To ensure that all pupils and staff are supported within safe, effective environments that meet all their needs.

Public Benefit
The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commissioner's general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Academy's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

The Trust aims to advance for the public benefit, education in Callington and Launceston, as well as the surrounding area. In particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the forgoing by estimating, maintaining, managing and development schools, offering a broad curriculum with a strong emphasis on foundation subjects.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievements and Performance
Key Stage 2 results of the 2023 academic year for all 3 schools are as follows:

Pupils on Track	Trust EXS	National EXS	Trust Progress +/-
KS2 Reading	63%	73%	-1.6
KS2 Writing	65%	71%	-1.4
KS2 Maths	59%	73%	-2.6
KS2 RWM	48%	59%	[redacted]

The Trust received an Ofsted inspection in all three school between October and December 2023. Whilst Callington remained 'good' overall, Boyton and Lewannick moved into 'requires improvement'.

The Trust is engaged in a Small Trust Support offer from the DfE Regions Group, working closely with another trust to increase school improvement capacity.

This has continued into the current school year and progress is being made towards improving all areas identified by Ofsted at both schools.

The Trust continues to provide monitoring and strategic support for these schools utilising CEO and Leaders of Teaching and Learning support.
The Trust has managed to maintain small class sizes, with each year group having its own class at Callington Primary School, with the exception for Boyton and Lewannick Primary School, which have mixed year groups. All classes have a teaching assistant, which is a valuable addition to the classroom.

To ensure that standards are continually assessed, the Trust operates a programme of lesson observations, which are undertaken by the Chief Executive Officer and the Senior Leadership Team.

Callington received £4,000 from the Parent and Staff Association for new play equipment, with additional funding being received throughout 2023 and 2024.

The Parent and Staff Association continue to carry out fund raising at Boyton, Callington, and Lewannick in order to support with schools, for instance, through organising school discos, summer and Christmas fairs.

The Trust received additional funding from the ESFA to assist with making energy efficiencies. During the year, Callington replaced most lights with LED's and SMART light devices.

Devolved Formula Capital was spent at both Boyton and Lewannick to redecorate the school halls. Callington's Devolved Formula Capital will be spent on addressing the continued deterioration of the façade of the Victorian building.

The Trust successfully secured a total of £485,968 at Callington and Lewannick to address urgent repairs to the roofs through successful 2022-23 CIF bids.

Continuing professional development has been successful with a teaching assistant gaining a formal qualification as a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant. A member of the administration team successfully gained Certification in School Business Management. Two teaching staff undertaking the National Professional Qualification for Senior Leaders.

All new employees complete Induction training, which include the following:

- Child Protection
- Food Hygiene
- Allergen Awareness
- Manual Handling
- Display Screen Assessment
- Cyber Awareness
- Data Protection, including GDPR

The Trust has 10 members of staff trained in Paediatric First Aid, and in addition has 13 other members of staff trained in Emergency First Aid.

Team Teach renewal training was completed during the year.

The Trust employs a Family Support Worker who's work during the year has included supporting families across the 3 schools liaising with organisations such as Citizen's Advice, local housing, Early Help, CAMHS, Family Plus Team, Penhaligan's Friends, CLEAR, local food banks.

The Family Support Work has also supported pupils though Draw and Talk Therapy, Lego Therapy, Trauma Intervention (TIS).

Key Performance Indicators

The main financial performance indicator is the level of reserves held at the Balance Sheet date. In particular, the management of spending against General Annual Grant (GAG) requires special attention - In the period under review, £nil was carried forward.

As funding is based on pupil numbers this is also a key performance indicator.
Another key financial performance indicator is staffing costs as a percentage of GAG. For 2023, this was 110%, compared to 112% in 2022.

Going Concern

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

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Most of the Trust's income is obtained from the DfE via the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the DfE which are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the Fixed Asset Fund. The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the useful life of the assets concerned, as defined in the Academy's accounting policies.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, the Trust received total income of £3,045,533 and incurred total expenditure of £3,178,867. The excess of expenditure over income for the year, including fixed asset and pension adjustments was £133,334.

At 31 August 2023 the net book value of fixed assets was £4,997,904 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 16 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Trust.

The Trust has taken on the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme in respect of its non-teaching staff transferred on conversion. The deficit is incorporated within the Statement of Financial Activity with details in Note 27 to the financial statements.

Key financial policies adopted or reviewed during the year include the Finance Policy which lays out the framework for financial management, including financial responsibilities of the Board, Head Teacher, managers, budget holders and other staff, as well as delegated authority for spending.

Reserves Policy
The Trustees review the reserve levels of the Trust annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Trustees take into consideration the future plans of the Trust, the uncertainty over future income streams and other key risks identified during the risk review.

The Trustees have set a target level of free reserves of £150,000 and as at 31st August 2023 held free reserves amounting to £229,695.

The Trustees look to ensure that a prudent level of reserves is maintained, taking into account the recurrent spending needs, and to ensure high quality provision. The Trustees take into account:

- the need for large scale project spend to address deterioration or buildings, and or facilities;
- significant and unexpected increase to specific or overall operating costs

The defined benefit pension scheme reserve has a negative balance. The effect of the deficit position of the pension scheme is that the Trust is paying higher employers' pension contributions over a period of years. The higher employers' pension contributions will be met from the Trust's budgeted annual income. Whilst the deficit will not be immediately eliminated, there should be no actual cash flow deficit on the fund, nor any direct impact on the free reserves of the Trust.

Investment Policy
Investments must be made only in accordance with written procedures approved by the Board of Trustees. The Trustees are committed to ensuring that all funds under their control are administered to maximise return whilst minimising risk.

The Trust operates management of the cash flow to make sure there are sufficient funds in the bank account to cover operational costs.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks.

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Trust are as follows:

Financial - the Trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA. In the last year 95% of the Trust's incoming resources were ultimately Government funded and whilst this level is expected to continue, there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms.

Failures in governance and/or management - the risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the Trust's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns, etc. The Trustees continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks.

Reputational - the continuing success of the Trust is dependent on continuing to attract applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk, Trustees ensure that student success and achievement are closely monitored and reviewed.

Safeguarding and child protection - the Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety, and discipline.

Staffing - the success of the Trust is reliant upon the quality of its staff and so the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning.

Fraud and mismanagement of funds - The Trust has appointed Westcotts LLP, the external auditor, to carry out checks on financial systems and records as required by the Academy Trust Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and develop their skills in this area.

The Trust has continued to strengthen its risk management process throughout the year by improving the process and ensuring staff awareness. A risk register is maintained and reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The Trust has agreed a Risk Management Strategy, a Risk Register, and a Risk Management Plan. These have been discussed by Trustees and include the financial risks to the Trust. The register and plan are regularly reviewed in light of any new information and formally reviewed annually.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, those relating to its finances, teaching, estates and facilities, and other operational areas. The Trustees have implemented systems to assess and mitigate those risks, including internal controls described elsewhere, having an SLA with a third party as the 'competent person' for Health and Safety audits, advice and training, which complements our 'in house' compliance systems. Where significant financial risk still remains, they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover.

The Trustees examine the financial health formally every term. They review performance against budgets and overall expenditure by means of regular update reports at all Board and Staffing and Finance Committee meetings. The Trustees also regularly review cash flow forecasts and ensure sufficient funds are held to cover all known and anticipated commitments.

At the year end, the Trust had no significant liabilities arising from trade creditors or debtors that would have a significant effect on liquidity.

The Board of Trustees recognises that the defined benefit pension scheme deficit (Local Government Pension Scheme), which is set out in Note 27 to the financial statements, represents a significant potential liability. However, as the Trustees consider that the Trust is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, this risk from this liability is minimised.

FUNDRAISING

The Trust carries out a limited amount of fundraising, mindful of the communities within which it operates. In the circumstances when fundraising is undertaken, systems and controls are in place to separate and protect funds. The Trust is aware of its responsibilities under the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 and legal rules, and ensures all activities are agreed and monitored at Senior Leadership Team level in compliance with relevant legal rules. Recognised standards are applied to ensure that fundraising is open, honest, and respectful, protecting the public from undue pressure to donate.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The Trust will continue to strive to provide outstanding education and improve the levels of performance of its pupils at all levels. The Trust will continue to aim to attract high quality teachers and support staff in order to deliver its objectives.

The Trust will continue to work with partner schools to improve the educational opportunities for students in the wider community.

The Trust is committed to increasing free reserves. The Trust has agreed robust strategies to ensure this is achieved.

Full details of our plans for the future are given in our Trust Development Plan, which is available on our website.

We plan to maintain small class sizes with a teaching assistant in each class which will reflect in academic outcomes being improved.

To increase the number of learners on roll across the Trust.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

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

Disclosure of information to auditors

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

Auditors

The auditors, Bishop Fleming LLP, are willing to continue in office and a resolution to appoint them will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, and signed on the board's behalf by:

Laetitia Mayne
Chair of Trustees

Date: 7 December 2023

GOVERNANCE' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

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

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

GOVERNANCE

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 3 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings Attended	Out of a possible
Collins, Justine	3	3
Elliott, Michael	3	3
Fugill, Antony	3	3
Mayne, Laetitia	3	3
Mayward, Bryan	2	3

The Staffing and Finance Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to scrutinise the decision making of the Accounting Officer, plus the Senior Management Team (SMT), acting as critical friends, to ensure that best practice and value for money are fully considered when spending the funds of the Trust.

Staffing Responsibilities

1. To work with the schools at a strategic level, giving guidance and make recommendations on matters relating to staff:
    a) Appointments of all staff across the Trust.
    b) Staff wellbeing, including a review of workloads, work life balance, working conditions, absence management and support mechanisms.
    c) Equalities, access, and fairness.
    d) Appraisals and performance management, ensuring fairness and consistency for all staff, and in line with the latest DfE guidance.
    e) Training and development.
    f) Promotion.
    g) Pay and conditions, ensuring these are commensurate with national policy and reflect local needs and circumstances.
    h) To monitor and receive absence reports.
    i) Disciplinary matters, grievances, and complaints.
    j) Termination of employment, including succession planning for known retirements, redundancy, and resignations.
    k) Appeals.
2. To undertake relevant training, for example safeguarding and safer recruitment vetting, so as to partake fully in The Duchy Academy Trust activities and interview panels.
3. To ensure The Duchy Academy Trust has up to date, relevant and compliant HR policies in place and to review these regularly.

4. To provide regular reports to the Board regarding personnel matters, drawing matters of merit and concern to their attention.
5. To receive reports from the Board's other committees to ensure continuity and consistency, and to make recommendations to them regarding The Duchy Academy Trust's personnel needs.
6. To forward plan with the head teachers of the schools all personnel needs, including staffing structures, ensuring minimum disruption to teaching and support and providing strong business continuity.
7. To ensure realistic budget requirements for all personnel matters.
8. To utilise data from performance management, exit interviews, equalities reviews and other surveys to ensure continuing improvements in standards at The Duchy Academy Trust.
9. *To form separate panels relating to appeals, hearings, and reviews, ensuring membership is* compliant with policy requirements.

Finance Responsibilities

1. To ensure sound monitoring and scrutiny of The Duchy Academy Trust's finances and resources.
2. To give guidance to officers and make recommendations to constantly improve the management of The Duchy Academy Trust's resources and ensure legal compliance.
3. To safeguard the assets and investments of The Duchy Academy Trust and its respective educational establishments.
4. *To receive a termly budget report from the Chief Finance Officer*
5. To monitor monthly expenditure, and make reports to the Board of Trustees, drawing matters of merit and concern to their attention.
6. To aid forward planning of financial resources, whilst considering The Duchy Academy Trust's indicative funding as notified annually by the DfE, and whilst monitoring student intake numbers, curriculum and staffing costs and capital expenditure requirements, and to formulate and keep a three-year budget plan.
7. To approve all transfers between budget headings to a limit of £29,999 on the recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer and in accordance with the Finance Policy.
8. To authorise the allocation of all orders and contracts between £30,000 and £100,000.
9. To follow the Trust's Finance Policy in regard to tendering.
10. To review any subsidiary trading companies, joint ventures, letting and leasing arrangements.
11. To receive the Auditors report and make recommendations to the Board.
12. To ensure all areas of insurance are adequately covered annually and assist with asset registers if required.
13. To follow ESFA guidelines in applying for grants.
14. To ensure financial compliance. To investigate and report on any financial irregularities, including whistleblowing in very serious cases.
15. To secure the attendance or advice of external, professional advisers as and when required.
16. To work within an agreed framework for procurement, to ensure quality, fairness and consistency.
17. To consider and recommend acceptance / non acceptance The Duchy Academy Trust's budget at the start of each financial year and as appropriate. This will form part of the annual report to the Board of Trustees and for filing in accordance with the Companies Act and the Charity Commission.
18. To ensure provision of free school meals for all eligible students.
19. To review the charging and remissions policy from time to time.
20. In accordance with the Academies Financial Handbook, to choose the most appropriate way to manage a programme of risk review and check financial controls. This could be the appointment of an internal audit service, asking external auditors to carry out supplementary work, appointing a non-employed trustee etc.
21. To undertake the role of the Audit Committee.

Meetings
Attendance at The Staffing and Finance Committee meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings Attended	Out of a possible
Collins, Justine	6	6
Elliott, Michael	6	6
Fugill, Antony	6	6
Mayne, Laetitia	6	6
Mayward, Bryan	6	6

The Audit Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. The Audit Committee forms part of the responsibilities under Staffing and Finance Committee.

Its purpose is to maintain an oversight of the Trust's governance, risk management, internal control, and value for money framework, reporting its findings annually to the Trustees and the Accounting Officer as a critical element of the Trust's annual reporting requirements.

The Standards and Attainment Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees.

Purpose
The committee shall oversee the academic performance of all schools within The Duchy Academy Trust.

Responsibilities
1. Report termly on the educational performance and progress of The Duchy Academy Trust to the Board.
2. Ensure recommendations from the committee are implemented in the Academies in the Trust.
3. Hold the Headteachers and staff to account for the performance of the Academies in the Trust through regular monitoring; to receive termly progress reports from Local Governing Committees and monitor and address issues as appropriate.
4. Ensure there is a strategic vision for continuous school improvement based upon effective school self-evaluation.
5. Set targets for improvement and measure the performance of the schools within the Trust against the national and local context.
6. Ensure improvements in curriculum development provide a broad and balanced learning experience.
7. Identify best practice in the Academies, which can be shared across the Trust.
8. Utilise best practice from other academies or multi academy Trusts to support high quality professional development within The Duchy Academy Trust.

Meetings
The committee will meet at least termly; an agenda and minutes will be provided for all meetings.

The Chair and Vice Chair will be appointed annually by the Trust Board.

Members of Local Governing Committees, Senior Leaders, and staff members of the academies can be invited to attend meetings.

During the year the Trust commissioned an independent review of governance across the trust. The report is yet to be received by the Trust. However, the Trust is fully committed to address any recommendations received from the review.

REVIEW OF VALUE FOR MONEY

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

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

- Robust financial governance and budget management.
- Using "Good Estate Management for Schools" and Health and Safety reports to assess and prioritise areas of improvement across the Trust.
- Value for money purchasing.
- Reviewing controls and managing risk.
- Considering appropriate allocation of resources.
- Not allocating time and/or resources to areas where few improvements can be achieved.
- Making comparisons with similar Academies using data provided by the ESFA and the Government.
- Challenging proposals and examining their effectiveness and efficiency.
- Deploying staff effectively.
- Reviewing quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching.
- Reviewing quality of children's learning to enable children to achieve nationally expected progress.
- Outlining procedures for accepting best value quotes, noting that this is not necessarily the cheapest quote.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks 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 The Duchy Academy Trust for the period from 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 Trustees 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 Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating, and managing the Trust's significant risks that have been in place for the period from 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 Trustees.

THE RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK

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

- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees.
- Regular reviews by the Staffing and Finance Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes.
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance.

- Clearly defined purchasing (assets purchase or capital investment) guidelines.
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties.
- Identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided:

- To appoint Thomas Westcott LLP to perform additional checks.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Trust's financial systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

- Testing of recording and reporting of statutory information
- Testing of purchase systems
- Testing of journals
- Testing of risk

The internal auditor reports to the Board of Trustees, through the Staffing and Finance Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities.

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 external auditor
- The financial management and governance self-assessment process
- The work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework

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

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

Laetitia Mayne
Trustee

Antony Fugill
Accounting Officer

Date: 7 December 2023

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of The Duchy Academy Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the Trust Board of Trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between the 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, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the Trust Board of Trustees 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 Trustees and ESFA.

Antony Fugill
Accounting Officer
Date: 7 December 2023

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Laetitia Mayne
Chair of Trustees
Date: 7 December 2023

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DUCHY ACADEMY TRUST

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of The Duchy Academy Trust (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 Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

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

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

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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 Trustees' report including the Strategic report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' report and the Strategic report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

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

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees (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 Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the 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 and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the Academy sector, control environment and the Trust's performance;
- results of our enquiries of management and the Trustee board, including the committees charged with governance over the Trust's finance and control, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Trust's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to: identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance; detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or noncompliance with laws and regulations;
- how the Trust ensured it met its obligations arising from it being financed by the ESFA and other funders, and as such material compliance with these obligations is required to ensure the Trust will continue to receive its public funding and be authorised to operate, including around ensuring there is no material unauthorised use of funds and expenditure;
- how the Trust ensured it met its obligations to its principal regulator, the Secretary of State for Education; and
- these matters were discussed among the audit engagement team who also considered any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud, which included incorrect recognition of revenue, management override of controls using manual journal entries, procurement and payroll. We identified the greatest potential for fraud as incorrect recognition of revenue and management override using manual journal entries.

In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Trust operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Academies Accounts Direction, Academies Financial Handbook, UK Companies Act and tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the Trust's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included safeguarding regulations, data protection regulations, occupational health and safety regulations, education and inspections legislation, building legislation and employment legislation.

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess the recognition of revenue;
- enquiring of Trustees and management and those charged with governance concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing procedures to confirm material compliance with the requirements of its regulators;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing internal control reports; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; and assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

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

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.

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.

Bishop Fleming LLP

Kevin Connor FCA (Senior statutory auditor)
for and on behalf of
Bishop Fleming LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Salt Quay House
4 North East Quay
Sutton Harbour
Plymouth
PL4 0BN

Date: 14 December 2023

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE DUCHY ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 18 November 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Duchy Academy Trust 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 The Duchy Academy Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to The Duchy Academy Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than The Duchy Academy Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DUCHY ACADEMY TRUST'S ACCOUNTING OFFICER AND THE REPORTING ACCOUNTANT

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Duchy Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 29 January 2014 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 our conclusion includes:

An assessment of the risk of material irregularity and impropriety across all of the Trust's activities;

Further testing and review of the areas identified through the risk assessment including enquiry, identification of controls processes and examination of supporting evidence across all areas identified as well as additional verification work where considered necessary; and

Consideration of evidence obtained through the work detailed above and the work completed as part of our audit of the financial statements in order to support the regularity conclusion.

In line with the Framework and guide for external auditors and reporting accountants of academy trusts issued April 2023, we have not performed any additional procedures regarding the Trust's compliance with safeguarding, health and safety and estates management.

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

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.

Bishop Fleming LLP

Bishop Fleming LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Salt Quay House
4 North East Quay
Sutton Harbour
Plymouth
PL4 0BN

Date: 14 December 2023

THE DUCHY ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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	-	40,339	58,034	98,373	538,685
Other trading activities	7	43,761	-	-	43,761	35,863
Investments	8	84	-	-	84	46
Charitable activities	5	265,771	2,637,544	-	2,903,315	2,834,995
Total income		309,616	2,677,883	58,034	3,045,533	3,409,589
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	9	3,280	-	-	3,280	2,391
Charitable activities	10	71,463	2,973,786	130,338	3,175,587	3,254,223
Total expenditure		74,743	2,973,786	130,338	3,178,867	3,256,614
NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE)		234,873	(295,903)	(72,304)	(133,334)	152,975
Transfers between funds	20	(205,335)	205,335	-	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		29,538	(90,568)	(72,304)	(133,334)	152,975
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	27	-	362,000	-	362,000	2,344,000
Net movement in funds		29,538	271,432	(72,304)	228,666	2,496,975
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		200,157	(313,327)	5,348,857	5,235,687	2,738,712
Net movement in funds		29,538	271,432	(72,304)	228,666	2,496,975
Total funds carried forward		229,695	(41,895)	5,276,553	5,464,353	5,235,687

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 28 to 57 form part of these financial statements.

THE DUCHY ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
REGISTERED NUMBER:08842867

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note		2023 £		2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	16		**5,072,796**		4,966,271
Current assets					
Stocks	17	**4,721**		3,830	
Debtors	18	**74,518**		300,829	
Cash at bank and in hand	24	**687,554**		753,849	
		766,793		1,058,508	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	**(222,236)**		(343,092)	
Net current assets			**544,557**		715,416
Total assets less current liabilities			**5,617,353**		5,681,687
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	27		**(153,000)**		(446,000)
Total net assets			**5,464,353**		5,235,687
Funds of the Trust					
Restricted funds:					
Fixed asset funds	20	**5,276,553**		5,348,857	
Restricted income funds	20	**111,105**		132,673	
Restricted funds excluding pension liability	20	**5,387,658**		5,481,530	
Pension reserve	20	**(153,000)**		(446,000)	
Total restricted funds	20		**5,234,658**		5,035,530
Unrestricted income funds	20		**229,695**		200,157
Total funds			**5,464,353**		5,235,687

The financial statements on pages 25 to 57 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:

Laetitia Mayne
Chair of Trustees
Date: 7 December 2023

Antony Fugill
Accounting Officer

The notes on pages 28 to 57 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 provided by operating activities	22	**37,588**	239,093
Cash flows from investing activities	23	**(103,883)**	90,499
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**(66,295)**	329,592
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		**753,849**	424,257
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	24, 25	**687,554**	753,849

The notes on pages 28 to 57 form part of these financial statements

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Duchy Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, company number: 08842867. The registered office is 24 Saltash Road, Callington, Cornwall, United Kingdom, PL17 7EF.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

2.1 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 accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

2.2 GOING CONCERN

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Trust to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the 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, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

2.3 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.

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

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

- **Donated fixed assets (excluding transfers on conversion or into the Trust)**
  Where the donated good is a fixed asset it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Trust's accounting policies.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.4 EXPENDITURE

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

- **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.

2.5 INTEREST RECEIVABLE

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Trust; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.6 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.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.7 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

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

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Long-term leasehold property	- 2% straight line - buildings, 125 years straight line - land
Furniture and fixtures	- 20% straight line
Motor vehicles	- 25% reducing balance
Computer equipment	- 3 years straight line

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of financial activities.

2.8 STOCKS

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost is based on the cost of purchases on a first in first out basis.

2.9 DEBTORS

Trade and other debtors with not stated interest rate and due within one year are recorded at the amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be received. Prepayments are valued at the amount paid.

2.10 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account and cash on deposit that has a notice period of less than 30 days.

2.11 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.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.12 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 18. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 19. 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.

2.13 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. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.14 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 Trustees.

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.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

Transfers are made between restricted funds and restricted fixed asset funds where restricted funds are used to purchase fixed assets.

3. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND AREAS OF JUDGEMENT

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The 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 27, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 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.

Critical areas of judgement:

The Trust obtains use of fixed assets as a lessee. The classification of such leases as an operating or finance lease requires the Trust to determine, based on an evaluation of the terms and conditions of the arrangements, whether it retains or acquires the significant risks and rewards of ownership of these assets and accordingly whether the lease requires an asset and liability to be recognised in the Balance Sheet.

4. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	-	40,339	-	**40,339**
Capital Grants	-	-	58,034	**58,034**
	-	40,339	58,034	**98,373**

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations	3,600	26,488	4,800	34,888
Capital Grants	-	-	503,797	503,797
	3,600	26,488	508,597	538,685

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Education	265,771	2,637,544	**2,903,315**

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Education	198,171	2,636,824	2,834,995

Following clarification in the AAD, nursery activities which were previously separately identified as their own charitable activity have now been included within Educational Activities reported throughout the accounts.

6. FUNDING FOR THE TRUST'S CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
EDUCATION			
DFE/ESFA GRANTS			
General Annual Grant	-	2,247,117	**2,247,117**
Other DfE/ESFA Grants			
Pupil Premium	-	124,522	**124,522**
PE & Sports Premium	-	52,160	**52,160**
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	47,395	**47,395**
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	57,248	**57,248**
	-	2,528,442	**2,528,442**
OTHER GOVERNMENT GRANTS			
Local Authority Income	-	11,601	**11,601**
High Needs	-	33,769	**33,769**
Nursery Funding	215,795	-	**215,795**
	215,795	45,370	**261,165**
Other income from the Trust's education	49,976	-	**49,976**
COVID-19 ADDITIONAL FUNDING (DFE/ESFA)			
Schools Supplementary Grant	-	63,732	**63,732**
	-	63,732	**63,732**
	265,771	2,637,544	**2,903,315**

6. FUNDING FOR THE TRUST'S CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
EDUCATION			
DFE/ESFA GRANTS			
General Annual Grant	-	2,263,160	2,263,160
Other DfE/ESFA Grants			
Pupil Premium	-	129,698	129,698
PE Sports Premium	-	52,310	52,310
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	54,921	54,921
Teachers Pay and Pension Grants	-	6,206	6,206
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	27,023	27,023
	-	2,533,318	2,533,318
OTHER GOVERNMENT GRANTS			
Local Authority Income	-	57,316	57,316
High Needs	-	19,635	19,635
Nursery Funding	154,550	-	154,550
	154,550	76,951	231,501
Other income from the Trust's education	43,621	-	43,621
COVID-19 ADDITIONAL FUNDING (DFE/ESFA)			
Schools Supplementary Grant	-	26,555	26,555
	198,171	2,636,824	2,834,995

7. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Lettings	680	**680**	1,000
Fees received	31,385	**31,385**	17,921
Other	11,696	**11,696**	16,942
	43,761	**43,761**	35,863

All prior year figures relate to unrestricted income.

8. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Bank interest	84	**84**	46

All prior year figures relate to unrestricted income.

9. EXPENDITURE

	Staff Costs 2023 £	Premises 2023 £	Other 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Expenditure of fundraising activities				
Direct costs	-	-	3,280	**3,280**
Education				
Direct costs	2,091,525	110,518	222,905	**2,424,948**
Allocated support costs	386,351	137,898	226,390	**750,639**
	2,477,876	248,416	452,575	**3,178,867**

9. EXPENDITURE (CONTINUED)

	Staff Costs 2022 £	Premises 2022 £	Other 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Expenditure of fundraising activities				
Direct costs	-	-	2,391	2,391
Education				
Direct costs	2,046,620	119,146	230,601	2,396,367
Allocated support costs	495,277	149,513	213,066	857,856
	2,541,897	268,659	446,058	3,256,614

10. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	**Support costs 2023 £**	**Total funds 2023 £**
Education	2,424,948	750,639	**3,175,587**

	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £	Support costs 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Education	2,396,367	857,856	3,254,223

10. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Pension finance costs	**7,000**	17,000
Staff costs	**386,351**	495,277
Depreciation	**19,820**	24,346
Staff development	**6,581**	7,893
Other costs	**51,004**	55,091
Recruitment and support	**1,538**	1,661
Maintenance of premises and equipment	**35,587**	32,472
Cleaning	**21,205**	18,278
Rent and rates	**8,305**	17,921
Energy costs	**34,246**	36,329
Insurance	**13,777**	14,635
Security and transport	**4,958**	5,530
Catering	**81,793**	66,446
Office overheads	**22,857**	17,234
Legal and professional	**18,861**	22,054
Bank interest and charges	**215**	698
Educational consultancy	**1,026**	413
Governance costs	**35,515**	24,578
	750,639	857,856

11. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Operating lease rentals	**4,464**	6,672
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	**130,338**	143,492
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	**11,090**	10,600
- other services	**4,660**	4,450

12. STAFF

a. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	**1,893,117**	1,750,522
Social security costs	**155,256**	142,300
Pension costs	**429,503**	633,027
	2,477,876	2,525,849
Staff restructuring costs	**-**	16,048
	2,477,876	2,541,897

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy payments	**-**	16,048

b. SPECIAL STAFF SEVERANCE PAYMENTS

All redundancy payments in 2022 were voluntary.

c. STAFF NUMBERS

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Teachers	**31**	29
Admin and support	**52**	52
Management	**2**	2
	85	83

12. STAFF (CONTINUED)

d. 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	**1**	1

e. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The key management personnel of the Trust comprise the Trustees (who do not receive remuneration for their role as Trustees) and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Trust was £146,467 (2 personnel) (2022: £139,678, 2 personnel).

13. CENTRAL SERVICES

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

- Business and finance
- School improvement support and management

The Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

Pupil numbers (amounting to ESG income per school).

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Boyton Primary School	**20,956**	19,639
Callington Primary School	**91,308**	79,775
Lewannick Primary School	**26,690**	25,060
TOTAL	**138,954**	124,474

14. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

The Headteacher and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Headteacher and staff under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as Trustees. Other Trustees did not receive any payments, from the Trust in respect of their role as Trustees. The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows: A Fugill: Remuneration £65,000 to £70,000 (2022: £60,000 - £65,000) Employer's Pension Contributions £15,000 - £20,000 (2022: £15,000 - £20,000).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in Note 30.

During the year, retirement benefits were accruing to 1 Trustees (2022 - 1) in respect of defined benefit pension schemes.

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

15. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 (2022: £5,000,000) on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £995 (2022 - £995). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

16. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Long-term leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
COST					
At 1 September 2022	**5,789,591**	**459,597**	**260,095**	**44,255**	**6,553,538**
Additions	**216,148**	**20,715**	**-**	**-**	**236,863**
At 31 August 2023	**6,005,739**	**480,312**	**260,095**	**44,255**	**6,790,401**
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 September 2022	**847,079**	**451,812**	**247,497**	**40,879**	**1,587,267**
Charge for the year	**102,829**	**15,607**	**11,058**	**844**	**130,338**
At 31 August 2023	**949,908**	**467,419**	**258,555**	**41,723**	**1,717,605**
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 August 2023	**5,055,831**	**12,893**	**1,540**	**2,532**	**5,072,796**
At 31 August 2022	4,942,512	7,785	12,598	3,376	4,966,271

17. STOCKS

	2023 £	2022 £
Raw materials and consumables	**4,721**	3,830

18. DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
Trade debtors	**6,312**	18,461
Other debtors	**1,719**	2,700
Prepayments and accrued income	**58,915**	250,441
VAT recoverable	**7,572**	29,227
	74,518	300,829

19. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	**29,449**	179,461
Other taxation and social security	**37,493**	32,956
Other creditors	**47,971**	99,787
Accruals and deferred income	**107,323**	30,888
	222,236	343,092

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	**32,590**	38,515
Resources deferred during the year	**29,025**	32,590
Amounts released from previous periods	**(32,590)**	(38,515)
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	**29,025**	32,590

Deferred income relates to funding received in advance relating to Universal Infant Free School Meals.

20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
General Fund	200,157	309,616	(74,743)	(205,335)	-	229,695
RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	36,477	2,247,117	(2,488,929)	205,335	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	124,522	(124,381)	-	-	141
Higher Needs	3,246	33,769	(35,131)	-	-	1,884
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	47,395	(46,876)	-	-	519
PE and Sports	-	52,160	(46,614)	-	-	5,546
Other restricted funds	66,395	51,940	(41,875)	-	-	76,460
Other ESFA Grants	26,555	57,248	(57,248)	-	-	26,555
Schools Supplementary Grant	-	63,732	(63,732)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(446,000)	-	(69,000)	-	362,000	(153,000)
	(313,327)	2,677,883	(2,973,786)	205,335	362,000	(41,895)

20. 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						
Fixed assets transferred on conversion	4,300,597	-	(85,270)	-	-	4,215,327
DFC transferred on conversion	7,349	-	(175)	-	-	7,174
Assets purchased from GAG	33,793	-	(2,818)	-	-	30,975
Capital Improvement Fund (CIF)	893,152	-	(26,692)	-	-	866,460
Devolved formula capital (DFC)	84,764	17,640	(5,119)	-	-	97,285
Other capital grants	21,402	40,394	(4,064)	-	-	57,732
Donated Fixed Assets	7,800	-	(6,200)	-	-	1,600
	5,348,857	58,034	(130,338)	-	-	5,276,553
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	5,035,530	2,735,917	(3,104,124)	205,335	362,000	5,234,658
TOTAL FUNDS	5,235,687	3,045,533	(3,178,867)	-	362,000	5,464,353

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

Restricted Funds

General Annual Grant - Income from the ESFA which is to be used for the normal running costs of the Trust, including education and support costs.

Pupil Premium - Represents funding received from the ESFA for children that qualify for free school meals to enable the academy to address the current underlying inequalities between those children and their wealthier peers.

Higher Needs - Funding received by the Local Authority to support students with additional needs.

Teachers Pay and Pension Grant - funding to support the Trust with the cost of the increase in pay and employer contributions to the Teachers Pension Scheme.

20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Universal Infant Free School Meals - Funding received in order to meet its obligations to provide free school meals to all pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2.

PE and Sports Grant - Funding received from the ESFA to make additional and sustainable improvements to the quality of PE and sport we offer.

Other restricted funds - This represents other restricted funding for the normal running of the Trust, including education and support costs.

Other ESFA - This represents other ESFA funding including Recovery Premium and SLED Tutoring income.

Schools Supplementary Grant - This represents additional DfE funding to provide support for the costs of the Health and Social Care Levy and wider costs.

Pension reserve – This represents the Trust's share of the assets and liabilities in the Local Government Pension Scheme. As with most pension schemes this is currently in deficit due to an excess of scheme liabilities over scheme assets which was inherited on conversion to an Academy Trust. A transfer has been posted in the year to bring the pension reserve in line with the associated liability.

Fixed Asset Funds

Fixed Assets Transferred on Conversion – This represent the buildings and equipment donated to the school from the Local Authority on conversion to an academy.

Devolved Formula Capital on conversion – This represents the income due from the Local Authority on conversion to an Academy Trust to fund capital projects.

Fixed Assets Purchased from GAG - This represents funds transferred from the restricted funds to purchase fixed assets.

Capital Improvement Fund (CIF) - This respresents funding from the ESFA for specific capital projects

Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) - This represents funding from the ESFA to cover the maintenance and purchase of the Trust's assets.

Other capital grants – This represents restricted income received from various sources to fund capital projects.

Donated fixed assets - This represents the net book value of assets donated to the Trust.

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.

20. 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 Fund	77,531	237,680	(109,012)	(6,042)	-	200,157
RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	42,447	2,263,160	(2,296,446)	27,316	-	36,477
Pupil Premium	-	129,698	(129,698)	-	-	-
Higher Needs	2,772	19,635	(19,161)	-	-	3,246
Universal Infant Free School Meals	4,196	54,921	(59,117)	-	-	-
PE and Sports	52,112	52,310	(104,422)	-	-	-
Covid Catch Up Premium	2,481	-	(2,481)	-	-	-
Other restricted funds	22,147	83,804	(39,556)	-	-	66,395
Other ESFA Grants	-	53,578	(27,023)	-	-	26,555
Teachers Pay and Pension Grants	-	6,206	(6,206)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(2,440,000)	-	(320,000)	(30,000)	2,344,000	(446,000)
	(2,313,845)	2,663,312	(3,004,110)	(2,684)	2,344,000	(313,327)

20. 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						
Fixed assets transferred on conversion	4,385,881	-	(85,284)	-	-	4,300,597
DFC transferred on conversion	7,524	-	(175)	-	-	7,349
Assets purchased from GAG	41,734	-	(10,625)	2,684	-	33,793
Capital Improvement Fund (CIF)	446,458	485,968	(39,274)	-	-	893,152
Devolved formula capital (DFC)	69,525	17,829	(2,590)	-	-	84,764
Other capital grants	14,704	-	656	6,042	-	21,402
Donated Fixed Assets	9,200	4,800	(6,200)	-	-	7,800
	4,975,026	508,597	(143,492)	8,726	-	5,348,857
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	2,661,181	3,171,909	(3,147,602)	6,042	2,344,000	5,035,530
TOTAL FUNDS	2,738,712	3,409,589	(3,256,614)	-	2,344,000	5,235,687

20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

TOTAL FUNDS ANALYSIS BY ACADEMY

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Boyton Primary School	**27,170**	30,117
Callington Primary School	**114,924**	130,166
Lewannick Primary School	**198,706**	172,547
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	**340,800**	332,830
Restricted fixed asset fund	**5,276,553**	5,348,857
Pension reserve	**(153,000)**	(446,000)
TOTAL	**5,464,353**	5,235,687

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**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Boyton Primary School	286,729	38,790	22,626	49,135	**397,280**
Callington Primary School	1,405,069	192,585	142,429	148,172	**1,888,255**
Lewannick Primary School	373,406	32,715	44,119	86,937	**537,177**
Central Services	32,902	142,261	731	34,173	**210,067**
TRUST	2,098,106	406,351	209,905	318,417	**3,032,779**

20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2022 £
Boyton Primary School	260,311	60,422	48,899	52,916	422,548
Callington Primary School	1,282,161	194,830	82,994	154,605	1,714,590
Lewannick Primary School	346,006	29,998	70,802	66,023	512,829
Central Services	35	99,027	1,906	42,187	143,155
TRUST	1,888,513	384,277	204,601	315,731	2,793,122

21. 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	-	-	5,072,796	**5,072,796**
Current assets	229,695	258,449	278,649	**766,793**
Creditors due within one year	-	(147,344)	(74,892)	**(222,236)**
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(153,000)	-	**(153,000)**
TOTAL	229,695	(41,895)	5,276,553	**5,464,353**

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	-	-	4,966,271	4,966,271
Current assets	200,157	475,765	382,586	1,058,508
Creditors due within one year	-	(343,092)	-	(343,092)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(446,000)	-	(446,000)
TOTAL	200,157	(313,327)	5,348,857	5,235,687

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the year (as per Statement of financial activities)	**(133,334)**	152,975
ADJUSTMENTS FOR:		
Depreciation	**130,338**	143,492
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	**(58,034)**	(503,797)
Interest receivable	**(84)**	(46)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	**49,000**	277,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	**20,000**	43,000
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	**(891)**	1,542
Decrease in debtors	**226,311**	80,235
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	**(195,718)**	44,692
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	**37,588**	239,093

23. CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £	2022 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	**84**	46
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**(162,001)**	(224,234)
Capital grants from DfE Group	**58,034**	314,687
NET CASH (USED IN)/PROVIDED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES	**(103,883)**	90,499

24. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	**687,554**	753,849

25. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	**753,849**	**(66,295)**	**687,554**

26. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements	**134,569**	120,434

27. 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 Cornwall 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 2019.

Contributions amounting to £44,766 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022 - £38,820) 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.

27. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

VALUATION OF THE TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 26 October 2023. The key elements of the previous valuation as at 31 March 2016 which was effective for the year ended 31 August 2023 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 eanings. 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 2020 valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024 and effective until 31 March 2027. The employer contribution rate for this period will be 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy).

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £220,161 (2022 - £215,206).

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) for 2016 and www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2023/10/valuation-result.aspx for 2020.

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 £194,000 (2022 - £181,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £151,000 (2022 - £140,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 43,000 (2022 - £40,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 12.5 per cent for employers and 5-12.5 per cent for employees.

As described in note the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Trust at the balance sheet date.

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.

27. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

PRINCIPAL ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

	2023	2022
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	**2.95**	3.05
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	**2.95**	3.05
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	**5.2**	4.25

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	**18.4**	21.3
Females	**24.1**	23.9
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	**21.9**	22.5
Females	**25.3**	25.6

27. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

SHARE OF SCHEME ASSETS

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

	At 31 August 2023 £	At 31 August 2022 £
Equities	**1,282,000**	1,220,000
Debt instruments	**839,000**	741,000
Property	**163,000**	174,000
Cash	**47,000**	44,000
TOTAL MARKET VALUE OF ASSETS	**2,331,000**	2,179,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £35,000 (2022 - £(128,000)).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of financial activities are as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Current service cost	**(200,000)**	(418,000)
Interest income	**96,000**	36,000
Interest cost	**(116,000)**	(79,000)
TOTAL AMOUNT RECOGNISED IN THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	**(220,000)**	(461,000)

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

	2023 £	2022 £
AT 1 SEPTEMBER	**2,625,000**	4,567,000
Current service cost	**200,000**	418,000
Interest cost	**116,000**	79,000
Employee contributions	**43,000**	40,000
Actuarial losses	**(486,000)**	(2,468,000)
Benefits paid	**(14,000)**	(11,000)
AT 31 AUGUST	**2,484,000**	2,625,000

27. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

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

	2023 £	2022 £
AT 1 SEPTEMBER	**2,179,000**	2,097,000
Interest income	**96,000**	36,000
Actuarial gains/(losses)	**(124,000)**	(124,000)
Employer contributions	**151,000**	141,000
Employee contributions	**43,000**	40,000
Benefits paid	**(14,000)**	(11,000)
AT 31 AUGUST	**2,331,000**	2,179,000

28. 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 £	2022 £
Not later than 1 year	**5,077**	6,672
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	**19,177**	1,668
	24,254	8,340

29. MEMBERS' LIABILITY

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

30. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Owing to the nature of the Trust's operations and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which Trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022 and with the Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

No related party transactions took place in the period of account other than certain Trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 14.