

**Barnet Special Education
Trust**

**Annual Report and Financial
Statements**

31 August 2023

Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number
10034425 (England and Wales)



Barnet Special Education Trust



celebrate uniqueness

Contents

Reports

| | |
|--|----|
| Reference and administrative information | 1 |
| Trustees' report | 2 |
| Governance statement | 14 |
| Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance | 19 |
| Statement of trustees' responsibilities | 20 |
| Independent auditor's report on the financial statements | 21 |
| Independent reporting accountant's report on regularity | 26 |

Financial statements

| | |
|--|----|
| Consolidated statement of financial activities | 28 |
| Balance sheets | 29 |
| Consolidated statement of cash flows | 30 |
| Principal accounting policies | 31 |
| Notes to the financial statements | 37 |

Reference and administrative details

Members
Judith Charlesworth
Anne Etherington
Desiree Lodge-Patch
Steve Palmer

Trustees
Judith Charlesworth (Chair)
Ola Ajadi
Tom Burns
Dr. Laura Crane (Resigned June 2023)
Janet Dobney
Rachel Rai (Appointed November 2023)
Lynda Walker (CEO)
Richard Weisfeld
Valerie White

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Senior Leadership Team | |
| Headteacher-Oak Lodge School | Lynda Walker (CEO) |
| Headteacher-The Windmill School | Virginia D'Odorico |
| Oakbridge Provision Manager | Simon Clark |
| Business Director | Ian Kingham (CFO) |
| HR manager | Anne-Marie Dobbin |
| Estates Manager | Gayan Fernando |

Governance Professional
Deepti Bal, Education Advisory Service

Company Name
Barnet Special Education Trust

Principal and Registered Office
Oak Lodge School
Heath View
London
N2 0QY

Company Registration Number
10034425 (England and Wales)

Independent Auditor
Buzzacott LLP
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Bankers
Lloyds Bank
39 Threadneedle Street
London
EC2R 8AU

Solicitors
Stone King LLP
Boundary House
91 Charterhouse Street
London EC1M 6HR

Trustees' report 31 August 2023

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and the auditor's reports of the charitable company for the period from 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and a directors' report under company law.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 31 to 36 of the attached financial statements and comply with the Academy's memorandum and articles of association, applicable laws and 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective from accounting periods commencing 1 January 2015 or later.

Principal activities

In the reporting year, the Academy Trust operated one special academy, Oak Lodge School, which was funded by ESFA for 200 places for children and young people aged 11-19. At the last school census taken in May 2023 there were 207 students on roll.

The Academy Trust has also established a subsidiary company, Oakbridge Special Education, to manage a Specialist Post-16 Institution as a separate entity providing special FE education places funded for 26 young adults aged 19-24 with Education, Health and Care Plans.

During the course of this reporting period, construction work, funded by DfE began on a site for the proposed Windmill School to open in 2023-24. This will be an autism specialist free school for up to 90 pupils aged from 5 through to 19. The Windmill School opened in temporary accommodation at Dollis Primary School, Mill Hill on 1st September 2023. Subject to a successful construction period, the permanent High Barnet site is expected to be handed over to the Trust in February 2024.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. The trustees of Barnet Special Education Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as Barnet Special Education Trust.

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

Members' liability

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

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Trustees' indemnities

Governors' Indemnity Insurance (including Professional Liability) is provided through the Department for Education Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) and provides unlimited cover.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

Trustees were originally selected and recruited by members from local governors, supplemented by suitable contacts from personal and professional networks. Trustees have been nominated and appointed by the above-named members of the Trust with a view to ensuring an appropriate range of specific skills, for example; finance, personnel, education and law. The collective skill, experience and ability of the Board is subject to regular review, supported by our Governance Professional and making use of specialist governance recruitment agencies and wider professional networks where further appointments become required. Corresponding procedures have been applied this year to strengthen and broaden the membership of the Oak Lodge Local Governing Body, and to prepare for the establishment of a separate Local Governing Body for The Windmill School.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

Induction and training procedures for trustees and local governors are in place and take the form of dedicated training meetings with senior leaders and the Trust's governance professional, signposting the key documentation and assessment of skills, supported by external training supplied by London Borough of Barnet and Buzzacott LLP. The CEO, Business Director and Governance Professional monitor training requirements and identify relevant courses which fit with the Trust's objectives and priorities.

Organisational structure

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

- ◆ The Members meet annually and at other times as required with a role to ensure the Trust fulfils its founding principles, appoint Trustees, receive the company's annual report and accounts, and appoint external auditors.
- ◆ The Board of Trustees meet at least once in each academy term and steer the strategic aims of the Trust. They appoint the Chair and community governors of the Local Governing Body (LGB) committees, whilst ensuring the election of staff and parent representation to keep a general overview of the work of the Trust and its schools. As the sole corporate member of Oakbridge Special Education, they have an additional role to appoint its trustees.
- ◆ The Board of Trustees have established a Finance, Audit and Risk Committee as a direct sub-committee of the Board, in full accordance with the Academy Trust Handbook. This committee has a majority of trustees in its membership but may also include a minority number of appointed local governors. This sub-committee meets as a minimum, three times per year, but at other times as required to ensure the Board has sufficient and confident oversight of the financial performance and regularity compliance of Trust activities.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Organisational structure (continued)

- ◆ The LGBs of Oak Lodge School, and from September 2023 of The Windmill School are sub-committees of the Trust board in accordance with the Academy Trust Handbook and composed of a blend of trustees and local governors. The Trust through its Accounting Officer (Chief Executive Officer) ensures that all statutory responsibilities are fully discharged. During the academic year LGB governors hold a minimum of three meetings; preceded by additional relevant sub-committees such as from time-to-time have been determined to be required. LGBs are responsible for operational oversight of the special academy and free school, monitoring staffing, educational performance, safeguarding, wellbeing and premises management.
- ◆ Barnet Special Education Trust is the sole corporate member of Oakbridge Special Education Limited. Oakbridge Special Education has its own board of trustees appointed by BSET, that include the CEO. The board meets as a separate body and reports termly to the Trustees of the MAT.

Appropriate powers and functions are delegated to the CEO and include responsibility for the internal organisation, management and control of the academy, free school and Special Post-16 Institution, the implementation of all policies approved by the Trust and Local Governing Bodies and the direction of teaching and the curriculum.

The Trust controls the activities of Oakbridge Special Education Special Post-16 Institution (SPI) whose purpose is to manage a 19-24 FE SEND provision. The BSET Multi-Academy Trust is the sole owner and has 100% control of Oakbridge Special Education as a subsidiary company formed in 2018, and approved by ESFA to run as a separate legal entity.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The key management personnel of Barnet Special Education Trust are the trustees, local governors and the senior leadership team of The Trust as outlined on page 1. The remuneration of these key personnel is managed, approved and is benchmarked against comparable roles in other schools by the CEO/Headteacher in line with the Finance Policies Scheme of Delegation, the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document and the National Joint Council for Local Government Services Pay and Conditions Document (Green Book). An external adviser is appointed annually to support local governors and trustees in the appraisal of the CEO/Headteacher. The Headteacher makes arrangements for the annual appraisal or performance management of all other executive members of the leadership group in accordance with current regulation.

TRADE UNION FACILITES TIME

As the only open academy of the Trust, Oak Lodge School purchased Trade Union Facilities Time for the accounting period as a traded service supplied by Barnet Education and Skills service at a cost of £434.70 for the year to 31st March 2023. This service provides a cost-effective access route for statutory and collective consultation and bargaining through branch officials from NUT, NASUWT, Unison and GMB unions. The arrangement provides access to a framework for academies to manage industrial relations and largely eliminates or at least reduces the need to establish, agree and coordinate release arrangements and paid time off for duties and training.

TRADE UNION FACILITIES TIME (continued)

Relevant union officials

| Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period | Full-time equivalent employee number |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 0 | 0 |

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

| | |
|--|---|
| Total cost of facility time | £435 |
| Total pay bill | £4,446,752(OLS & OBR) + £46,177 (TWS) =£4,492,929 |
| Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time | 0.0097% |
| (total cost of facility time + total pay bill) x 100 | |

Paid trade union activities

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

Trustees have made reference to Statutory Instrument 2017 No. 328, The Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements Regulations 2017 to calculate the details outlined above.

RELATED PARTIES AND OTHER CONNECTED CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

The Multi-Academy Trust has one open special academy, Oak Lodge School.

The Trust controls the activities of Oakbridge Special Education whose purpose is to manage a special 19-24 FE SEN provision, recognised by ESFA as a Special Post-16 Institution (SPI). The Multi-Academy Trust is the sole member of the subsidiary company, which is now recognised as an exempt charity. The CEO of the Trust is an appointed director/trustee.

Oak Lodge School is a member of the MOON partnership of special schools and academies in the Barnet area. However, there are no aspects of this arrangement that impact directly on operational policies of the Trust.

RELATED PARTIES AND OTHER CONNECTED CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS (continued)

The activities and charitable objects of the Trust are supported through its relationship with the Hearts of Oak charity foundation, originally established by parents and carers of children at the formerly maintained special school; but that is now offering charitable financial support to both Oak Lodge School, The Windmill School and Oakbridge Special Education, the Specialist Post-16 Provision.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and Aims

The Trust's objectives are to advance education for the public benefit, by establishing, maintaining, and carrying on schools specially organised to make special educational provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs.

Objectives, strategies and activities

- ◆ Our curriculum should be rigorous, relevant and personalised to meet a wide range of individual special needs.
- ◆ Teaching should be consistently outstanding, accessible and autism-inclusive, to enable all students, whatever their learning needs, to demonstrate excellent progress.
- ◆ The Trust in all its provisions, will embrace an eclectic range of interventions appropriate for the education of teaching young people with Autistic Spectrum Conditions by committing to the SCERTS model.
- ◆ Parents and families should be fully engaged in the learning community of the Trust and its provisions.
- ◆ Provision accommodation should offer a positive environment that promotes independent learning for all, including those with physical disabilities.
- ◆ Staff across the Trust and Oakbridge Special Education will have access to high quality professional development and contribute wherever possible to evidence-based research, supporting the wider development of special educational needs provision.
- ◆ Provisions within the Trust and Oakbridge Special Education will be active members in their networks, partnerships and alliances, promoting collaborative exchange of knowledge, skills and experience, in order to help all of us be the best we can be.

Public Benefit

In setting the Group's objectives and planning its activities, the Board of Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

Fundraising statement

The Academy Trust only undertakes direct fundraising activities in relation to parental donations towards food technology lessons or educational visits. Trustees and school leaders ensure that parental donations of this kind are sought within the guidance and regulation of education and charity law and that they confirm to standards of current best practice. This means that due consideration will always be given to the economic challenges faced by many families with children and young people attending its provisions, and that pupil or student participation in any educational opportunity is not contingent on parental donation.

Given the nature of funding undertaken by the Trust we have not subscribed to any specific codes of practice and have received no complaints in respect of our fundraising activities in the reporting year.

However, the charitable purposes of the Trust and its educational provisions are also supported by a separate charity, 'Hearts of Oak', set up and independently run by a group of former and current parents of children and young people at Oak Lodge School, and Oakbridge Special Education.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievements and Performance

1. The Trust and its executive leadership have continued to maintain a strong working relationship with the London Borough of Barnet (LBB) as its main commissioner of places. Thanks to the financial investment of the local authority prior to conversion, Oak Lodge has reaped the benefit of attractive and relatively spacious accommodation as a special academy. The school continues to operate at full capacity and has discussed options for further expansion with Barnet LA should that become required.
2. Oak Lodge has continued to offer high quality special educational needs provision that meets the needs of a wide range of moderate, to severe and complex learner presentations. This is enabled through high levels of staff support, reinforced with high quality professional development opportunities that foster the skills to effectively engage learners to achieve high levels of progress relative to their prior attainment. The quality of provision was re-affirmed through a Section 8 Ofsted inspection in September 2019 that found the school continued to be Outstanding.
3. Whilst few learners at Oak Lodge present the academic capacity to fully access Level 1 or 2 GCSE qualifications, those that can are entered for subjects where they have particular strengths. A small number of students achieved GCSE grades in Art & Design during 2023, whilst the majority also achieved Entry Level qualifications in English, Maths and vocational learning. Further Entry Level qualifications were also gained in Physical Education, Art, Music and Drama.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Achievements and Performance (continued)

4. The Trust is equally aware of its responsibility to find ways to measure non-academic development. In particular, the special academy continues to build a reputation to promote the specialist needs of its autistic learners and has taken a leading role at local and regional level to promote the highly specialist and therapeutically developed SCERTS® intervention model that encourages social interaction and communication, emotional self-regulation and transactional support. The special academy has continued to work in partnership with academic speech and language therapists and psychologists to implement the SCERTS® model and develop a sophisticated method of recording individual progress in these specific aspects of development and growth. Oak Lodge was awarded Advanced Status Accreditation from the National Autistic Society following their review of provision in December 2019. The NAS Panel Committee concluded the school was clearly a centre of expertise in the education of autistic young people. The school's most recent NAS review took place in May 2023, where it was once again awarded Advanced Status – one of only 72 schools in the country to have achieved this prestigious award.
5. The Trust's project to open an all-age special free school made successful progress during 2023. The school's funding agreement was finally approved in July and The Windmill School opened on 1st September 2023 in specially converted temporary accommodation at Dollis Primary School in Mill Hill NW7. The new school is exclusively focussed on children and young people whose sensory sensitivities associated with their autism make it difficult to make progress in accordance with their potential in the busy environments of mainstream or generic special schools. A programme of refurbishment and construction on a permanent home for the school in High Barnet EN5 began in January 2023, with building handover due in February 2024.
6. The Trust continues to be outward looking in its support for system leadership. The Headteacher of Oak Lodge and CEO of the Trust supports the national school's inspection framework through service as an Ofsted inspector of special and primary schools.
7. Oak Lodge continues its partnership work with the MOON alliance of Barnet special schools that has now been joined by The Windmill School.
8. The Windmill School has also been accepted into the Pan London Autism Schools Network (PLASN) that joins specialist autism schools to ensure meaningful and evidence-based practice in autism education.
9. Oak Lodge contributes to the Challenge Partners peer quality assurance scheme and is part of the London Hub with over 60 other special schools. Following its participation in the 'Growing the Top' programme last academic year, it has opted to have a full Challenge Partner Review which is scheduled for May 2024. Senior leaders are also scheduled to take part in similar reviews in other special schools during this year. This provides robust professional development opportunities and supports strong succession planning for the Trust as a whole.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Key Performance Indicators

Under the Companies Act 2006, a strategic report must include an analysis against key financial performance indicators, and where appropriate, further analysis of other key strategic performance indicators, relevant to the successful operation of the Academy Trust.

The Academy Trust uses a number of benchmarks or performance indicators to evaluate its financial performance and drive budgetary control and monitoring.

A key financial performance indicator for the Trust is the level of reserves held at the balance sheet date and, in particular, the value of unrestricted reserves plus restricted income reserves at year end. At 31 August 2023, the balance of total reserves of the Trust was £863k (2022: £749k). These values exclude reserves held in the overall group for the subsidiary company.

Staffing costs are a further key performance indicator for the Academy Trust. The percentage of staff costs to total income for the year was 72%, with a further 15% on agency costs (2022: 73%; with further 16% agency costs). Senior leaders have been able to successfully negotiate for higher levels of top up payment from the local authority this year in order to mitigate rising costs for students requiring higher levels of support.

The Board note the following milestones to represent the ongoing successful performance of the Academy Trust;

♦ Oak Lodge School

- ♦ Outstanding Ofsted Inspection – September 2019
- ♦ Advanced Accreditation – National Autistic Society – May 2023
- ♦ Increased student roll to meet target of 200 by 2020-2021, and oversubscribed in 2022-23.
- ♦ Successful recovery curriculum implementation following post-pandemic full re-opening of schools

♦ The Windmill School

- ♦ Full local planning authority approval for the permanent site of the school
- ♦ Supplemental Funding Agreement by Secretary of State in July 2023
- ♦ School open with first admissions in September 2023.

Going concern

Government funding grants for the academy year 2023/24 are confirmed for both schools, as are the additional High Needs Top Up payments from our commissioning local authorities agreed for each individual pupil or student on roll in our provisions.

The Trust has regained its modest regular income from lettings activities at Oak Lodge School following the turbulence of the pandemic years.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Going concern (continued)

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the principal accounting policies on pages 31 to 36.

Financial review

Financial report for the year

Net income for the year was £173k (2022 – £513k net expenditure) before any movements on the defined benefit pension scheme. The actuarial gain on the defined benefit pension scheme was £485k (2022 – £2,194k).

The Group had total funds of £9,647k (2022 – £8,989k) at the balance sheet date, including a fixed asset fund of £8,679k (2022 – £8,870k) and a deficit on the pension reserve of £155k (2022 – £696k). Excluding these funds, the Group had £1,123k (2022 – £815k) of free reserves at 31 August 2023 including £685k (2022 – £526k) of unrestricted funds and £233k of GAG carried forward (2022 – £84k) at the year end.

Funds ringfenced for Oakbridge Special Education amount to £168k (2022 – £66k).

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

Risks are defined as uncertain future events that might prevent the academy trust from achieving its objectives. The trustees therefore ensure that it has in place the means to identify, analyse, control and monitor the strategic and operational risks it faces through its Fraud Policy, Risk Register & Business Continuity Plan.

Reserves policy

Trustees review the reserves of the Trust to ensure that they are adequate to meet the needs of the Trust. Schools trading as academies are expected to hold contingency reserves from their annual funding or other income. The trustees require a revenue reserve to be created to:

- ◆ mitigate risk of income variations from individual pupil top-up funding;
- ◆ maintain a consistent and sustainable workforce, as staffing costs are such a large proportion of revenue expenditure; and
- ◆ fund other expenditure, including capital expenditure related to strategic long-term aims and developments.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Financial review (continued)

Reserves policy (continued)

The policy of the Trust is to carry forward a prudent level of resources designed to meet the long-term cyclical needs of renewal and any other unforeseen contingencies, subject to the constraint that the level of resources does not exceed that permitted by the DfE. Trustees aim to maintain a level of reserves that is broadly equivalent to a minimum of one month and a maximum of three months' staffing costs. As at 31 August 2023, the Trust had revenue reserves including unrestricted and restricted revenue funds of £978k (2022 – £749k). At the same time, the broader group reserve, including that of Oakbridge Special Education has increased from £770k at 31 August 2021 to £815k. Overall reserves remain correspondent with, but at the reserves policy of the Trust in that they would cover approximately 1.5 months of staffing costs.

Investment policy

Trustees have determined to review opportunities for some modest investment of reserve funds in 2023—24 in view of the currently favourable interest rates; both in accordance with their Investment Policy and the Academy Trust Handbook.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

Strategic risks

1. That trustees do not ensure rigorous monitoring is undertaken in the absence of the Headteacher and/or Business Director

The Board has appointed an external supplier for its internal scrutiny and risk management programme. This has successfully and significantly increased the information available to the Board enabling it to ensure sound financial and risk management going forward. There continues to be monthly provision of full management accounts to members of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee that meet for a minimum of 3 times per year; and to the wider Board in accordance with the Academy Trust Handbook. Trustees will continue to consider annually the arrangements for internal scrutiny, having regard to the quality of external supply of such services. There will continue to be an external audit at least once per year. For long term Finance Officer absence, external support will be instigated to ensure continuity of operation.

Financial risks

2. Risk that funding levels are too low or high:

The principal risk here lies with the potential volatility of High Needs Top Up funding that varies according to each individual learner's assessed needs. There is a risk that needs can change, that learners will leave the Trust, or that new learners will be enrolled at a top up level that is higher or lower than the learner they replace on the school roll. The Chief Finance Officer will keep High Needs top-up funding forecast under monthly review and notify any changes to trustees, Headteacher and local governors.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES (continued)

Estates Management

3. Sector Compliance Risk:

Risk that legislative requirements are not known or complied with in relation to trustees' responsibilities to ensure its estate is safe, well maintained and compliant with relevant regulation. Executive leaders have appointed an external and independent health and safety expert supplier to advise on risk management and statutory compliance. An Estates Manager has been appointed to coordinate management operations across the sites operated by the Trust.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

- ◆ The Trust will continue to have regard to all guidance as from time to time issued by DfE and public health authorities in relation to safe operating procedures.
- ◆ Support continued mental health and wellbeing across our provisions as 'Trauma Informed Schools'. This will include a broad range of enrichment activities to support more academic elements of the provision for learning, including the re-instatement of an educational visits programme for all.
- ◆ Upskill teaching assistants through an Engagement Project in collaboration with UCL, together with a Recovery, Reset and Resilience Project initiated by Barnet Council.
- ◆ Support apprenticeship programmes to grow the teacher workforce in the light of current sector recruitment challenges.
- ◆ Assist Barnet Council in its challenge to meet the demand for special school places through expansion of existing provisions where required at Oak Lodge and Oakbridge subsidiary company.
- ◆ Work with DfE and Barnet LA to establish and grow The Windmill School in the 2023-2024 academic year, transitioning from its temporary home in Mill Hill, to its permanent High Barnet site.
- ◆ To grow as an independent specialist MAT, but remain small enough to maintain a personalised service to our communities.
- ◆ To be an outward looking organisation, committed to the quality of our governance and building on the successful trustee recruitment programme that we have undertaken this year.

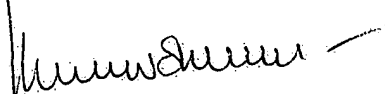
Trustees' report 31 August 2023

AUDITOR

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 4th December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Judith Charlesworth
Chair of trustees

Date: 4th December 2023

Scope of responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Barnet Special Education Trust has effective and appropriate systems of control; financial and otherwise. However, such systems are designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

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

Governance

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

The Trust undertakes regular review of its skills and experience and has taken measures to strengthen governance through a programme of recruitment and induction for new trustees, and ongoing training of existing board members.

Following a tendering process, trustees have appointed Education Advisory Service to provide independent clerking and governance professional services to the Trust and its subsidiary company, with effect from 1 September 2020.

The Board keeps under review the need for additional recruitment of trustees and local governors with appropriate skills, experience and qualifications, and seeks opportunities to select the most suitable candidates from specialist recruitment agencies.

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the trustees' report and in the statement of trustees' responsibilities.

The Board of Trustees has formally met 4 times during the year. The trustees recognise the Academy Trust Handbook requirement of six meetings in year. This requirement has been fulfilled by the establishment of a Finance, Audit and Risk Committee which has formally met on 3 further occasions during the year to ensure there is sufficient regular financial oversight of operational performance. All meetings during the reporting period have been held through remote video-conferencing. Attendance during this period at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Governance (continued)

| Trustee | Meetings attended | Out of a possible |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Ola Ajadi | 2 | 4 |
| Tom Burns | 3 | 4 |
| Judith Charlesworth | 3 | 4 |
| Dr.Laura Crane | 3 | 4 |
| Janet Dobney | 4 | 4 |
| Lynda Walker | 4 | 4 |
| Richard Weisfeld | 4 | 4 |
| Val White | 4 | 4 |

The **Finance, Audit and Risk Committee** is established as a direct sub-committee of the Board of Trustees in full alignment with the Academy Trust Handbook. This committee has delegated oversight of all financial operations, risk management and assurance. Its membership includes a majority of trustees, but local governors may also serve where appointed by trustees.

Trustee (T) and local governor (LG) attendance at meetings in the year is listed below:

| Trustee/Local Governor (T/LG) | Meetings attended | Out of a possible |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Ola Ajadi (T) | 3 | 3 |
| Tom Burns (T) | 3 | 3 |
| Emmet Giltrap (LG) | 1 | 3 |
| Richard Weisfeld (T) | 2 | 3 |
| Val White (T) | 3 | 3 |

The **Oak Lodge School Local Governing Body** committee contains both trustees and local governors within its membership, to ensure the best balance of knowledge, skills and experience to meet its remit. This sub-committee of the Board of Trustees has oversight of teaching, learning, safeguarding and premises management at Oak Lodge School.

Trustee (T) and local governor (LG) attendance at meetings in the year is listed below:

| Trustee/Local Governor (T/LG) | Meetings attended | Out of a possible |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Julian Cole (LG) | 3 | 3 |
| Dr.Laura Crane (T) | 3 | 3 |
| Janet Dobney (T) | 2 | 3 |
| Emmet Giltrap (LG) | 2 | 3 |
| Anita Talwar (Parent)(LG) | 1 | 3 |
| Dr Ella Rachamim (LG) | 2 | 3 |
| Bridget Rudder (Staff LG) | 1 | 3 |
| Lynda Walker (T) | 3 | 3 |

A separate Local Governing Body for The Windmill School will be established by the Board at its first Autumn 2023 meeting.

Conflicts of interest

Barnet Special Academy trust has in place registers of declaration of interests completed and signed by Trustees, Governors and Staff. The registers are kept and maintained online on BSET website. The Trust's Financial Handbook, Staff Handbook and Conflicts of Interest Policy underpin this statutory requirement.

Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer, the Headteacher of Oak Lodge School has a responsibility to ensure 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 the academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data or by using a framework where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the Academy Trust has delivered and improved value for money during the year by:

- ◆ Keeping under review the teaching staff body, taking opportunities to refresh the workforce as natural opportunities arise and talent-spotting from the teaching assistant workforce, identifying those employees or agency contractors with the values, skills and potential to succeed in a challenging SEN environment;
- ◆ Negotiating with a broader range of staffing agencies to ensure a continuing high level of temporary or fixed-term staffing at favourable rates to the Trust;
- ◆ Entering traded services contracts with local authority suppliers to ensure continuity of service support, where these are seen to be both cost-effective and efficient; and
- ◆ Ensuring that administrative support staff have regard to current maintenance and supply contracts and services, ensuring best value are at the heart of all purchasing decisions.
- ◆ Establishing estates management practices focussed on timely preventative maintenance to ensure cost efficiencies whilst maintaining safety and regulatory compliance across the provisions managed by the Trust.

The Trust acknowledges that further work should be undertaken to achieve best value across its procurement programmes and expects to undertake further review of its purchasing arrangements as the MAT develops.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

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

Capacity to Handle Risk

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

The Board of Trustees has decided to buy-in an internal scrutiny service from Keystone Knowledge.

The internal audit service 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:

- ◆ Regularity and governance;
- ◆ Income
- ◆ Cash Management
- ◆ Purchases
- ◆ Payroll
- ◆ Fixed Assets

On a termly basis, the internal audit service reports to the board of trustees, through the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities and annually prepares an annual 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 Risk and Control Framework (continued)

The schedule of work has been delivered as planned for 2022/23. Following the report arising from the schedule of work, the Trust will be addressing the need to maintain a summary of all incoming funds and grants, earmarking and ringfencing these for certain types of expenditure against both restricted and unrestricted funds in a transparent layout.

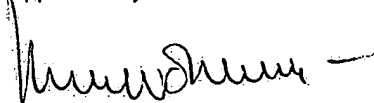
Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the Headteacher of Oak Lodge School has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the period in question, the review has been informed by:

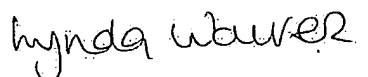
- ♦ the work of the internal scrutiny service;
- ♦ the work of the external auditor;
- ♦ the financial management and governance self-assessment process; and
- ♦ The work of executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 04/12/2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Judith Charlesworth
Trustee




Lynda Walker
Accounting Officer

Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance 31 August 2023

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

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

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



Lynda Walker
Accounting Officer

Date: 4th December 2023.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities 31 August 2023

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

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

- ◆ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ observe the methods and principles in the Charities' SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- ◆ make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ◆ state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) 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 Trust will continue in operation.

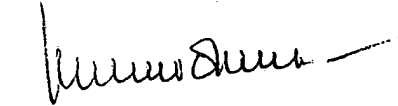
The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Trust's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Trust and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Trust 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 Trust applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from the ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 4th December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Judith Charlesworth



Chair of trustees

Independent auditor's report to the members of Barnet Special Education Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Barnet Special Education Trust (the 'charitable parent company') and its subsidiary (collectively known as the 'group') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the group statement of financial activities, the group and charitable parent company balance sheets, the group statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), 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) (the Charities SORP 2019) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- ◆ give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the charitable parent company's affairs as at 31 August 2023, and of the group's income and expenditure for the period then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial 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 group or charitable parent company'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.

Conclusions relating to going concern (continued)

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- ♦ the information given in the trustees' report, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law and includes the strategic report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- ♦ the trustees' report, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law and includes the strategic report, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company 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 group's and the charitable parent company'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 trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the charitable parent company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

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

- ◆ the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- ◆ we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the group through discussions with management, and from our knowledge of the academy trust sector;
- ◆ the 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 considered the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the group and determined that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019, the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, and the academy trust's funding agreement with the ESFA as well as legislation pertaining to safeguarding in the UK;
- ◆ we understood how the group is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making inquiries to management and those responsible for legal, compliance and governance procedures. We corroborated our inquiries through our review of the minutes of trustees' and papers provided to the trustees; and

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

- ◆ we planned and carried out a separate limited assurance engagement in respect of regularity, propriety and compliance in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts issued by the ESFA, as set out in our separate independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity.

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

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

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

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- ◆ tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- ◆ tested the authorisation of expenditure as part of our substantive testing thereon;
- ◆ assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in the accounting policies were indicative of potential bias; and
- ◆ used data analytics to identify any significant or unusual transactions and identify the rationale for them.

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;
- ◆ reviewing the minutes of trustees' meetings and subsidiary company directors' meetings;
- ◆ enquiring of management and those charged with governance as to actual and potential litigation and claims;
- ◆ reviewing any available correspondence with Ofsted, ESFA and HMRC; and
- ◆ the work undertaken in relation to the limited assurance engagement in respect of regularity, propriety and compliance in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts issued by the ESFA, as set out in our separate independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity.

Independent auditor's reports 31 August 2023

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. International Standards on Auditing also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

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 auditor's report.

Use of our report

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



Shachi Blakemore, Senior Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of Buzzacott LLP, Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Date: 08 December 2023

Independent reporting auditor's assurance report on regularity to Barnet Special Education Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 27 September 2021 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Barnet Special Education Trust during the period from 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 Barnet Special Education Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Barnet Special Education Trust and the 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 Barnet Special Education Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Barnet Special Education Trust's Accounting Officer and the reporting auditor

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Barnet Special Education Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period from 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.

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.

Independent auditor's reports 31 August 2023

Approach (continued)

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- ◆ An assessment of the risk of material irregularity and impropriety across all of the Trust's activities;
- ◆ Further testing and review of the areas identified through the risk assessment including enquiry, identification of control processes and examination of supporting evidence across all areas identified as well as additional verification work where considered necessary; and
- ◆ Consideration of evidence obtained through the work detailed above and the work completed as part of our financial statements audit in order to support the regularity conclusion.

Conclusion

In the course of our work nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period from 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.



Buzzacott LLP
Chartered Accountants
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Date: 08 December 2023

Consolidated statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account)
Year to 31 August 2023

| | Notes | Unrestricted general fund £'000 | Restricted funds | | 2023 Total funds £'000 | 2022 Total funds £'000 |
|---|-------|--|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | | General £'000 | Fixed assets fund £'000 | | |
| Income from: | | | | | | |
| Donations and capital grants | 1 | 3 | — | 72 | 75 | 14 |
| Charitable activities | | | | | | |
| · Funding for the Trust's educational operations | 2 | — | 6,475 | — | 6,475 | 5,726 |
| · Other income | 3 | 63 | 93 | — | 156 | 141 |
| Total income | | 66 | 6,568 | 72 | 6,706 | 5,881 |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | | | | | | |
| · Trust's educational operations | 5 | — | 6,270 | 263 | 6,533 | 6,394 |
| Total expenditure | 4 | — | 6,270 | 263 | 6,533 | 6,394 |
| Net income (expenditure) before transfers | | 66 | 298 | (191) | 173 | (513) |
| Gross transfers between funds | 12 | 8 | | (8) | | |
| Other recognised gains and losses | | | | | | |
| Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension scheme | 17 | — | 485 | — | 485 | 2,194 |
| Net movement in funds | | 74 | 783 | (199) | 658 | 1,681 |
| Reconciliation of funds | | | | | | |
| Total fund balances brought forward at 1 September | | 526 | (407) | 8,870 | 8,989 | 7,308 |
| Total fund balances carried forward at 31 August | | 600 | 376 | 8,671 | 9,647 | 8,989 |

All recognised gains and losses are included in the statement of financial activities.

All of the Group's activities derived from continuing operations during the above financial periods.

Balance sheets 31 August 2023

| | Notes | Group 2023 £'000 | Trust 2023 £'000 | Group 2022 £'000 | Trust 2022 £'000 |
|--|-------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Fixed assets | | | | | |
| Tangible fixed assets | 8 | 8,671 | 8,654 | 8,870 | 8,870 |
| Current assets | | | | | |
| Debtors | 10 | 231 | 336 | 173 | 318 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 1,332 | 1,037 | 763 | 520 |
| | | 1,563 | 1,373 | 936 | 838 |
| Liabilities | | | | | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 11 | (432) | (395) | (121) | (89) |
| Net current assets | | 1,131 | 978 | 815 | 749 |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | 9,802 | 9,632 | 9,685 | 9,619 |
| Defined benefit pension scheme liability | 17 | (155) | (155) | (696) | (696) |
| Total net assets | | 9,647 | 9,477 | 8,989 | 8,923 |
| Funds of the Academy | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | | | | | |
| . Fixed assets fund | 12 | 8,671 | 8,654 | 8,870 | 8,870 |
| . Restricted income fund | 12 | 531 | 378 | 289 | 223 |
| . Pension reserve | 12 | (155) | (155) | (696) | (696) |
| | | 9,047 | 8,877 | 8,463 | 8,397 |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| . General fund | 12 | 600 | 600 | 526 | 526 |
| Total funds | | 9,647 | 9,477 | 8,989 | 8,923 |

The financial statements on page 28 to 50 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 4th December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:



Judith Charlesworth
Chair of trustees

Barnet Special Education Trust
Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number: 10034425 (England and Wales)

Consolidated statement of cash flows 31 August 2023

| | Note | 2023 £'000 | 2022 £'000 |
|--|------|---------------|---------------|
| Net cash provided by operating activities | A | 561 | 11 |
| Cash flows provided by (used in) investing activities | B | 8 | (45) |
| Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period | | 569 | (34) |
| Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds: | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September | | 763 | 797 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August | C | 1,332 | 763 |

A Reconciliation of expenditure to net cash (used in) operating activities

| | 2023 £'000 | 2022 £'000 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Net expenditure for the year (as per the statement of financial activities) | 173 | (513) |
| Adjusted for: | | |
| Depreciation (note 9) | 263 | 328 |
| Capital grants from DfE and other capital income | (72) | (11) |
| Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 17) | (84) | 241 |
| Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 17) | 28 | 45 |
| (Increase) in debtors | (58) | (1) |
| Decrease (increase) in creditors | 311 | (78) |
| Net cash provided operating activities | 561 | 11 |

B Cash flows used in investing activities

| | 2023 £'000 | 2022 £'000 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets | (64) | (56) |
| Capital grants from DfE/ESFA | 72 | 11 |
| Net cash used in investing activities | 8 | (45) |

C Analysis of changes in net debt

| | 2023 £'000 | 2022 £'000 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Cash at bank and in hand | 1,332 | 763 |
| Total cash and cash equivalents | 1,332 | 763 |

Barnet Special Education Trust does not have any borrowings or lease obligations. Net debt consists therefore of the cash at bank and in hand.

Principal accounting policies 31 August 2023

Statement of 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.

Basis of preparation

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

The financial statements are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest thousand.

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated statement of financial activities and group balance sheet includes the financial statements of Barnet Special Education Trust and Oakbridge Special Education, made up to the balance sheet date. Oakbridge Special Education is ultimately under the control of Barnet Special Education Trust.

No separate statement of financial activities has been presented for the Trust alone, as permitted by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Group has adequate resources, in particular, a strong reserve base and confirmed government funding grants for the 2022/23 academic year, to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Income

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

Income (continued)

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.

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

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

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, catering income, school trips, full time nursery provision and after school club, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the Trust has provided the goods or services.

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.

Charitable activities

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

All expenditure is stated net of recoverable VAT.

Principal accounting policies 31 August 2023

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. 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 such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the Trust's depreciation policy. 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, at rates calculated to write off the cost/valuation of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful economic life, as follows:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| ♦ Inherited long leasehold buildings | 2.4% - 20% |
| ♦ Acquired long leasehold buildings and improvements | 2% per annum |
| ♦ Fixtures and fittings | 33% per annum |
| ♦ Computer equipment | 33% per annum |
| ♦ Motor vehicles | 20% per annum |

Depreciation is charged from the month of acquisition.

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.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amounts prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand. Notice deposits are included on the balance sheet as short term deposits.

Liabilities

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

Financial instruments

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

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 11. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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 12. 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. Amounts due to charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

Leased assets

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

Taxation

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

Pensions benefits

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

Pensions benefits (continued)

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in note 16, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore 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 scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date.

The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the statement of financial activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

Fund accounting

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

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, Department for Education or other funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted income funds comprise all other grants received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency, the Local Authority or other revenue funds that are given for specific purposes.

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 areas of judgement (continued)

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 16, 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 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2022. 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.

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2023

1 Donations and capital grants

| | Unrestricted funds £'000 | Restricted fixed assets funds £'000 | 2023 Total funds £'000 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Capital grants | — | 72 | 72 |
| Other donations | 3 | — | 3 |
| 2023 Total funds | 3 | 72 | 75 |

| | Unrestricted funds £'000 | Restricted fixed assets funds £'000 | 2022 Total funds £'000 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Capital grants | — | 11 | 11 |
| Other donations | 3 | — | 3 |
| 2022 Total funds | 3 | 11 | 14 |

2 Funding for the academy's educational operations

| | Unrestricted funds £'000 | Restricted funds £'000 | 2023 Total funds £'000 |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| DfE / ESFA revenue grants | | | |
| . General Annual Grant (GAG) | — | 2,329 | 2,329 |
| . Pupil Premium | — | 83 | 83 |
| . Others | — | 200 | 200 |
| | — | 2,612 | 2,612 |
| Other government grants | | | |
| . Local authority grants | — | 3,198 | 3,198 |
| . Special educational projects | — | 522 | 522 |
| | — | 3,720 | 3,720 |
| Other income from the Trust's educational operations | — | 13 | 13 |
| COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA) | | | |
| Catch-up premium | — | 130 | 130 |
| | — | 130 | 130 |
| 2023 Total funds | — | 6,475 | 6,475 |

2 Funding for the academy's educational operations (continued)

| | Unrestricted funds £'000 | Restricted funds £'000 | 2022 Total funds £'000 |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>DfE / ESFA revenue grants</i> | | | |
| · General Annual Grant (GAG) | — | 2,214 | 2,214 |
| · Pupil Premium | — | 70 | 70 |
| · Others | — | 148 | 148 |
| | — | 2,432 | 2,432 |
| <i>Other government grants</i> | | | |
| · Local authority grants | — | 2,789 | 2,789 |
| · Special educational projects | — | 427 | 427 |
| | — | 3,216 | 3,216 |
| <i>Other income from the Trust's educational operations</i> | 25 | — | 25 |
| <i>COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)</i> | | | |
| <i>Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding</i> | — | 53 | 53 |
| | — | 53 | 53 |
| 2022 Total funds | 25 | 5,701 | 5,726 |

3 Other income

| | Unrestricted funds £'000 | Restricted funds £'000 | 2023 Total funds £'000 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Hire of facilities | 63 | — | 63 |
| Catering income | — | 27 | 27 |
| Trip income | — | 66 | 66 |
| 2023 Total funds | 63 | 93 | 156 |

| | Unrestricted funds £'000 | Restricted funds £'000 | 2022 Total funds £'000 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Hire of facilities | 38 | — | 38 |
| Catering income | 29 | — | 29 |
| Trip income | 74 | — | 74 |
| 2022 Total funds | 141 | — | 141 |

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2023

4 Expenditure

| | Staff costs £'000 | Non pay expenditure Premises £'000 | Other costs £'000 | 2023 Total funds £'000 |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Charitable activities: | | | | |
| Academy's educational operations | | | | |
| . Direct costs | 4,591 | 260 | 158 | 5,009 |
| . Allocated support costs | 858 | 357 | 309 | 1,524 |
| 2023 Total funds | 5,449 | 617 | 467 | 6,533 |

| | Staff costs £'000 | Non pay expenditure Premises £'000 | Other costs £'000 | 2022 Total funds £'000 |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Charitable activities: | | | | |
| Academy's educational operations | | | | |
| . Direct costs | 4,279 | 327 | 119 | 4,725 |
| . Allocated support costs | 1,080 | 348 | 241 | 1,669 |
| 2022 Total funds | 5,359 | 675 | 360 | 6,394 |

| | 2023 Total funds £'000 | 2022 Total funds £'000 |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Net income for the year includes: | | |
| Depreciation | 263 | 328 |
| Fees payable to auditor | | |
| . Statutory audit – Group | 14 | 11 |
| . Statutory audit – Subsidiary | 5 | 3 |
| . Other services | 7 | 7 |

5 Charitable activities - academy's educational operations

| | 2023 Total funds £'000 | 2022 Total funds £'000 |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Direct costs | 5,009 | 4,725 |
| Support costs | 1,524 | 1,669 |
| | 6,533 | 6,394 |

| | 2023 Total funds £'000 | 2022 Total funds £'000 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Analysis of support costs | | |
| Support staff costs | 858 | 1,080 |
| Technology costs | 66 | 34 |
| Premises costs | 357 | 348 |
| Other support costs | 155 | 166 |
| Governance costs | 88 | 41 |
| Total support costs | 1,524 | 1,669 |

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2023

6 Staff

(a) Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

| | 2023 Total funds £'000 | 2022 Total funds £'000 |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Wages and salaries | 3,484 | 3,139 |
| Social security costs | 366 | 311 |
| Pension costs | 557 | 839 |
| | 4,407 | 4,289 |
| Supply teacher costs | 1,027 | 1,070 |
| Staff restructuring costs | 15 | — |
| | 5,449 | 5,359 |
| Staff restructuring costs comprise: | 2023 £'000 | 2022 £'000 |
| Severance payments | 15 | — |

(b) Staff numbers

The average numbers of persons (including senior management team) employed by the Academy during the period was as follows:

| Charitable activities | 2023 No. | 2022 No. |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Teachers | 36 | 34 |
| Administration and support | 74 | 65 |
| Management | 7 | 7 |
| | 117 | 106 |

(c) Higher paid staff

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

| | 2023 No. | 2022 No. |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|
| £60,001 - £70,000 | 1 | 1 |
| £70,001 - £80,000 | — | 2 |
| £80,001 - £90,000 | 1 | — |
| £90,001 - £100,000 | 1 | — |
| £110,001 - £120,000 | — | 1 |
| £120,001 - £130,000 | 1 | — |
| | 4 | 4 |

Employer pension contributions for the above amounted to £31,120 during the year (2022 – £34,704).

6 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

(d) Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Trust during the year was £852,597 (2022 – £677,121).

Headteacher and staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Headteacher and staff and not in respect of their services as trustees. Other trustees did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the academy in respect of their role as trustees. The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

| | 2023 £'000 | 2022 £'000 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Lynda Walker, Headteacher and Trustee | | |
| . Remuneration | 120-125 | 115-120 |
| . Employer's pension contributions | — | — |

During the year ended 31 August 2023 no travel and subsistence expenses were reimbursed to trustees (2022 – £nil).

7 Trustees' and Officers' insurance

The 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.

8 Tangible fixed assets

| Group | Leasehold land and buildings £'000 | Furniture and equipment £'000 | Computer equipment £'000 | Motor vehicles £'000 | Total funds £'000 |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cost/valuation | | | | | |
| At 1 September 2022 | 11,015 | 192 | 228 | 76 | 11,511 |
| Additions | — | 56 | 8 | — | 64 |
| At 31 August 2023 | 11,015 | 248 | 236 | 76 | 11,575 |
| Depreciation | | | | | |
| At 1 September 2022 | 2,222 | 187 | 197 | 35 | 2,641 |
| Charge in year | 234 | 11 | 17 | 1 | 263 |
| At 31 August 2023 | 2,456 | 198 | 214 | 36 | 2,904 |
| Net book value | | | | | |
| At 31 August 2023 | 8,559 | 50 | 22 | 40 | 8,671 |
| At 1 September 2022 | 8,793 | 5 | 31 | 41 | 8,870 |

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2023

8 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

| Academy | Leasehold land and buildings £'000 | Furniture and equipment £'000 | Computer equipment £'000 | Motor vehicles £'000 | Total funds £'000 |
|-----------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Cost/valuation | | | | | |
| At 1 September 2022 | 11,015 | 192 | 228 | 76 | 11,511 |
| Additions | — | 40 | 5 | — | 45 |
| At 31 August 2023 | 11,015 | 232 | 233 | 76 | 11,556 |
| Depreciation | | | | | |
| At 1 September 2022 | 2,222 | 187 | 197 | 35 | 2,641 |
| Charge in year | 234 | 10 | 16 | 1 | 261 |
| At 31 August 2023 | 2,456 | 197 | 213 | 36 | 2,902 |
| Net book value | | | | | |
| At 31 August 2023 | 8,559 | 35 | 20 | 40 | 8,654 |
| At 1 September 2022 | 8,793 | 5 | 31 | 41 | 8,870 |

9 Investments

Oakbridge Special Education (incorporated on 31 May 2018), a private company limited by guarantee and not having share capital, under the control of Barnet Special Education Trust. The following is a summary of the balance sheet of Oakbridge Special Education for the period ended 31 August 2023, which has been included in the consolidated financial statements.

| | 2023 £'000 | 2022 £'000 |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Fixed Assets | | |
| Tangible Assets | 17 | — |
| Current Assets | | |
| Debtors | 25 | 25 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 295 | 243 |
| | 320 | 268 |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | (169) | (202) |
| Total net assets | 168 | 66 |
| Capital and reserves | | |
| Retained profit at 1 September | 66 | 117 |
| Profit and loss account | 102 | (51) |
| Retained profit at 31 August | 168 | 66 |

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2023

10 Debtors

| | Group 2023 £'000 | Trust 2023 £'000 | Group 2022 £'000 | Trust 2022 £'000 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Trade debtors | 60 | 60 | 49 | 49 |
| VAT recoverable | 60 | 60 | 61 | 61 |
| Amounts owed by group undertaking | — | 130 | — | 170 |
| Other debtors | 77 | 59 | — | — |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 34 | 27 | 63 | 38 |
| | 231 | 336 | 173 | 318 |

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | Group 2023 £'000 | Trust 2023 £'000 | Group 2022 £'000 | Trust 2022 £'000 |
|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Trade creditors | 130 | 96 | 55 | 43 |
| Taxation and social security | 85 | 85 | — | — |
| Other creditors | 93 | 93 | 44 | 24 |
| Accruals and deferred income | 124 | 121 | 22 | 22 |
| | 432 | 395 | 121 | 89 |

Deferred income

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|----------|----------|
| Deferred income at 1 September | 8 | 8 | — | — |
| Released during the year | (8) | (8) | — | — |
| Resources deferred in the year | 124 | 121 | 8 | 8 |
| Deferred income at 31 August | 124 | 121 | 8 | 8 |

There was £124,000 received in the year for future financial years at the balance sheet date (2022 – £8,000). This related to a deferral of Higher Needs funding income.

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2023

12 Funds

| Group | Balance at 1 September 2022 £'000 | Income £'000 | Expenditure £'000 | Gains, losses and transfers £'000 | Balance at 31 August 2023 £'000 |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------------|--|--|
| Restricted fixed assets fund | | | | | |
| . Transfer on conversion | 8,870 | — | (191) | (8) | 8,671 |
| . DfE/ESFA capital grants | — | 72 | (72) | — | — |
| | <u>8,870</u> | <u>72</u> | <u>(263)</u> | <u>—</u> | <u>8,671</u> |
| Restricted revenue grant fund | | | | | |
| . ESFA | | | | | |
| .. General Annual Grant (GAG) | 84 | 2,422 | (2,180) | — | 326 |
| .. Pupil premium | — | 83 | (83) | — | — |
| .. Start Up Grant | 22 | — | — | — | 22 |
| . Catch-up premium | — | 130 | (130) | — | — |
| . Local Authority grants | 66 | 3,720 | (3,720) | — | 66 |
| .. Other grants | 117 | 213 | (213) | — | 117 |
| . Pension reserve | (696) | — | 56 | 485 | (155) |
| | <u>(407)</u> | <u>6,568</u> | <u>(6,270)</u> | <u>485</u> | <u>376</u> |
| Total restricted funds | <u>8,463</u> | <u>6,640</u> | <u>(6,533)</u> | <u>477</u> | <u>9,047</u> |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| . General funds | 526 | 66 | — | 8 | 600 |
| Total unrestricted funds | <u>526</u> | <u>66</u> | <u>—</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>600</u> |
| Total funds | <u>8,989</u> | <u>6,706</u> | <u>(6,533)</u> | <u>485</u> | <u>9,647</u> |

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

Fixed asset fund

The fixed assets fund was set up to recognise the tangible fixed assets gifted to the Trust upon conversion by the local authority. Depreciation charged on those inherited assets is charged to the fund.

Restricted revenue grant fund

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

Other restricted revenue funds consists of pupil premium income, teachers pay grant awards, start up funding for the Windmill School (which will likely be expended in 2023/24) and free school meal funding.

Restricted other funds represent the funds generated in Oakbridge Special Education.

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2023

12 Funds (continued)

Comparative information

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

| Group | Balance at 1 September 2021 £'000 | Income £'000 | Expenditure £'000 | Gains, losses and transfers £'000 | Balance at 31 August 2022 £'000 |
|--|--|-----------------|----------------------|--|--|
| Restricted fixed assets fund | | | | | |
| .. Transfer on conversion | 9,142 | — | (328) | 56 | 8,870 |
| .. DfE/ESFA capital grants | — | 11 | — | (11) | — |
| | <u>9,142</u> | <u>11</u> | <u>(328)</u> | <u>45</u> | <u>8,870</u> |
| Restricted revenue grant fund | | | | | |
| .. ESFA | | | | | |
| .. General Annual Grant (GAG) | 163 | 2,020 | (2,099) | — | 84 |
| .. Start Up Grant | 22 | — | — | — | 22 |
| .. Pupil premium | — | 70 | (70) | — | — |
| .. Other DfE/ESFA grants COVID-19 grants | — | 53 | (53) | — | — |
| .. Other | 66 | 73 | (22) | — | 117 |
| .. Local Authority grants | | 2,789 | (2,789) | | |
| .. Pension reserve | (2,604) | — | (286) | 2,194 | (696) |
| | <u>(2,353)</u> | <u>5,005</u> | <u>(5,319)</u> | <u>2,194</u> | <u>(473)</u> |
| Restricted other funds | | | | | |
| .. Oakbridge Special Education | | | | | |
| .. General Annual Grant (GAG) | — | 194 | (194) | — | — |
| .. Local authority funded | 117 | 427 | (478) | — | 66 |
| .. Other grants | — | 75 | (75) | — | — |
| | <u>117</u> | <u>696</u> | <u>(747)</u> | <u>—</u> | <u>66</u> |
| Total restricted funds | <u>6,906</u> | <u>5,712</u> | <u>(6,394)</u> | <u>2,239</u> | <u>8,463</u> |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| .. General funds | 402 | 169 | — | (45) | 526 |
| Total unrestricted funds | <u>402</u> | <u>169</u> | <u>—</u> | <u>—</u> | <u>526</u> |
| Total funds | <u>7,308</u> | <u>5,881</u> | <u>(6,394)</u> | <u>2,194</u> | <u>8,989</u> |

13 Analysis of net assets between funds

| Group | Unrestricted funds £'000 | Restricted General Funds £'000 | Restricted Fixed Asset Fund £'000 | Total 2023 £'000 |
|--|--------------------------------|---|---|------------------------|
| Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by: | | | | |
| Tangible fixed assets | — | — | 8,671 | 8,671 |
| Current assets | 600 | 963 | — | 1,563 |
| Current liabilities | — | (432) | — | (432) |
| Pension scheme liability | — | (155) | — | (155) |
| Total net assets | 600 | 376 | 8,671 | 9,647 |

Comparative information

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

| Group | Unrestricted funds £'000 | Restricted General Funds £'000 | Restricted Fixed Asset Fund £'000 | Total 2022 £'000 |
|--|--------------------------------|---|---|------------------------|
| Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by: | | | | |
| Tangible fixed assets | — | — | 8,870 | 8,870 |
| Current assets | 526 | 410 | — | 936 |
| Current liabilities | — | (121) | — | (121) |
| Pension scheme liability | — | (696) | — | (696) |
| Total net assets | 526 | (407) | 8,870 | 8,989 |

14 Commitments

At 31 August 2023, the Group did not have any future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases (2022 – none). The Group did not have any capital commitments or contingent liabilities at either of these dates.

15 Members' Liability

Each member of the Trust 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.

16 Pension and similar obligations

The Trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by London Borough of Barnet. 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 2016. There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or the end of the financial year.

16 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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 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; and
- ♦ 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 2023.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £419,418 (2022 – £317,269).

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

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

16 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the period ended 31 August 2023 was £440,000 (2022 – £356,000) of which employer's contributions totalled £350,000 (2022 – £282,000) and employees' contributions totalled £90,000 (2022 – £74,000).

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of an academy trust 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 the GOV.UK website.

| Principal Actuarial Assumptions | At 31 August 2023 | At 31 August 2022 |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Rate of increase in salaries | 3.95% | 3.8% |
| Discount rate for scheme liabilities | 5.20% | 4.3% |
| Inflation assumption (CPI) | 2.95% | 3.1% |

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

| | At 31 August 2023 | At 31 August 2022 |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Retiring today</i> | | |
| Males | 21.4 | 21.7 |
| Females | 23.3 | 24.3 |
| <i>Retiring in 20 years</i> | | |
| Males | 22.5 | 23.1 |
| Females | 25.6 | 26.1 |

Sensitivity analysis:

The following changes in assumptions would increase the defined benefit obligation by:

| | At 31 August 2023 £'000 | At 31 August 2022 £'000 |
|--|--|--|
| Discount rate decrease -0.5% | 2% | 340 |
| Salary increase rate +0.5% | — | 40 |
| Mortality assumption - 1 year increase | 4% | — |
| CPI rate increase +0.5% | 2% | 300 |

Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 August 2023

16 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) (continued)

The Academy's share of the assets and liabilities in the scheme were:

| | Fair value at 31 August 2023 £'000 | Fair value at 31 August 2022 £'000 |
|---|--|--|
| Equities | 1,478 | 1,358 |
| Corporate bonds | 703 | 472 |
| Property | 145 | 118 |
| Cash and other liquid assets | 97 | 20 |
| Total market value of assets | 2,423 | 1,968 |
| Present value of scheme liabilities | | |
| Funded | (2,578) | (2,664) |
| Deficit in the scheme | (155) | (696) |
| Amounts recognised in statement of financial activities | 2023 £'000 | 2022 £'000 |
| Current service cost | 266 | 523 |
| Net interest cost | (28) | — |
| | 238 | 523 |
| Expected return on pension scheme assets | (92) | (31) |
| Interest on pension liabilities | 120 | 76 |
| Net interest cost | 28 | 45 |
| Total amount recognised in the SOFA | 266 | 568 |
| Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows: | 2023 £'000 | 2022 £'000 |
| Scheme obligations as at 1 September | 2,664 | 4,347 |
| Current service cost | 266 | 523 |
| Interest cost | 120 | 76 |
| Employee contribution | 90 | 74 |
| Benefits paid | (532) | (30) |
| Actuarial gain | (30) | (2,326) |
| At 31 August | 2,578 | 2,664 |
| Changes in the fair value of the Academy's share of scheme assets: | 2023 £'000 | 2022 £'000 |
| At 1 September | 1,968 | 1,743 |
| Interest income | 92 | 31 |
| Actuarial (loss) | (47) | (132) |
| Employer contributions | 350 | 282 |
| Employee contributions | 90 | 74 |
| Benefits paid | (30) | (30) |
| At 31 August | 2,423 | 1,968 |

17 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the Academy's operations and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which a member of the trustee has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Academy's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

No related party transactions took place during the current or prior periods.