

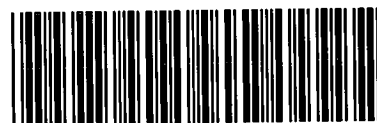
Registered number: 09378112

The Moorlands Primary Federation

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

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ACCOUNTANTS

The Moorlands Primary Federation (A Company Limited by Guarantee)
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The Moorlands Primary Federation (A Company Limited by Guarantee)
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Reference and Administrative Details

Members	Mr P Chell Ms K Hulse Mr JS Ratcliffe
Trustees	Mr N Chesters, Chair of Trustees ¹ Mrs M Bateman Mr B Fabi Ms K Hulse ¹ Dr S Langridge Mr J S Ratcliffe ¹ Mr L Yates ¹ Mr F Martin Miss L Wainwright Mrs J McFarlane Mr J Eccles, Executive Head Teacher, Accounting Officer (resigned 8 December 2022) ¹ Mr A Brayford (resigned 8 December 2022) ¹ Rev S Symons (resigned 31 August 2023) ¹ Members of the HR and Finance Committee
Company registered number	09378112
Company name	The Moorlands Primary Federation
Principal and registered office	St Werburgh's C.E.(A) Primary School Holt Lane Kingsley Stoke-on-Trent Staffordshire ST10 2BA
Senior management team (up to 31/08/2023)	J Eccles, CEO A Brayford, Executive Principal S Carr, Trust Business Manager M Eyden, Deputy Business Manager C Broome, School Leader Dilhorne Endowed C. E. Primary School N Ainsworth, School Leader St. Werburgh's C.E. Primary School A Kirk, School Leader Bishop Rawle CofE Primary School B Adamson, School Leader Great Wood Community Primary School C Bould, School Leader The Valley Primary School (Joined 1 September 2022) L O'Sullivan, School Leader Hollinsclough Church of England Academy

The Moorlands Primary Federation (A Company Limited by Guarantee)
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Reference and Administrative Details (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Independent auditors Dains Audit Limited
Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
Suite 2, Albion House
2 Etruria Office Village
Forge Lane
Etruria
Stoke on Trent
ST1 5RQ

Bankers Lloyds Bank
PO Box 1000
Andover
BX1 1LT

Solicitors Geldards
Pride Place
Derby
DE24 8QR

**The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**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 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report and strategic report under company law.

The academy trust operates an academy for pupils aged 4-11 serving a catchment area of the Staffordshire Moorlands. Each school has a capacity of:

St. Werburgh's C. E. Primary School – Number in role (NOR): 153 PAN: 24
Bishop Rawle C. E. Primary School – NOR: 147 PAN: 30
Dilhorne Endowed C. E. Primary School – NOR: 47 PAN: 12
The Valley Primary School – NOR: 47 (including Nursery) PAN: 9
Great Wood Primary School – NOR: 112 PAN: 15
Hollinsclough C E Academy – NOR: 31 PAN: 8
Manifold C E Academy - NOR: 55 PAN: 8

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The Moorlands Primary Federation (TMPF) was incorporated on September 1st 2015 as a company limited by guarantee (company number 9378112) and an exempt charity. On September 1st 2015, St. Werburgh's C. E. Primary School, Dilhorne Endowed C. E. Primary School and The Valley Primary School converted from Local Authority schools to The Moorlands Primary Federation. The Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) was formed with the agreement of the full Governing Body and adoption of the Memorandum and Articles of Association. On September 1st 2017, two additional schools joined the MAT: Great Wood Primary School (as a converter academy) and Bishop Rawle C. E. Primary School (as a sponsored academic) at the request of the Diocese of Lichfield, Staffordshire Local Authority, and the Department for Education. On June 1st 2022, Hollinsclough C. E. Academy and Manifold C. E. Academy joined The Moorlands Primary Federation from The Praxis Trust. The Charitable Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust.

The Directors (Trustees) of The Moorlands Primary Federation are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company is known as The Moorlands Primary Federation. Details of the Directors and Members who served throughout the year, except as noted, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

The academy trust has opted into the Department for Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000.

**The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023**

Structure, governance and management (continued)

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

Directors (Trustees) are appointed by our Members. The term of office for any Director is four years and thereafter they may be re-appointed. The make-up of the Board includes experienced professionals, many of whom have a detailed understanding of the operational and legal requirements of running a large institution. It is desirable for new Directors to bring a track record of governance with them.

Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

An induction programme is in place for new Directors which enables them to gain an understanding of the ethos, values and strategic direction of the Company, as well as the responsibilities of charity Directors. Directors are also encouraged to make visits to each Academy and participate in governance training programmes.

Organisational structure

The Moorlands Primary Federation has established a unified governance structure to enable its efficient running. The structure consists of five members and thirteen Directors. The Trust Board is then divided into the following committees:

- Human Resources and Finance;
- Pupil Welfare and Achievement;
- Premises, Health and Safety;
- Admissions, Appeals and Discipline.

The aim of the governance structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Directors are responsible for making major decisions about the strategic direction of the Company, ensuring that its aims are met and its ethos is maintained. Specifically, this includes setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the Company's financial performance and educational outcomes, making senior staff appointments and approving major investment programmes.

The Trust Leadership Team (FLT) consist of the School Leaders at each Academy, Trust Business Manager and Executive Principal/CEO. This team are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Academies, in particular organising the teaching staff, facilities and pupils.

A comprehensive scheme of delegated authority laid down by the Directors defines the various limits of financial commitment which can be incurred by the leadership team. It also sets out how detailed financial management should be carried out in each Academy.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The performance management and remuneration of TMPF Principal/School Leaders (subject to teachers pay and conditions) senior administration staff is led by the Trust CEO/Executive Principal and pay awards subject to HR and Finance Committee approval. The Trust CEO/Executive Principal is subject to external performance management by a suitably qualified professional and pay awards are also subject to HR and Finance Committee approval. TMPF reviews its Pay Policy annually seeking advice from an independent Human Resources Advisor 'PHRP'.

The Moorlands Primary Federation (A Company Limited by Guarantee)
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Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Structure, governance and management (continued)

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

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

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time	£
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Total cost of facility time	-
Total pay bill	3,203,120
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	- %

Paid trade union activities

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

St. Werburgh's C. E. Primary School 'houses' the Kingsley Kingfishers Before and After school Care Club plus nursery on its grounds. This organisation is privately operated and a lease (including fees) is in place between The Moorlands Primary Federation and the private organisation. This model is replicated at Dilhorne Endowed C. E. Primary School with the same organisation. Bishop Rawle C. E. Primary School also has similar provision onsite in two separate buildings operated by Pathways private nursery. This arrangement also has a lease including fees.

The Moorlands Primary Federation (A Company Limited by Guarantee)
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Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Our Values

Trust – Trust lies at the heart of all relationships. *By trusting in God we ourselves become trustworthy just as He is.*

Psalm 20:7 - 'Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God'.

Mindful – Being mindful of others leads to a heart of compassion; compassion leads to a desire to act for the good of all.

1 Peter 3:8 - 'Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers and sisters, be compassionate and humble'.

Peace – Peace and harmony lead to a stable and secure community where all are nurtured and can flourish.

Matthew 5:19 - 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.'

Friendship – Barriers are broken down in a loving, friendly community based around God.

Ecclesiastes 4:10 - 'If one falls down, a friend can lift him up'.

(NB - Italic text refers to our Anglican schools only.)

The aims of our Trust are as follows:

The aims of The Moorlands Primary Federation Multi-Academy Trust are:

- To provide high-quality education in each of our academies; instilling a passion and enjoyment of learning and enable children to make a positive contribution to their world.
- To serve our respective Parishes and communities and fulfil the Statement of Entitlement from the Board of Education/ National Society * in offering an education rooted in faith, shared Christian Values, and love. *
- To secure the financial future of all our academies, ensure the Trust is robust, including the exploration of new business partnerships.
- As a DfE accredited Academy Sponsor and Teaching Hub partner, offer other schools in need, strategic leadership and a 'system' of school improvement.

*Refers to our Anglican schools

The Moorlands Primary Federation (A Company Limited by Guarantee)
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Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

Objectives, strategies and activities

The current objectives of The Moorlands Primary Federation Multi-Academy Trust:

- We will offer a revised, bespoke, broad, balanced and interesting curriculum that provides high-quality learning opportunities.
- Every child will have personalised and realistic-yet-challenging attainment targets and their progress towards these will be regularly monitored and reviewed.
- Each school will have a School Leader who will be responsible for the day-to-day leadership and management of each setting. In our larger schools, we will support School Leaders with Deputies/Assistants, and/or Senior Leaders, and/or Key Stage Leaders.
- School Leaders and leadership teams will be accountable to the Executive Principal, or Principal, who will in turn be accountable to The Moorlands Primary Federation Trust Board.
- Appropriate academy policies will be shared across the Multi Academy Trust (MAT) to avoid unnecessary repetition, to support staff workload, and to ensure best practice. The uniqueness of all schools, however, will always be celebrated.
- Our Trust Subject Leaders (TSL) and the school-specific Subject Co-ordinators whom they lead, will monitor and develop strategies to raise standards. This system also applies to the Trust SENDs Leader and school-specific Welfare Co-ordinators. Their work will be organised via strategic plans and frequently reviewed. The TSLs will report to the Executive Principal/Principal and the Pupil Welfare, Learning and Achievement Committee.
- Highly-skilled Learning Support Assistants will be deployed to facilitate learning of individuals, small groups and classes.
- Schools will offer parents/carers regular insightful information on their child's academic achievement and instruction on how best to support them further.
- The assessment of all children will be fit-for-purpose, thorough, accurate, and will lead future learning.

Public benefit

Consideration has been given to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit when reviewing these objectives, aims and activities.

**The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023**

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

Key performance indicators

Due to the effect of the Covid-19 virus pandemic, formal end-of-year assessments were unvalidated and data was not published. Ofsted resumed inspecting schools and three TMPF schools were inspected. School Ofsted gradings are as follows:

School	Ofsted grading
St. Werburgh's C E Primary School	'Outstanding' March 2012
The Valley Primary School	'Good' June 2018
Hollinsclough C E Primary Academy	'Good' July 2018
Manifold C E Primary Academy	'Good' June 2018
Bishop Rawle C E Primary School	'Good' Feb 2022
Great Wood Primary School	'Good' Feb 2022
Dilhorne Endowed C E Primary School	'Good' May 2022

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of Trustees (directors) 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.

Promoting the success of the company

Under section 172(1)(a) to (f) of the Companies Act 2006, directors of a company must act in a way most likely to promote the success of the company, and in doing so must have regard to:

- the likely consequences of any decision in the long term;
- the interests of the company's employees;
- the need to foster the company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others;
- the impact of the company's operations on the community and the environment;
- the desirability of the company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct;
- the need to act fairly as between members of the company

**The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023**

Strategic report (continued)

Financial review

The Academy Trust has a strong financial governance oversight. The Academy Trust has system checks on the financial systems and procedures in place and their findings are reported back to the Trustees and Directors of the Academy Trust.

The Human Resources and Finance committee receives the comprehensive reports.

A strict scheme of delegation is adhered to.

The academy trust's key source of funding is the General Annual Grant (GAG) from the Education and skills funding agency (ESFA). Funding from the ESFA is shown as restricted funds in the statement of Financial Activities. During the year to 31 August 2023, the Academy Trust received GAG of £3,197,085 in addition to other income sources. The analysis of specific grants and income received can be seen within notes 3 to 6 to the financial statements.

During the year to 31 August 2023, total resources expended are £4,290,043 excluding depreciation. Depreciation of £284,156 has been charged during the year against the restricted fixed asset fund.

The excess of expenditure over income for the period (excluding the movement in the pension reserve and restricted fixed asset funds) was £116,375.

At the 31 August 2023, the net book value of tangible fixed assets totalled £6,253,405 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 14 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to the students of the Academy Trust.

National Tutoring Programme

Each Trust school received additional funding under the heading of 'National Tutoring Programme'. The expenditure was as follows:

St. Werburgh's C E Primary School - £5,130
The Valley Primary School - £2,500
Great Wood Primary School - £4,500
Bishop Rawle C E Primary School – £6,000
Dilhorne Endowed C E Primary School - £1,500
Manifold C E Academy – £3,500
Hollinsclough C E Academy - £4,000

All Trust schools utilised existing teaching staff to provide tuition. All DfE documentation was completed accounting for all expenditure.

Reserves policy

Any reserves are held in accordance with the requirements laid down in the Master Funding Agreement and by the Education Funding Agency. The directors will review the level of reserves and the policy for reserves annually.

Current reserves at the 31 August 2023 amount to £1,004,242 (excluding the pension reserve and restricted fixed asset fund).

The Moorlands Primary Federation (A Company Limited by Guarantee)
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Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Investment policy

The Moorlands Primary Federation has a policy on investment. It has been agreed by the directors that there is one main bank account, one investment account, and five separate imprest accounts (one for The Valley Primary School, Great Wood Primary School, Bishop Rawle C. E. Primary School, St Werburgh's C. E. Primary School and Dilhorne Endowed C. E. Primary School).

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Directors have assessed the major risks to which The Moorlands Primary Federation is exposed and are working to mitigate and eliminate these risks. In order to do this, the risk management process involves the production of a detailed risk register accompanied by a range of mitigating strategies including ensuring policies are up-to-date, and that relevant members of the Leadership Team are assigned to own each risk. The internal audit process is designed to test these mitigating strategies.

The remit of the Audit and Risk Committee (within the Finance and HR Committee) is to ensure risks are identified, and that mitigating activities are in place and audited. The directors also play a key role in risk mitigation, working alongside the CEO/Executive Principal and School Leaders to highlight exposures and ensure processes are in place for their management.

Main areas of focus are:

- Strategic and Reputational Risks;
- Operational Risks;
- Compliance Risks;
- Financial Risks.

The main risks facing the company are:

- Changes to Government policy in relation to both education and funding;
- Volatility in pupil numbers;
- Unknown issues from the two joining schools.

The overall risk register is comprehensive and deals with a wider range of matters it is regularly updated and discussed at every Human Resources and Finance Committee meeting.

Fundraising

Bishop Rawle C. E. Primary School, St. Werburgh's C. E. Primary School, Dilhorne Endowed C. E. Primary School and Great Wood Primary School all boast letting arrangements that generate regular income. Where possible, costs are standardised across the Trust. Where there is variation in charges, this is due to covering overheads such as staff or cleaning. The majority of our lettings benefit either our pupils directly or the school's local community.

Plans for future periods

The Moorlands Primary Federation remains in consultation with The Cheadle Academy regarding their joining the Trust. We have received an application by the Woodlands Federation (Talbot First School and St. Peter's C E First School) to join TMPF. We are awaiting approval from the DfE and Lichfield Diocese.

**The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023**

Funds held as custodian on behalf of others

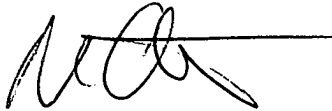
No funds are held on behalf of others.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 6 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr N Chesters
Chair of Trustees

The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Governance Statement

Scope of responsibility

As directors we acknowledge that we have overall responsibility for ensuring that The Moorlands Primary Federation 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 of loss.

The board of directors has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO/Executive Principal for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both property and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between The Moorlands Primary Federation and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns of internal control.

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

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Director's Report and the Statement of the Directors' Responsibilities. The Board (Trust Board) has met formally 4 times during the year.

The board maintains effective oversight in fewer than 6 meetings annually through the use of a subcommittee structure, including the HR and Finance subcommittee which met 5 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
Mr N Chesters, Chair of Trustees	3	4
Mrs M Bateman	4	4
Mr B Fabi	4	4
Ms K Hulse	4	4
Dr S Langridge	3	4
Mr J S Ratcliffe	4	4
Mr L Yates	3	4
Mr F Martin	3	4
Miss L Wainwright	1	4
Mrs J McFarlane	2	4
Mr J Eccles, Executive Head Teacher, Accounting Officer (resigned 8 December 2022)	2	2
Mr A Brayford (resigned 8 December 2022)	2	2
Rev S Symons	4	4

Every full Trust Board, Human Resources and Finance Committee meeting commences with a declaration of interests. Attendees with a conflict are required to leave the meeting for that agenda item. All staff and Trustees sign an annual record of pecuniary interests, which is kept up-to-date. All purchases are approved (as per our scheme of delegation) by leaders with a reference to the pecuniary interests. The Trust does not have ownership or control of any subsidiaries, joint ventures or associates.

The Trust Board undertakes an annual skills audit from The National Governance Association. We also have access to National Leaders of Governance for support. We employ an external qualified clerking service via City of Stoke-on-Trent City Council who provide expertise and CPD for all Trustees.

**The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Governance Statement (continued)

Governance (continued)

The Human Resources and Finance Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of Trustees. Its purpose includes:

- Establishing and monitoring procedures and policies for sound budgetary control;
- Reviewing and developing staffing policies and procedures;
- Reporting regularly on the schools' finances to the whole Governing Body;
- Formulating and reviewing the schools' staffing structure and reviewing pay scales on an annual basis.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Ms K Hulse	4	5
Mr J Radcliffe	5	5
Mr N Chesters	3	5
Mr J Yates	4	5
Mr J Eccles	2	2
Mr A Brayford	2	2

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the CEO/Executive Principal has responsibility for ensuring that the academy 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 could be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered value for money during the year by: ascertaining three quotations for CIF projects; comparing costs of IT equipment between potential suppliers; using the greater buying power of the MAT with SLAs. The accounting officer for the academy trust has used revenue funds to undertake service level agreements in estate management. For example: fixed and portable electrical safety testing, heating system and kitchen maintenance, independent health and safety inspections and advice.

The purpose of the system of internal control

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

The Moorlands Primary Federation (A Company Limited by Guarantee)
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Governance Statement (continued)

Capacity to handle risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the charitable company 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 on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the charitable company's significant risk that has been in place for the period 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023 and up-to-date approval of the annual report and financial statements. The process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

The risk and control framework

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

- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of Trustees;
- Regular reviews by the HR 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 (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- Identification and management of risks.;

The Board of Trustees has decided to employ VAST as internal auditor.

This option has been chosen because it provides the trust with value for money and is best suited for the size and complexity of the Federation.

Due to the revised FRC Ethical Standard for auditors, we intend to use a separate accountancy company (VAST). The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial and other systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

- testing of payroll systems;
- testing of purchase systems;
- testing of control account/ bank reconciliations.

On an half yearly basis, the reviewer reports to the board of trustees, through the HR and Finance Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities. On an annual basis the reviewer prepare a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

The reviewer has delivered the schedule of work as planned and the report contained no material areas of concern.

**The Moorlands Primary Federation
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Governance Statement (continued)

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer, the Executive Principal 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 external reviewer, VAST;
- the work of the office managers/school secretaries within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- the work of the external auditors;

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the HR 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 their behalf by:



Mr N Chesters
Chair of Trustees
Date: 6 December 2023



Mr J Eccles
Accounting Officer

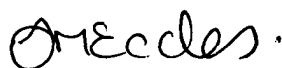
**The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

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

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

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



Mr J Eccles
Accounting Officer
Date: 6 December 2023

**The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**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:

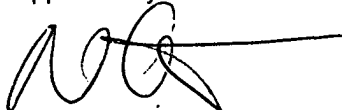
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting 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:



Mr N Chesters
Chair of Trustees
Date: 6 December 2023

**The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of The Moorlands Primary Federation

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Moorlands Primary Federation (the 'academy trust') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and 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 academy trust's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education 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 academy 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 academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

The Moorlands Primary Federation (A Company Limited by Guarantee)
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Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of The Moorlands Primary Federation (continued)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The 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 academy 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.

The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of The Moorlands Primary Federation (continued)

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the academy trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the academy trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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:

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

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

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

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

**The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of The Moorlands Primary Federation (continued)

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

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

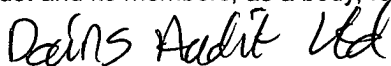
- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC, relevant regulators and the academy trust's legal advisors.

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

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 academy trust's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the academy trust's members those matters we are required to state to them in an 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 academy trust and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Simon Hawkins (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

Dains Audit Limited

Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

Suite 2, Albion House

2 Etruria Office Village

Forge Lane

Etruria

Stoke on Trent

ST1 5RQ

6 December 2023

The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Moorlands Primary Federation and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 7 October 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 Moorlands Primary Federation 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 Moorlands Primary Federation and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to The Moorlands Primary Federation 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 Moorlands Primary Federation and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of The Moorlands Primary Federation's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Moorlands Primary Federation's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 24 August 2015 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 academy trust's income and expenditure.

**The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Moorlands Primary
Federation 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.



Dains Audit Limited

Suite 2, Albion House
2 Etruria Office Village
Forge Lane
Etruria
Stoke on Trent
ST1 5RQ

Date: 6 December 2023

The Moorlands Primary Federation
(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:	3					
Transfer from existing trust on re-brokerage		-	-	-	-	3,142,727
Other donations		5,546	-	-	5,546	3,081
Capital grants		-	-	103,562	103,562	248,288
Other trading activities	4	123,508	-	-	123,508	64,454
Investments	5	6,862	-	-	6,862	1,298
Charitable activities: Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	6	-	4,002,140	-	4,002,140	3,148,364
Total income		135,916	4,002,140	103,562	4,241,618	6,608,212
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	30,449	-	-	30,449	29,690
Charitable activities	8	-	4,260,482	284,156	4,544,638	3,602,795
Total expenditure		30,449	4,260,482	284,156	4,575,087	3,632,485
Net income/ (expenditure)		105,467	(258,342)	(180,594)	(333,469)	2,975,727
Transfers between funds	17	(311,599)	306,099	5,500	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains carried forward		(206,132)	47,757	(175,094)	(333,469)	2,975,727

The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account) (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
	Note					
Net movement in funds before other recognised (losses)/gains brought forward		(206,132)	47,757	(175,094)	(333,469)	2,975,727
Other recognised gains:						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	24	-	496,000	-	496,000	1,911,000
Net movement in funds		(206,132)	543,757	(175,094)	162,531	4,886,727
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		641,548	(160,931)	6,565,830	7,046,447	2,159,720
Net movement in funds		(206,132)	543,757	(175,094)	162,531	4,886,727
Total funds carried forward		435,416	382,826	6,390,736	7,208,978	7,046,447

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

The notes on pages 29 to 61 form part of these financial statements.

The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Registered number: 09378112

Balance Sheet
As at 31 August 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	6,253,405	6,109,750
		<u>6,253,405</u>	<u>6,109,750</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	15	285,609	759,332
Cash at bank and in hand	21	1,389,806	1,264,597
		<u>1,675,415</u>	<u>2,023,929</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(533,842)	(447,232)
Net current assets		<u>1,141,573</u>	<u>1,576,697</u>
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>7,394,978</u>	<u>7,686,447</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	24	(186,000)	(640,000)
Total net assets		<u><u>7,208,978</u></u>	<u><u>7,046,447</u></u>
Funds of the academy trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	17	6,390,736	6,565,830
Restricted income funds	17	568,826	479,069
		<u>6,959,562</u>	<u>7,044,899</u>
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	17	6,959,562	7,044,899
Pension reserve	17	(186,000)	(640,000)
Total restricted funds	17	<u>6,773,562</u>	<u>6,404,899</u>
Unrestricted income funds	17	435,416	641,548
Total funds		<u><u>7,208,978</u></u>	<u><u>7,046,447</u></u>

**The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Balance Sheet (continued)
As at 31 August 2023**

The financial statements on pages 24 to 61 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:



Mr N Chesters
Chair of Trustees
Date: 6 December 2023

The notes on pages 29 to 61 form part of these financial statements.

The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	19	(105,517)	146,833
Cash flows from investing activities	20	230,726	296,106
		<u>125,209</u>	<u>442,939</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		125,209	442,939
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,264,597	821,658
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	21, 22	<u><u>1,389,806</u></u>	<u><u>1,264,597</u></u>

The notes on pages 29 to 61 form part of these financial statements

The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the academy 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.

1.2 Going concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the academy 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 academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income

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

- **Grants**

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

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

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

- **Sponsorship income**

Sponsorship income provided to the academy trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions) where receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

- **Donations**

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

- **Other income**

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

- **Transfer of existing academies into the academy trust**

Where assets and liabilities are received on the transfer of an existing academy into the academy trust, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the Balance Sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the academy trust. An equal amount of income is recognised for the transfer of an existing academy into the academy trust within 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' to the net assets acquired.

**The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023**

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Expenditure

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

- **Expenditure on raising funds**

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

- **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Taxation

The academy trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

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

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

**The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023**

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Long-term leasehold land	- 0.8% straight line
Long-term leasehold buildings	- 2% straight line
Assets under construction	- not depreciated
Motor vehicles	- 25% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	- 10% straight line
Computer equipment	- 33% straight line
Building improvements	- between 10 - 25 years

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.

1.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.8 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.

1.9 Liabilities and provisions

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

1.10 Financial instruments

The academy trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the academy trust and their measurement 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 15. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

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

The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.11 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

1.12 Pensions

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. TPS is 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 academy trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each Balance Sheet date. The amounts charged to 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.

1.13 Fund accounting

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

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by 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.

**The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023**

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

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 24, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Leasehold land and buildings

Under 125 year lease:

The long term leasehold land and buildings within the accounts relates to the academy premises which were donated to the academy on conversion on a 125 year lease from Staffordshire County Council. The leasehold land and buildings were valued using depreciated replacement cost for specialised assets. These are being depreciated in accordance with the depreciation policies set out in note 1. No annual charge is made for the use of the land and buildings under the terms of the lease, based on management not being able to reliably measure the open market rate.

2 year licence

The academy trust company occupies:

- (a) land provided to it by the Local Authority under a 125 year lease;
- (b) land provided to it by site trustees under a mere licence (also referred to as a Church Supplemental Agreement) which contains a two year notice period.

In respect of:

- (a) a figure is entered that reflects advice taken on the value of the lease;
- (b) having considered the fact that the academy trust company occupies the land and such buildings as may be or may come to be erected on it by a mere licence that transfers to the academy trust no rights or control over the site save that of occupying it at the will of the site trustees under the terms of the relevant site trust, the directors have concluded that the value of the land and buildings occupied by the academy trust company will not be recognised on the balance sheet of the company.

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(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations	5,546	-	-	5,546	3,081
Capital Grants	-	-	103,562	103,562	248,289
Transferred from existing MAT	-	-	-	-	3,142,726
Total 2023	5,546	-	103,562	109,108	3,394,096
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>100,207</i>	<i>196,388</i>	<i>3,097,501</i>	<i>3,394,096</i>	

4. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Teachers insurance income	724	724	10,828
Music services	7,525	7,525	120
Lettings income	36,645	36,645	17,589
Training and consultancy income	-	-	1,800
Other income	78,614	78,614	34,117
	123,508	123,508	64,454
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>64,454</i>	<i>64,454</i>	

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Investment income	6,862	6,862	1,298
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>1,298</u>	<u>1,298</u>	

The Moorlands Primary Federation
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Notes to the Financial Statements
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6. Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
DfE/ESFA grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	3,197,085	3,197,085	2,600,301
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
Pupil premium	176,800	176,800	136,901
Universal infant free school meals	81,739	81,739	75,004
PE Grant	117,000	117,000	84,053
Other ESFA grants	80,779	80,779	-
Schools supplementary grant	89,048	89,048	38,303
	-	3,742,451	2,934,562
Other Government grants			
Local authority grants	33,300	33,300	13,521
Special educational projects	127,652	127,652	89,938
	160,952	160,952	103,459
Other income from the academy trust's direct costs	98,737	98,737	83,562
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)			
Covid Catch Up Premium	-	-	26,781
	4,002,140	4,002,140	3,148,364
Total 2022	3,148,364	3,148,364	

The academy trust received £Nil (2022 - £26,781) of funding for Covid Catch-up premium and incurred costs in respect of this funding totalling £Nil (2022 - £36,525), the remaining balance is £Nil (2022 - £Nil).

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

7. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2023 £	Premises 2023 £	Other 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Direct costs	30,449	-	-	30,449	29,690
Academy's educational operations:					
Direct costs	2,635,317	-	292,496	2,927,813	2,444,909
Support costs	537,354	359,132	720,339	1,616,825	1,157,886
	<u>3,203,120</u>	<u>359,132</u>	<u>1,012,835</u>	<u>4,575,087</u>	<u>3,632,485</u>
Total 2022	<u>2,700,893</u>	<u>191,673</u>	<u>739,919</u>	<u>3,632,485</u>	

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Educational operations	<u>2,927,813</u>	<u>1,616,825</u>	<u>4,544,638</u>	<u>3,602,795</u>
Total 2022	<u>2,444,909</u>	<u>1,157,886</u>	<u>3,602,795</u>	

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Staff costs	2,635,317	2,245,823
Depreciation	32,190	28,806
Educational supplies	49,688	34,014
Technology costs	43,041	34,323
Educational consultancy	22,556	7,957
Other costs	145,021	93,986
	<u>2,927,813</u>	<u>2,444,909</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Pension finance costs	27,000	39,000
Staff costs	537,354	425,380
Depreciation	251,966	178,764
Catering	238,646	180,909
Staff development	10,496	4,154
Technology costs	56,315	40,261
Consultancy	71,072	21,523
Other costs	60,100	62,830
Maintenance of premises and special facilities	52,106	34,649
Cleaning and caretaking	33,915	13,259
Rates	10,691	8,824
Energy	181,547	77,313
Legal and professional	38,367	32,674
Transport	3,787	1,780
Other premises costs	43,463	36,566
	<u><u>1,616,825</u></u>	<u><u>1,157,886</u></u>

9. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £	<i>2022 £</i>
Operating lease rentals	5,789	12,686
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets :		
- owned by the charity	284,156	207,570
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	16,500	12,700
- other services	3,550	3,450
	<u><u>299,995</u></u>	<u><u>233,806</u></u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements
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10. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	2,341,029	1,875,505
Social security costs	214,265	172,679
Pension costs	576,374	617,972
	<u>3,131,668</u>	<u>2,666,156</u>
Agency staff costs	71,452	34,737
	<u><u>3,203,120</u></u>	<u><u>2,700,893</u></u>

b. Staff numbers

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Teaching staff	30	22
Administration and support	64	54
Management	10	10
	<u>104</u>	<u>86</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements
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10. Staff (continued)

c. 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
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	-	1
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	1	-

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £784,955 (2022 - £632,102). Readers of the financial statements should be mindful of the fact that the 2022 figure includes remuneration for key management personnel for only three months in respect of the two new academies that joined the trust on 1 June 2022.

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**Notes to the Financial Statements
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11. Central services

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

- Finance services;
- Professional services; and
- Human resources

The academy trust charges for these services on the following basis:

- 12% of General Annual Grant (GAG) for Hollinsclough CofE Academy and Manifold CofE Academy
- 19% of GAG for the other schools.

The lower level of charges to Hollinsclough CofE Academy and Manifold CofE Academy reflects the lower level of central services provided by the Federation to these academies.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
St Werburgh's C.E. Primary School	123,908	127,270
Dilhorne Endowed C.E. Primary School	66,691	56,761
The Valley Primary School	63,611	57,704
Bishop Rawle CofE Primary School	117,582	122,471
Great Wood Community Primary School	100,043	110,808
Hollinsclough Church of England Academy	43,363	6,223
Manifold Church of England Academy	41,028	6,066
Total	556,226	487,303

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

		2023 £	2022 £
Mr J Eccles, Executive Head Teacher, Accounting Officer	Remuneration	25,000 -	85,000 -
		30,000	90,000
	Pension contributions paid	5,000 -	20,000 -
		10,000	25,000
Mr A Brayford, Staff Trustee	Remuneration	15,000 -	60,000 -
		20,000	65,000
	Pension contributions paid	0 - 5,000	15,000 -
			20,000

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

13. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

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

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Long-term leasehold property £	Building improve- ments £	Assets under construction £	Fixture and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost or valuation							
At 1 September 2022	3,989,782	2,608,312	55,145	87,060	197,435	23,981	6,961,715
Additions	-	395,322	-	17,060	9,929	5,500	427,811
Transfers between classes	-	55,145	(55,145)	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2023	3,989,782	3,058,779	-	104,120	207,364	29,481	7,389,526
Depreciation							
At 1 September 2022	239,806	421,143	-	36,434	130,601	23,981	851,965
Charge for the year	54,794	180,061	-	15,507	32,190	1,604	284,156
At 31 August 2023	294,600	601,204	-	51,941	162,791	25,585	1,136,121
Net book value							
At 31 August 2023	3,695,182	2,457,575	-	52,179	44,573	3,896	6,253,405
At 31 August 2022	3,749,976	2,187,169	55,145	50,626	66,834	-	6,109,750

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15. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	16,584	3,890
Other debtors	-	215,895
Prepayments and accrued income	203,503	493,634
Tax recoverable	65,522	45,913
	<u>285,609</u>	<u>759,332</u>

16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	244,939	202,979
Other taxation and social security	47,018	46,540
Other creditors	60,794	64,543
Accruals and deferred income	181,091	133,170
	<u>533,842</u>	<u>447,232</u>

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred Income		
Deferred income at 1 September	56,905	48,245
Resources deferred during the year	106,510	56,905
Amounts released from previous periods	(56,905)	(48,245)
	<u>106,510</u>	<u>56,905</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance for grants that relate to the 2023/24 academic year.

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

17. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
Unrestricted funds	641,548	135,916	(30,449)	(311,599)	-	435,416
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	121,430	3,197,085	(3,075,529)	306,099	-	549,085
Pupil Premium	-	176,800	(176,800)	-	-	-
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	81,739	(81,739)	-	-	-
PE grant	-	117,000	(117,000)	-	-	-
Schools supplementary grant	-	89,048	(89,048)	-	-	-
Other ESFA grants	-	80,779	(80,779)	-	-	-
Other income	20,251	132,037	(132,547)	-	-	19,741
Transferred from existing MAT	337,388	-	(337,388)	-	-	-
AEN/HCN Funding	-	127,652	(127,652)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(640,000)	-	(42,000)	-	496,000	(186,000)
	(160,931)	4,002,140	(4,260,482)	306,099	496,000	382,826

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

17. 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						
Donations from local authority	2,387,400	-	(118,282)	-	-	2,269,118
Transferred from existing MAT	2,846,238	-	(11,898)	(175,386)	-	2,658,954
Other DfE capital grants	1,130,744	69,139	(104,113)	175,386	-	1,271,156
Devolved Formula Capital	143,939	34,423	(23,162)	-	-	155,200
Capital expenditure from ESFA start up grant	15,681	-	(3,003)	-	-	12,678
Capital expenditure from GAG	22,814	-	(4,367)	-	-	18,447
Capital expenditure from general funds	19,014	-	(19,331)	5,500	-	5,183
	<u>6,565,830</u>	<u>103,562</u>	<u>(284,156)</u>	<u>5,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,390,736</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>6,404,899</u>	<u>4,105,702</u>	<u>(4,544,638)</u>	<u>311,599</u>	<u>496,000</u>	<u>6,773,562</u>
Total funds	<u><u>7,046,447</u></u>	<u><u>4,241,618</u></u>	<u><u>(4,575,087)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>496,000</u></u>	<u><u>7,208,978</u></u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements
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17. Statement of funds (continued)

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

Unrestricted General Funds

This fund represents those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted General Funds

This fund represents grants received for the academy trust's operational activities and development.

Pension reserve

This fund represents the academy trust's share of the pension liability arising on the LGPS pension fund.

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds

These funds relate to grant funding received from the ESFA to carry out works of a capital nature and also the donation of the leasehold land and buildings from the local authority on a 125 year lease and a small amount of capital expenditure from GAG and other government grants.

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

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Notes to the Financial Statements
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17. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2021 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2022 £</i>
Unrestricted funds						
Unrestricted funds	505,279	165,959	(29,690)	-	-	641,548
Restricted funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	75,842	2,600,301	(2,548,227)	(6,486)	-	121,430
Pupil Premium	-	136,901	(136,901)	-	-	-
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	75,004	(75,004)	-	-	-
PE grant	78,413	84,053	(162,466)	-	-	-
Schools supplementary grant	-	38,303	(38,303)	-	-	-
Other income	18,029	83,562	(81,340)	-	-	20,251
Covid catch-up premium	9,744	26,781	(36,525)	-	-	-
Transferred from existing MAT	-	337,388	-	-	-	337,388
Local authority grants	-	13,521	(13,521)	-	-	-
Special educational products	-	89,938	(89,938)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(2,197,000)	(141,000)	(213,000)	-	1,911,000	(640,000)
	<u>(2,014,972)</u>	<u>3,344,752</u>	<u>(3,395,225)</u>	<u>(6,486)</u>	<u>1,911,000</u>	<u>(160,931)</u>

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17. Statement of funds (continued)

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2021 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2022 £</i>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Donations from local authority	2,450,840	-	(63,440)	-	-	2,387,400
Transferred from existing MAT	-	2,849,212	(2,974)	-	-	2,846,238
Other DfE capital grants	1,013,287	213,622	(96,815)	650	-	1,130,744
Devolved Formula Capital	136,917	34,667	(27,645)	-	-	143,939
Capital expenditure from ESFA start up grant	19,184	-	(3,503)	-	-	15,681
Capital expenditure from GAG	23,478	-	(10,300)	5,836	-	19,014
Capital expenditure from general funds	25,707	-	(2,893)	-	-	22,814
	<u>3,669,413</u>	<u>3,097,501</u>	<u>(207,570)</u>	<u>6,486</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,565,830</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>1,654,441</u>	<u>6,442,253</u>	<u>(3,602,795)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,911,000</u>	<u>6,404,899</u>
Total funds	<u><u>2,159,720</u></u>	<u><u>6,608,212</u></u>	<u><u>(3,632,485)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>1,911,000</u></u>	<u><u>7,046,447</u></u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

17. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
St. Werburgh's C.E. Primary School	44,212	118,083
Dilthorne Endowed C.E. Primary School	115,148	119,151
The Valley Primary School	14,396	50,119
Bishop Rawle CofE Primary School	181,372	199,123
Great Wood Community Primary School	98,406	141,544
Hollinsclough CofE Academy	327,964	239,099
Manifold CofE Academy	173,003	223,893
Federation funds	49,741	29,605
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	1,004,242	1,120,617
Restricted fixed asset fund	6,390,736	6,565,830
Pension reserve	(186,000)	(640,000)
Total	7,208,978	7,046,447

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

17. Statement of funds (continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
St. Werburgh's C.E. Primary School	577,547	54,537	8,183	156,498	796,765	643,725
Dilhorne Endowed C.E. Primary School	235,459	49,779	3,413	63,672	352,323	336,037
The Valley Primary School	275,290	44,948	4,327	90,059	414,624	378,465
Bishop Rawle CofE Primary School	473,332	67,903	9,651	184,000	734,886	640,175
Great Wood Community Primary School	391,766	98,851	7,991	127,418	626,026	567,469
Hollinsclough CofE Academy	180,562	28,438	6,977	78,529	294,506	81,543
Manifold CofE Academy	230,554	54,594	7,776	197,702	490,626	93,038
Federation costs	228,807	168,753	1,370	140,245	539,175	471,463
Academy trust	2,593,317	567,803	49,688	1,038,123	4,248,931	3,211,915

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

18. 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	-	-	6,253,405	6,253,405
Current assets	435,416	1,102,668	137,331	1,675,415
Creditors due within one year	-	(533,842)	-	(533,842)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(186,000)	-	(186,000)
Total	435,416	382,826	6,390,736	7,208,978

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	-	-	6,109,750	6,109,750
Current assets	641,548	926,301	456,080	2,023,929
Creditors due within one year	-	(447,232)	-	(447,232)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(640,000)	-	(640,000)
Total	641,548	(160,931)	6,565,830	7,046,447

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

19. 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)	(333,469)	2,975,727
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	284,156	207,570
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(103,562)	(248,288)
Interest receivable	(6,862)	(1,298)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	15,000	174,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	27,000	39,000
Increase in debtors	(74,390)	(28,829)
Increase in creditors	86,610	171,677
Funds transferred from existing MAT	-	(3,142,726)
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	(105,517)	146,833

20. Cash flows from investing activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	6,862	1,298
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(427,811)	(124,586)
Capital grants received from DfE Group	435,825	160,355
Cash acquired from transferor MAT	215,850	259,039
Net cash provided by investing activities	230,726	296,106

21. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand and at bank	1,389,806	1,264,597
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,389,806	1,264,597

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22. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,264,596	125,211	1,389,807
	<u>1,264,596</u>	<u>125,211</u>	<u>1,389,807</u>

23. Capital commitments

	2023 £	2022 £
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	<u>16,043</u>	<u>365,400</u>

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24. Pension commitments

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £60,692 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022 - £55,024) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

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24. Pension commitments (continued)

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £333,000 (2022 - £269,000).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £257,000 (2022 - £205,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £211,000 (2022 - £165,000) and employees' contributions totalled £46,000 (2022 - £40,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 24.2 per cent for employers and 5.5 - 12.5 per cent for employees.

The LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the academy 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 academy 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 and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on GOV.UK.

Principal actuarial assumptions

Staffordshire Pension Fund

	2023	2022
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.50	3.45
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.00	3.05
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.20	4.25
Commutation of pensions to lump sums - post 1 April 2008	N/A	75
Commutation of pensions to lump sums - pre 1 April 2008	N/A	50
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	60	N/A

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

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24. Pension commitments (continued)

	2023 Years	2022 Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	20.7	21.2
Females	23.9	23.8
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	21.8	22.2
Females	25.3	25.5

Sensitivity analysis of the defined benefit obligation

Staffordshire Pension Fund

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Discount rate +0.1%	(58)	(69)
Discount rate -0.1%	58	69
Life expectancy - 1 year increase	112	124
Life expectancy - 1 year decrease	(112)	(124)
Salary increase rate -0.1%	(8)	(8)
Salary increase rate +0.1%	8	8
Pension rate +0.1%	51	62
Pension rate -0.1%	(51)	(62)

Share of scheme assets

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	At 31 August 2023 £	At 31 August 2022 £
Equities	1,745,000	1,766,000
Corporate bonds	599,000	392,000
Property	208,000	221,000
Cash and other liquid assets	52,000	74,000
Total market value of assets	2,604,000	2,453,000

The actual return on scheme assets was a gain of £34,000 (2022 - loss of £47,000).

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24. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Current service cost	(226,000)	(339,000)
Interest income	109,000	36,000
Interest cost	(136,000)	(75,000)
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	(253,000)	(378,000)

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

	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 September	3,093,000	4,239,000
Transferred in on existing academies joining the trust	-	432,000
Current service cost	226,000	339,000
Interest cost	136,000	75,000
Employee contributions	46,000	40,000
Actuarial gains	(670,000)	(1,999,000)
Benefits paid	(41,000)	(33,000)
At 31 August	2,790,000	3,093,000

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

	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 September	2,453,000	2,042,000
Transferred in on existing academies joining the trust	-	291,000
Interest income	109,000	36,000
Actuarial losses	(174,000)	(88,000)
Employer contributions	211,000	165,000
Employee contributions	46,000	40,000
Benefits paid	(41,000)	(33,000)
At 31 August	2,604,000	2,453,000

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25. Operating lease commitments

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Not later than 1 year	3,889	3,749
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	1,020	4,649
	<u>4,909</u>	<u>8,398</u>

26. Members' liability

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

27. Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust 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 the trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education - a company which is a member of the Federation.

The Academy Trust purchased services from Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education totaling £1,513 (2022 - £1,283) during the year. There were no amounts outstanding as at 31 August 2023 (2022 - £nil).

In entering into the transactions the Academy Trust has complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022 in relation to related party transactions.

Related employees and trustees

S Yates, spouse of L Yates, a trustee, is employed by the academy trust as a teaching assistant. S Yates' appointment was made in open competition and L Yates was not involved in the decision-making process regarding appointment. S Yates is paid within the normal pay scale for her role and receives no special treatment as a result of her relationship to a trustee.

L Keeling, partner of A Brayford, a trustee, is employed by the academy trust as a Teacher / Assistant School Leader. L Keeling's appointment was made in open competition and A Brayford was not involved in the decision-making process regarding her appointment. L Keeling is paid within the normal pay scale for her role and receives no special treatment as a result of her relationship to a trustee.