



AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	Alan Hayes, Chair of Members Georgina Holloway Mary Howard Valerie Woods
Trustees	Sophie Bates (appointed 13 October 2022) Peter Britton (appointed 1 September 2022) Lisa Cook Richard Curtis Michael Douglass Karl Jermyn, Chair of Trustees Andrew Walder, Vice Chair
Company registered number	10270029
Company name	Ad Meliora Academy Trust
Principal and registered office	Greenpark Academy 9-11 Wensum Way Kings Lynn Norfolk PE30 2RE
Company Secretary	Janet McGahren
Chief Executive Headteacher	Lisa Cook
Senior management team	Lisa Cook, Chief Executive Headteacher Helen Fendley, Headteacher at Reffley Academy Jill Graver, Headteacher at Greenpark Academy Nicola Taylor, Headteacher at Blenheim Park Academy
Independent auditors	MA Partners Audit LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor 7 The Close Norwich Norfolk NR1 4DJ
Bankers	Santander UK Plc Bridle Road Bootle Merseyside L30 4GB

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Solicitors Duncan Pickering
 4 Southfields
 Bourne
 Lincolnshire
 PE10 9TZ

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
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TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trustees present their Annual Report together with the financial statements and Auditor's Report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' Report and a Directors' Report under company law.

The Trust operates three primary schools ("the Academies" or "the Schools") serving catchment areas in King's Lynn and Blenheim Park. The Academies have a combined pupil capacity of 889 and had a roll of 762 in the census on 18 May 2023.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity.

The charitable company's Memorandum of Association is the primary governing document of the Trust.

The Trustees of Ad Meliora Academy Trust are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Within this report the terms Trustee and Director are interchangeable.

The charitable company includes the following Academies:

- Blenheim Park Academy - converted and joined the Trust on 1 March 2017
- Greenpark Academy (formerly St Edmund's Academy) - converted and joined the Trust on 1 October 2016
- Reffley Academy - converted and joined the Trust on 1 August 2017

The operation of The Trust's Academies and employment of staff are the responsibility of the Trustees. The Trust retains control of Academy budgets and finances, and monitors these through its Resources and Audit Committee (RAC). Each Academy has a Local Governing Body (LGB) who supports the Board of Trustees in the monitoring of their Academy. Within this Report, the term Trustee refers to a member of the Board of Trustees and the term Governor to a member of a LGB.

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

b. 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.

c. Trustees' and officers' indemnities

The Trust has opted to be covered under the Government's Risk Protection Arrangements (RPA) scheme to protect Trustees, Governors and Officers, from claims arising from negligent acts, omissions or errors whilst performing Trust business.

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

Structure, governance and management (continued)

d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The arrangements are as set out in the Articles and Funding Agreement. Trustees are appointed for a fixed term. The Chief Executive Headteacher is an ex officio member of the Board of Trustees. Parent Trustees are elected to office or appointed if there are insufficient candidates offering themselves for election. Co-opted Trustees are elected by the existing Trustee cohort and their appointment is ratified by the Members of the Trust. The Articles of Association make provision for 3 or more (numbers are not subject to a maximum) and will include the Chief Executive Headteacher.

Local Governing Boards

The Board has Local Governing Boards in each academy that work under the overall direction of the Trustees. The purpose of the committees are to provide oversight, investment of time and expertise alongside direction the MAT is required to provide. The committee works to a clear delegation scheme and focuses on specific areas. The body is made up of approximately eleven representatives including the Chair. The make up of each body includes parents, community representatives, a member of staff, the Academy Headteacher and the Chief Executive Headteacher. Trustees are co-opted onto the body where there are insufficient governors. Recruitment is carried out through a formal process. Key local board functions include:

- The effectiveness of safeguarding policies and procedures (including attendance)
- The quality of the curriculum and academic outcomes
- The effectiveness of community engagement

e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The Trust is committed to providing adequate opportunities for Trustees and committee members to undertake and receive suitable training so as to enable them to perform their role effectively. To this end the Trust uses Educator Solutions as the main training provider. New Trustees and committee members are required to undertake training through this external provider who schedules a range of training/courses that can be selected to meet individual development needs. The induction programme involves a tour of the relevant Academy, meetings with Headteachers and provision of policy and procedures documents that are appropriate to the role they undertake.

Trustees will undertake training for:

- SEND
- Safeguarding
- Trustee governance and responsibilities.

Key functions of the Trustees and Board are:

- Setting MAT strategy
- Agreeing the annual strategic plan for the MAT
- Approving the Trust Improvement Plan
- Financial oversight and accountability
- Appointing the Chief Executive Headteacher and Academy Headteachers
- Identifying and responding to risk through the Risk Management Plan.

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

Structure, governance and management (continued)

f. Organisational structure

The governance of the Trust is defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association together with the Funding Agreement with the Department of Education.

The Board of Trustees meets on 7 occasions per year and is responsible for the strategic direction of the Trust. The Trustees are responsible for setting strategic policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the Trust by the use of those budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the Trust, capital expenditure, senior staff appointments and executive pay.

The Governors within their LGB's, which meet on at least 4 occasions each year, are responsible for implementing strategic policy, ensuring the appropriateness and robustness of safeguarding procedures; the effectiveness of the curriculum; monitoring performance against academic targets and effectiveness of community engagement. Terms of reference for the LGBs are reviewed annually. The LGB reports to the Board of Trustees.

The Academy Senior Leadership Teams (SLT's) control the Academies at an academy level implementing policies and reporting to their LGB. Each SLT is responsible for the day to day operation of their Academy, in particular organising staff, resources and pupils. They are responsible for the management of spending in accordance with their agreed delegated budgets and spending limits. In addition, they are responsible for the appointment of staff, below senior leadership level i.e. Deputy and below, within the agreed limits, following vetting and safeguarding recruitment processes.

The Chief Executive Headteacher (CEH) is the designated Accounting Officer and has overall responsibility for the day to day financial management of the Trust. The CEH manages the Trust on a daily basis supported by a Trust Central Team comprising the Chief Finance Officer and Trust Finance Officer, who work across the Trust and align local SLT and LGB activity to the strategic aims of the Trust as a whole. The Trust Central Team meets frequently to discuss emerging matters and to help to develop strategies for future development to be put to the Board of Trustees as required for approval.

g. Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Key management personnel include Trustees and those staff to whom the Trustees have delegated significant authority and responsibility in the day-to-day running of the Trust.

Pay and remuneration of key management personnel is decided by a variety of contributory factors, such as the school group size, ISR, the pay scales for each role and the level of experience of each staff member. In addition, pay levels may be affected by nationally agreed pay awards, which are in accordance with the Trust's appointment and pay policies.

All amendments to key management's pay and remuneration is approved by the Resources and Audit Committee and ratified by the Board of Trustees.

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

Structure, governance and management (continued)

h. Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Owing to the nature of the Trust's operations and the composition of the Board of Trustees and LGB's being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that from time to time transactions will take place with organisations in which a Trustee or a Governor may have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Trust's financial regulations and normal procedures. Any transaction where the Trustee or Governor may have a pecuniary interest is only undertaken in accordance with the 'at cost' principle described in the Academy Trust Handbook.

The Trust does not have a formal sponsor.

i. Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the Trust

The Trustees have implemented clear policies and procedures for dealing fairly with suppliers. Formal orders are placed and agreed payment terms always adhered to. To ensure service continuity during and after the current coronavirus outbreak the Trust has followed the guidelines of the Government Procurement Policy Note (PPN) that sets out information and guidance for public bodies on payment of their suppliers.

The Trustees consider pupils and parents to be their "customers". Whilst pupils encounter engagement on a daily basis, engagement with parents is carried out through regular ClassDojo and Pupil Asset text messages, newsletters and face to face meetings.

j. Trade union facility time

No employees were trade union officials during the year.

Objectives and activities

a. Objects and aims

The principal object and aim of the Trust is the operation of a family of academies to provide free education and care for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 3 and 11. Specifically to enable each child to realise their full academic, creative and physical potential and to develop positive social and moral values.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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Objectives and activities (continued)

b. Objectives, strategies and activities

During the year the Trust has worked towards these aims by:

- ensuring that every child enjoys the same high quality education in terms of resourcing, tuition and care;
- raising the standard of educational achievement of all pupils;
- developing resilient, resourceful pupils;
- adapting and applying skills for flexible life-long learning;
- improving the effectiveness of each Academy by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review;
- providing value for money for the funds expended; and
- conducting the Trust's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity.

Our success in fulfilling our aims can be measured by:

- Our improved end of Key Stage outcomes;
- Our success in being awarded a Social, Emotional and Mental Health Specialist Resource Base;
- An increase in pupil numbers at Greenpark Academy;
- We have been successful in recruitment at Greenpark Academy and Reffley Academy and have a full complement of staff;
- Increased numbers of governors across the Trust;
- A favourable external governance review;
- The Trust managing funds well so that the Trust remains solvent, has reserves and has submitted a three year financial plan that is realistic.

c. Public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

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

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

The Trust continued its mission to ensure that pupils achieved their potential in public examinations; encouraged a wide range of extra-curricular activities; developed and retained suitable staff and guided pupils in suitable progression when they left their Academy.

Specific achievements were as follows:

- End of Key Stage outcomes have improved across the Trust.
- Greenpark Academy has grown rapidly with numbers increasing from 183 to 363. The Trust has been successful at obtaining growth funding through the Local Authority and established additional class bases and staffing to manage the rising role.
- We have successfully recruited a range of staff to the Trust including experienced class teachers. At interview, candidates have said that our reputation, inspection outcomes and our established networks have attracted them to apply for jobs at our Trust.
- We have developed our apprenticeship programme and have successfully supported a number of apprentices who are now employed by the Trust.
- Our teacher training support programme has been further developed, two of our Unqualified Teachers gained qualified status within the 2022-23 academic year.
- We have established extended hours for Nursery pupils and after school child care at Greenpark Academy and Reffley Academy.
- As part of our continuous cycle of review, we have undertaken a number of support and premises staff restructures to ensure our structures and workforce is relevant to our current requirements.

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

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

a. Key performance indicators

The Trustees receive regular information at each committee meeting to enable them to monitor the performance of the Trust compared to aims, strategies and financial budgets.

Financial

As funding is based on pupil numbers this is a KPI. Although pupil numbers for 2022 were 762, we were funded on 675 pupils with a budget of £3,260,249.

A further KPI is staffing costs as a percentage of total recurring income. For 2022/23 this was 71.4% against set parameters of 75-80%. The Board of Trustees is confident that staffing levels are closely monitored to agreed Full Time Equivalent and staffing structures all approved by them.

The Resources and Audit Committee also monitor premises costs to General Annual Grant (GAG) income, capitation spend for curriculum departments to GAG income, total income less grants and cash flow on a regular basis to ensure that the budget is set and managed appropriately. All of the above KPI's were within the parameters set by the Board.

Other key achievements:

Non-Financial

- Our governor monitoring programme was relaunched in September 2022. The monitoring activity has been instrumental in giving governors an understanding of what is happening in the Academies and to seek assurance that what the Headteacher is telling them is taking place. The monitoring has shown us that leaders, teachers and pupils are very clear about what they are working on and can articulate themselves well.
- We have been successful in our application for a Social Emotional and Mental Health Specialist Resource Base which will be situated at Reffley Academy.
- A range of support for pupils and their families has continued and has included pastoral support, mental health signposting, access to our own foodbank and free uniform bank.
- Attendance overall is in line or better with national attendance figures. Leaders have worked closely with parents and external agencies in the pursuit of good attendance.

b. Going concern

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

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

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

c. Promoting the success of the charitable company

The Trustees have an obligation to act in a way most likely to promote the success of the charitable company. Details regarding engagement with employees, suppliers, parents, pupils and other connected parties have been covered in separate notes within the Trustees' Report. The obligation to assess the likely consequences of decisions in the longer term is noted within the reserves policy below as Trustees balance the needs of current and future cohorts.

The Trustees have identified reputational and ethical areas as key risks and their actions in these areas are covered within principal risks and uncertainties later within this Strategic Report.

Financial review

The principal source of funding for the Trust is the GAG and other grants that it receives from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). For the year ended 31 August 2023 the Trust received £4,562,475 (2022: £4,080,903) of GAG and other income. A high percentage of this income is spent on wages and salaries and support costs to deliver the Trust's primary objective of the provision of education. During the year the Trust spent a total of £7,077,884 (2022: £4,582,939). The Trust brought forward from 21/22 £312,961 in restricted funding (excluding the pension deficit), and £292,852 of unrestricted funding. The carry forward for 22/23 is £553,141 restricted funding (excluding the pension deficit), and £385,144 unrestricted funding.

Due to the accounting rules for the Local Government Pension Scheme under FRS102, the Trust is recognising a significant pension fund deficit of £338,000. This does not mean that an immediate liability for this amount crystallises and such a deficit generally results in a cash flow effect in the form of increased employer contributions over a number of years.

Managing the levels of funding for Greenpark Academy against the rate of growth has been a challenge for the Trust. Additional growth funding has been accessed through the Local Authority.

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

a. Reserves policy

The Trustees are aware of the requirement to balance current and future needs and always aim to set a balanced budget with annual income balancing annual expenditure. The budget plan identifies how any reserves carried forward will be allocated in the plan for the following academic year.

The Trust considers its free reserves to include the balance on unrestricted funds plus the balance held in the General Annual Grant fund, being for the general running costs of the schools within the Trust. At 31 August 2023 this free reserves balance was £841,564 (2022: £605,813).

The Trust aims to hold £800,000 (equivalent to three month's staffing costs) in free reserves. In addition, the Trust has set aside £100,000 of the unrestricted funds for maintenance projects across the Trust and an essential staff restructuring at one particular school.

The cash balance of the Trust has been very healthy all year, ending the year with a balance of £1,147,181 (2022: £945,161). A significant proportion of this cash is held against specific projects and is not available to meet normal recurring expenditure.

b. Investment policy

The Trust does not currently make investments as stated in the Trust Policy for Finances.

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

c. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees maintain a risk register identifying the major risks to which the Trust and the individual Academies are exposed, and identifying actions and procedures to mitigate those risks. A formal review of the risk register process is undertaken on an annual basis and the internal control systems and the exposure to said risks are monitored on behalf of the Trustees at each Full Board meeting. The principal risks facing the Trust are outlined below; those facing the Trust at an operational level are addressed by its systems and by internal financial and other controls.

The Trustees report that the Trust's financial and internal controls conform to guidelines issued by the ESFA, and that improvements to the wider framework of systems dealing with business risk and risk management strategy continue to be made and formally documented.

It is recognised that systems can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks have been adequately managed.

As a group of academy schools, the level of financial risk is low. Cash flows can be reliably forecast, monitored and reported. Staff costs make up the majority of expenditure and are relatively stable with contingencies in place to cover such items as sickness and maternity.

The Trustees assess the other principal risks and uncertainties facing the Trust as follows:

- the Trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA. There has been an injection of additional funding from the Government to support pay awards. This may not be enough to counteract the rise in salaries following the most recent pay awards;
- failures in governance and/or management - the risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the Trust's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns, etc. The Trustees continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks;
- reputational - the continuing success of the Academies is dependent on continuing to attract applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk Trustees ensure that pupil progress and outcomes are closely monitored and reviewed;
- safeguarding and child protection - the Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety and the management of pupil behaviour;
- staffing - the success of the Academies is reliant on the quality of its staff and the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures and recruitment to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning;
- fraud and mismanagement of funds - the Trustees have appointed Educator Solutions to carry out a programme of internal scrutiny which includes independent and external checks on financial systems and records as required by the Academy Trust Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep up to date with financial practice requirements and develop their skills in this area;
- financial instruments – the Trust only deals with bank balances, cash and trade creditors, with limited trade (and other) debtors. The risk in this area is considered to be low;
- defined benefit pension liability – as the Government has agreed to meet the defined benefit pension liability of any school ceasing to exist the main risk to the Trust is the annual cash flow funding of part of the deficit. Trustees take these payments into account when setting the annual budget plan.

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

The Trust has continued to strengthen its risk management process throughout the year by improving the process and ensuring staff awareness.

Fundraising

The Trust only held small fundraising events during the year including cake stalls, raffles, coffee mornings and non-uniform days. The Trust does not work with professional fundraisers or companies who carry out fundraising on its behalf. During the year no complaints or issues have arisen as a result of the fundraising events. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the Trustees

Plans for future periods

The Trust has the following plans: -

Short term

- Continue to further improve outcomes across the Trust.
- Broaden the programme of networks to include all year groups.
- Support and nurture our team of Unqualified Teachers to gain Qualified Teacher Status.
- Streamline the way the premises is managed through the use of an MI system.

Medium term

- Recruit additional governors at Blenheim Park Academy and Reffley Academy and strengthen these LGBs through a menu of support, mentoring and training.
- Work in partnership with the Local Authority to establish the SEMH Specialist Resource Base.
- Strengthen leadership at Reffley Academy so that there is capacity to lead the SRB.
- Secure 'good' Ofsted judgements at Blenheim Park Academy and Greenpark Academy.

Long term

- Work with local partners to manage the growth at Reffley Academy following the new development at Knights Hill and Lavender Fields.
- Further develop relationships with schools and trusts outside of our Trust.

Provision of Information to Auditors

Insofar as the Trustees are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and the Trustees have taken all the 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.

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

Disclosure of information to auditors

The Trust has appointed MA Partners Audit LLP, to act as their auditors. They are willing to act for us and a resolution to appoint them will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and
- that 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 auditors are aware of that information.

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 14 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
Karl Jermyn
(Chair of Trustees)

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

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

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Headteacher, 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 Ad Meliora Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control. The Board met seven times during the year and is satisfied that through the use of sub-committees it maintains effective oversight of funds. Details of two such sub-committees are noted below.

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 7 times during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Karl Jermyn, Chair of Trustees	7	7
Andrew Walder, Vice Chair	7	7
Sophie Bates	6	6
Peter Britton	5	7
Lisa Cook	7	7
Richard Curtis	6	7
Michael Douglass	6	7

Review of year:

1. Improved outcomes;

Outcomes across the Trust have improved. On the whole, outcomes are in line or above national averages at all key measures.

2. Increased pupil numbers at Greenpark Academy;

Our growth strategy has been focussed on promotion of the Nursery and developing relationships with parents through community and parent/carer events. Numbers have grown significantly from 183 in 2020/21 to 363 in July 2023.

3. Attracting new staff;

Quality staff is key to ensuring a high performing organisation. We have undertaken recruitment at Greenpark Academy and Reffley Academy and have attracted a field of candidates for us to choose from at both Academies. At interview, candidates have said that our reputation, inspection outcomes and our established networks have attracted them to apply for jobs at our Trust. We provide staff with opportunities to further develop in their career. We have a range of specific training across the Trust using online platforms, networks, internal and external expertise. Monitoring activity has shown that staff value the training provided and can cite examples of how they have implemented new ideas into their teaching practice.

4. Regular monitoring is established;

Our governor monitoring programme was relaunched in September 2022. Alongside the Safeguarding, Pupil Premium and Sports Premium monitoring, we have introduced a termly monitoring activity that is focussed on a priority within the Academy Improvement and Development Plan. Governors have been supported by the CEH to undertake this role. The monitoring activity has been instrumental in giving governors an understanding of what is happening in the Academy and to seek assurance that what the Headteacher is telling them is taking place. The monitoring has shown us that leaders, teachers and pupils are very clear about what they are working on and can articulate themselves well.

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

5. A successful applications to establish a Social, Emotional and Mental Health Specialist Resource Base (SEMH SRB);

The Department for Education have approved our application for a SEMH SRB to open in February 2024. A SEMH SRB will enable us to provide specialist support for pupils who are really struggling to manage their emotions in their classrooms.

6. Maintaining a flexible workforce;

As part of our continuous cycle of review, we have undertaken and completed a number of support and premises staff restructures to ensure our structures and workforce are relevant to our current requirements. Our new structures give us staffing teams that meet our requirements.

7. The Trust is financially solvent, has reserves and has submitted a three year financial plan that is realistic.

Conflicts of interest:

The Trust requires Trustees to identify any conflicts of interest at each Trustees' and LGB meeting. This is a standard agenda item. If a Trustee is aware of an undeclared conflict of interest affecting another Trustee, they are required to notify the Chair.

Prospective Trustees are asked about potential conflicts of interest to identify any serious or frequent conflicts that would impact on their appointment.

Where there is a conflict of interest, Trustees are required to absence themselves from any discussion of the Trustees where it is possible a conflict of interest will arise with their duty to act solely in the interests of the Trust. They are not counted when calculating the quorum for that part of the meeting.

Trustees are required to complete an annual declaration of interest, which is a written record of any conflicts of interest showing. This information is published via the Trust website.

In 2022-23, there have been no conflicts of interest.

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

Governance reviews:

A review of Governance took place during the year, the findings are:

- The Trust applies high standards of conduct to ensure robust governance (code of conduct; meeting minutes; funding agreement; strategic plan).
- The Trust maintains a balanced budget for the financial year, with formal approval minuted.
- Safeguarding is monitored termly at Local Governing Board level; minutes are shared at the Board of Directors with a focus on safeguarding.
- The Trust has a clear strategic plan which is published online. Meeting minutes provide examples of decision-making being aligned to the strategic plan.
- Trustees bring a variety of applicable skills, experience, and expertise. There is a shared commitment to uphold the conduct required by the Trust and Department for Education. Board attendance is good; there is stability within the Trust governance and succession planning is discussed. A skills audit for Trustees is undertaken annually.
- The Trust Annual Statement specifies that Trustees will undertake training for: SEND; Safeguarding; Trustee governance and responsibilities. The Board subscribes to the Norfolk Governance training package.
- Academies set their own vision and values, which are then reviewed at a Trust level to ensure cohesion with the Trust vision, values, and objectives.
- The Scheme of Delegation (SoD) is reviewed annually and provides comprehensive detail on the remit of decision-making across the Trust. The SoD clearly identifies where the Trust Board retains responsibility for determining policy, management of risk, oversight of budgets and financial management, and oversight of educational performance. There is a clear degree of separation between the layers of governance.
- Local Governing Boards follow an annual monitoring plan which sets out recommended visits for Governors. This includes monitoring Academy Improvement Plan priorities, stakeholder engagement, and website review.
- The Chief Executive Headteacher and Clerk produce an annual meeting planner which maps tasks from the SoD against the meeting schedules and agendas.
- Trustees undertake a self-evaluation of governance as a routine exercise within the Board agenda. The NGA's '21 Questions' document provides questions for the Board members to reflect upon.
- Communication channels and reporting mechanisms are formalised in the SoD. Minutes are shared from Local Governing Board to the Trust Board; the Governance Professional is also consistent across the Trust. The Chief Executive Headteacher is on the membership for Local Governing Boards to facilitate this communication, seek assurance on the extent to which the Trust is contributing to the running of schools, and ensure that the local tier feels valued and stakeholder voices are heard.
- Clerking is carried out by a member of the Governance Professional Service and was acknowledged in discussions as being a valued asset to the Trust.

In response, the following have been established:

- The Trust Risk Management Plan will be reviewed in the Resources and Audit Committee instead of the Full Board.
- An annual review of the Strategic Plan will take place.

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

Committees

The Resources and Audit Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to:

- Oversee the Financial Management of the Trust.
- Provide guidance and assistance to the Chief Executive Headteacher and Trust Board in all matters relating to budgeting, finance and pay.
- Provide oversight of the financial reporting process, the audit process, the Trust's system of internal controls and compliance with laws and regulations.
- Agreeing the mechanism of staff appraisal.
- Monitoring the mechanism of staff appraisal.
- All matters relating to staff pay progression (excluding the Chief Executive Headteacher and Academy Headteachers).

During the year the following issues were dealt with by the Committee:

- Management of external funds and the allocation of Trust funds to manage the growth in numbers at Greenpark Academy.
- Pay reviews for all teaching and leadership staff.
- The recruitment of new staff to fill vacancies that have arisen across the Trust.
- Managing periods of staff shortage in our premises teams due to long term absence.
- Establishing support staff restructures to ensure our staffing model is fit for purpose and flexible.
- Establishing after school provision at Greenpark Academy and Reffley Academy.
- CIF application bids at Reffley Academy and Blenheim Park Academy.

During the year the following changes to the Committee took place:

Sophie Bates joined the Committee in September 2022. There were no other changes.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Sophie Bates	6	6
Peter Britton	4	6
Lisa Cook	6	6
Richard Curtis	4	6
Michael Douglas	5	6
Karl Jermyn	6	6
Andrew Walder	6	6

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of value for money

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

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

- A budget for staff sickness is allocated to each Academy. Any underspend is used to buy additional staff for interventions or resources needed.
- As old contracts have come to an end, where possible, we have tested the market through research and tendering to procure services that meet our needs and provide good value for money.
- We have shared resources between the Academies within the Trust – physical classroom resources, staffing and expertise. This has enabled an improved quality of service at a back office and classroom level.
- Trust online and virtual training has been sourced to enable greater access to relevant training across the Trust.
- We have undertaken a review of how we manage reactive maintenance and have appointed a premises team who are able to undertake minor repairs.
- We have undertaken a fair value exercise to ensure that our letting charges and Nursery charges are in line with current market forces.

The purpose of the system of internal control

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

Capacity to handle risk

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

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees;
- regular reviews by the Finance and General Purposes 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 audit service from Educator Solutions

This option has been chosen because the Trust wishes to seek an experienced, external, impartial perspective with professionals who have up to date training and knowledge of auditing.

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

Procurement:

Scrutiny of invoices to ensure that:

- The original order is correctly authorised
- The goods and services have been certified as received
- The invoices agree to the original order
- The invoices are correctly authorised

Scrutiny of staff expenses to ensure there are appropriate documents to support the claim:

- Authorisation before purchase
- Receipt of goods attached
- Payments are correctly authorised

Scrutiny to ensure invoices and staff expenses are correctly recorded in the school accounting system.

Scrutiny of payments to ensure that:

- Payment matches invoices paid
- Purchase orders and delivery notes confirm they are legitimate purchases
- Payments made within supplier's terms
- BACS payments are authorised

Review of statements from suppliers to ensure they are being checked and any disputed invoices are investigated.

Review of the list of contracts and identify those with a value over approved limits set by the governing body to ensure that correct quotation/tender procedures have been followed.

Check purchase of any capital assets (e.g., whiteboards) for physical existence.

Review of ownership documents (e.g., registration documents for vehicles) along with certificate of insurance to ensure relevant assets are covered.

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The risk and control framework (continued)

Check to ensure that the credit / purchasing cards held by the Trust have been agreed by the Board of Trustees, including expenditure limits.

Scrutiny of the card statement(s) to ensure:

- Purchases have been correctly authorised
- Receipts of goods is attached
- The amount appearing on the bank statement is correct

Scrutiny of the Related Party Transactions to ensure:

- Purchases have been correctly identified
- Purchases have been correctly authorised

Check pecuniary interests for the Trustees and Governors are up to date on the website.

On an annual basis, the reviewer reports to the Board of Trustees through the Audit and Risk Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities. On an annual basis the reviewer prepares a summary report to the Committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the Committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

The internal auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned and there were no material control issues arising as a result of the internal auditor's work.

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- the work of the external auditors;
- correspondence from ESFA e.g. FNtl/Ntl and 'minded to' letters.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 14 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:


.....
Karl Jermyn
Chair of Trustees


.....
Lisa Cook
Accounting Officer


AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

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

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

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



Lisa Cook
Accounting Officer
Date: 14 December 2023

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

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

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

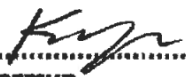
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting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

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

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

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

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


.....
Karl Jermyn
(Chair of Trustees)
Date: 14 December 2023

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF AD
MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST**

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF AD
MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)**

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report and the Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF AD
MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)**

Responsibilities of Trustees

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

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

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the Trust.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the company and considered that the most significant are the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, the Charities SORP 2019, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council.
- We obtained an understanding of how the Trust complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF AD
MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)**

Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

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

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

Use of our report

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



Alice Lynch BSc ACA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

MA Partners Audit LLP

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor

7 The Close

Norwich

Norfolk

NR1 4DJ

Date: 14 December 2023

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO AD MELIORA
ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 20 February 2023 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Ad Meliora Academy Trust during the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Ad Meliora Academy Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Ad Meliora Academy Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Ad Meliora Academy Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Ad Meliora Academy Trust's Accounting Officer and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Ad Meliora Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 26 September 2016 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

Our procedures included, but were not limited to, the following:

- Reviewing the processes for identifying and declaring business interests, related parties and transactions with connected parties;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings and making enquiries of Trustees and management;
- Performing an evaluation of the general control environment;
- Sample testing of expenditure to ensure the Trust's lines of delegation and procurement policies have been adhered to, that employees have not personally benefitted from any transaction and that goods and services have been procured in an open and transparent manner;
- Sample testing of restricted income to ensure it has been spent as the purposes intended;
- Reviewing transactions which may not fall within the delegated authority of the Trust and ensuring any such transactions have been authorised and disclosed as necessary;
- Reviewing compliance with Part 8: Schedule of requirements (the "musts") of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

Where applicable, this work was integrated with our audit on the financial statements to the extent evidence from the conduct of the audit supports the regularity conclusion.

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

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

MA Partners Audit LLP

MA Partners Audit LLP

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor

7 The Close
Norwich
Norfolk
NR1 4DJ

Date: 14 December 2023

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>	
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	430	62,700	63,130	232,964
Other trading activities	5	44,495	-	-	44,495	31,464
Charitable activities		47,797	4,407,053	-	4,454,850	3,816,475
Total income	92,292	4,407,483	62,700	4,562,475	4,080,903	
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	7	-	4,271,005	548,235	4,819,240	4,582,939
Exceptional items	14	-	-	2,258,644	2,258,644	-
Total expenditure		-	4,271,005	2,806,879	7,077,884	4,582,939
Net income/(expenditure)		92,292	136,478	(2,744,179)	(2,515,409)	(502,036)
Transfers between funds	18	-	37,702	(37,702)	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		92,292	174,180	(2,781,881)	(2,515,409)	(502,036)
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	24	-	304,000	-	304,000	1,954,000
Net movement in funds		92,292	478,180	(2,781,881)	(2,211,409)	1,451,964

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	292,852	(263,039)	15,351,152	15,380,965	13,929,001
Net movement in funds	92,292	478,180	(2,781,881)	(2,211,409)	1,451,964
Total funds carried forward	385,144	215,141	12,569,271	13,169,556	15,380,965

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

The notes on pages 37 to 66 form part of these financial statements.

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 10270029

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	15	12,561,242	15,308,408
		<u>12,561,242</u>	<u>15,308,408</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	16	106,584	174,863
Cash at bank and in hand		1,147,181	945,161
		<u>1,253,765</u>	<u>1,120,024</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(307,451)	(471,467)
Net current assets		<u>946,314</u>	<u>648,557</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>13,507,556</u>	<u>15,956,965</u>
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>13,507,556</u>	<u>15,956,965</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	24	(338,000)	(576,000)
Total net assets		<u><u>13,169,556</u></u>	<u><u>15,380,965</u></u>

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 10270029

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Funds of the Trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	18	12,569,271	15,351,152
Restricted income funds	18	553,141	312,961
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	18	<u>13,122,412</u>	<u>15,664,113</u>
Pension reserve	18	<u>(338,000)</u>	<u>(576,000)</u>
Total restricted funds	18	12,784,412	15,088,113
Unrestricted income funds	18	385,144	292,852
Total funds		<u><u>13,169,556</u></u>	<u><u>15,380,965</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 32 to 66 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:



Karl Jermyn
 (Chair of Trustees)
 Date: 14 December 2023

The notes on pages 37 to 66 form part of these financial statements.

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £	<i>2022</i> £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	20	199,033	<i>616,201</i>
Cash flows from investing activities	21	2,987	<i>(278,316)</i>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		202,020	<i>337,885</i>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		945,161	<i>607,276</i>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	22, 23	<u>1,147,181</u>	<u><i>945,161</i></u>

The notes on pages 37 to 66 form part of these financial statements

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

Ad Meliora Academy Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

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

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income

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

• **Grants**

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

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

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

• **Donations**

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

• **Other income**

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

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Termination payments are payable when employment is terminated before the normal retirement date, or whenever an employee accepts voluntary redundancy in exchange for these benefits. The Trust recognises termination payments when it is demonstrably committed to either (i) terminating the employment of current employees according to a detailed formal plan without possibility of withdrawal or (ii) providing termination payments as a result of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy.

• **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Interest receivable

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

1.6 Taxation

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

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

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost of these assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives. Freehold property is made up of building components which require varying rates of depreciation.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold land	- not depreciated
Freehold property	- between 10 and 60 years
Long-term leasehold property	- between 5 and 36 years
Long-term leasehold land	- over the 125 year lease term
Furniture and equipment	- 10% straight line
Plant and machinery	- 10% - 20% straight line
Computer equipment	- 25% straight line

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

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.8 Debtors

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

1.9 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.10 Liabilities

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

1.11 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 16. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 17. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.12 Operating leases

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

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.13 Pensions

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated 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 based on quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

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

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

1.14 Fund accounting

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

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

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

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 24, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

In assessing the carrying values of tangible fixed assets the Trustees estimate the anticipated useful lives and residual values of the assets. There have been no significant revisions to these estimations in the current financial year. However, following desktop valuations undertaken on behalf of the Department for Education, an impairment charge against land and buildings has been made as disclosed in note 14.

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Donations	430	-	430	125
Capital Grants	-	62,700	62,700	232,839
	<u>430</u>	<u>62,700</u>	<u>63,130</u>	<u>232,964</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>125</u>	<u>232,839</u>	<u>232,964</u>	

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

4. Funding for the Trust's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Provision of Education				
DfE/ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant	-	3,260,249	3,260,249	2,915,566
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
Pupil Premium	-	287,006	287,006	234,342
Supplementary Grant	-	93,431	93,431	38,930
UIFSM	-	78,073	78,073	70,224
PE and Sport Grant	-	53,860	53,860	53,270
Mainstream Schools Additional Grant	-	49,428	49,428	-
Rates Relief	-	19,404	19,404	17,470
Teacher pay/pension Grant	-	4,093	4,093	5,757
Other ESFA grants	-	9,171	9,171	24,633
	-	3,854,715	3,854,715	3,360,192
Other Government grants				
Local authority grants	-	474,973	474,973	361,001
	-	474,973	474,973	361,001
Other income from the Trust's provision of education	47,797	25,150	72,947	71,024
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)				
Recovery Premium	-	28,354	28,354	24,258
School led tutoring	-	23,861	23,861	-
	-	52,215	52,215	24,258
	47,797	4,407,053	4,454,850	3,816,475
Total 2022	43,004	3,773,471	3,816,475	

The academy trust received £28,354 (2022: £24,258) of Recovery Premium and costs incurred in respect of this funding totalled £28,354 (2022: £24,258).

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

5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Rental income	26,312	26,312	14,387
Catering income from duty meals	3,364	3,364	2,349
Other income	14,819	14,819	14,728
	<u>44,495</u>	<u>44,495</u>	<u>31,464</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>31,464</u>	<u>31,464</u>	

6. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2023 £	Premises 2023 £	Other 2023 £	Total 2023 £	<i>Total 2022 £</i>
Provision of Education:					
Direct costs	2,791,191	-	226,348	3,017,539	2,636,578
Support costs	422,759	834,832	544,110	1,801,701	1,946,361
Exceptional items	-	2,258,644	-	2,258,644	-
	<u>3,213,950</u>	<u>3,093,476</u>	<u>770,458</u>	<u>7,077,884</u>	<u>4,582,939</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>2,997,699</u>	<u>759,466</u>	<u>825,774</u>	<u>4,582,939</u>	

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

7. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	<i>Total 2022 £</i>
Provision of Education	4,819,240	4,819,240	4,582,939
<i>Total 2022</i>	4,582,939	4,582,939	

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Provision of Education	3,017,539	1,801,701	4,819,240	4,582,939
<i>Total 2022</i>	2,636,578	1,946,361	4,582,939	

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Staff costs	2,779,646	2,366,971
Teaching resources	193,660	219,096
Educational visits	28,422	31,424
Agency supply costs	11,545	12,502
Other direct costs	4,266	6,585
	3,017,539	2,636,578

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Depreciation	548,235	540,664
Staff costs	422,759	618,226
Premises costs	322,547	267,601
Legal and professional fees	209,393	214,446
Catering costs	182,579	157,837
Other support costs	35,691	34,689
Pension finance costs	25,000	38,000
Telephone and broadband	18,109	24,737
Printing, postage and stationery	17,658	19,744
Insurance	14,637	11,895
Bank charges	3,056	2,998
Technology costs	2,037	15,524
	1,801,701	1,946,361

9. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £	<i>2022 £</i>
Operating lease rentals	1,530	10,260
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	548,235	540,664
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	9,500	8,140
- other services	11,800	5,740

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

10. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	2,406,600	2,093,616
Social security costs	203,313	174,796
Pension costs	550,429	716,785
	<u>3,160,342</u>	<u>2,985,197</u>
Agency staff costs	11,545	12,502
Staff restructuring costs	42,063	-
	<u><u>3,213,950</u></u>	<u><u>2,997,699</u></u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	2023 £	2022 £
Redundancy payments	35,563	-
Severance payments	6,500	-
	<u>42,063</u>	<u>-</u>

b. Severance payments

The Trust paid 3 severance payments in the year (2022 - -), disclosed in the following bands:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
£0 - £25,000	3	-
	<u><u>3</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

c. Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £6,500 (2022: £nil). Individually, the payments were: £1,000, £1,500 and £4,000.

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

10. Staff (continued)

d. Staff numbers

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

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Teaching	34	30
Admin and support	72	72
Management	7	8
	113	110

e. Higher paid staff

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

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	2	1
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	-	1
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	-

f. 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 key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Trust was £384,053 (2022 - £373,805).

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

11. Central services

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

- Management
- Administration staff
- Staff indirect expenses
- Learning improvement and educational support
- Office and administration support
- Professional services and support costs
- Premises costs
- Identifiable "one-off" costs
- Infrastructure development costs
- Capital costs

The Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

Blenheim Park Academy - 11% (2022: 14%)

Reffley Academy - 42% (2022: 57%)

Greenpark Academy - 46% (2022: 29%)

These rates have been chosen by the Trust Board to apportion charges based on ratios that reflect the varying numbers on roll at each academy. The Trust Board will review and approve the methods of apportionment annually.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023	<i>2022</i>
	£	£
Blenheim Park Academy	55,541	<i>50,107</i>
Reffley Academy	204,219	<i>185,754</i>
Greenpark Academy	223,811	<i>112,440</i>
Total	483,571	<i>348,301</i>

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

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

		2023	2022
		£	£
Lisa Cook, Chief Executive Headteacher	Remuneration	90,000 -	<i>85,000 -</i>
		95,000	<i>90,000</i>
	Pension contributions paid	20,000 -	<i>20,000 -</i>
		25,000	<i>25,000</i>

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

During the year ended 31 August 2023, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2022 - £122).

13. 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 membership.

14. Exceptional items

	2023	2022
	£	£
Impairment of property	2,258,644	-

The Department for Education (DfE) commissioned professionally-qualified valuers to revalue the land and buildings at two of the schools within the Trust. The valuations were undertaken to enable the DfE to consolidate academies into the Sector Annual Report and Accounts (SARA). The valuations are 'desktop' valuations without any on-site measurement. Despite the inherent limitations in the valuation methodology, the results do indicate an impairment of the property values held. Where applicable, the Trustees have adopted these valuations and impaired the property. The impairment charge arising was £2,258,644 (2022 - £Nil).

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

15. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Long-term leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation						
At 1 September 2022	9,068,187	7,809,263	174,391	21,605	128,822	17,202,268
Additions	-	38,842	-	5,986	14,885	59,713
At 31 August 2023	<u>9,068,187</u>	<u>7,848,105</u>	<u>174,391</u>	<u>27,591</u>	<u>143,707</u>	<u>17,261,981</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2022	383,745	1,356,539	45,825	10,091	97,660	1,893,860
Charge for the year	230,319	281,966	17,439	2,161	16,350	548,235
Impairment charge	-	2,258,644	-	-	-	2,258,644
At 31 August 2023	<u>614,064</u>	<u>3,897,149</u>	<u>63,264</u>	<u>12,252</u>	<u>114,010</u>	<u>4,700,739</u>
Net book value						
At 31 August 2023	<u><u>8,454,123</u></u>	<u><u>3,950,956</u></u>	<u><u>111,127</u></u>	<u><u>15,339</u></u>	<u><u>29,697</u></u>	<u><u>12,561,242</u></u>
At 31 August 2022	<u><u>8,684,442</u></u>	<u><u>6,452,724</u></u>	<u><u>128,566</u></u>	<u><u>11,514</u></u>	<u><u>31,162</u></u>	<u><u>15,308,408</u></u>

16. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Due within one year		
VAT recoverable	5,347	66,155
Prepayments and accrued income	101,237	108,708
	<u>106,584</u>	<u>174,863</u>

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

17. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	27,759	158,998
Other taxation and social security	46,172	40,427
Other creditors	63,310	85,906
Accruals and deferred income	170,210	186,136
	307,451	471,467
	2023	2022
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	109,877	39,941
Resources deferred during the year	117,752	109,877
Amounts released from previous periods	(109,877)	(39,941)
	117,752	109,877

At the balance sheet date the Trust was holding grant funding of £117,752 received in advance relating to Universal Infant Free School Meals, Rates Relief and SEN funding.

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

18. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
General funds	292,852	92,292	-	-	-	385,144
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	312,961	3,260,249	(2,914,923)	(201,867)	-	456,420
Rates Relief	-	19,404	(19,271)	-	-	133
PE and Sport Grant	-	53,860	(53,860)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	78,073	(78,073)	-	-	-
Supplementary Grant	-	93,431	(93,431)	-	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	287,006	(287,006)	-	-	-
Teacher pay grant	-	1,070	(1,070)	-	-	-
Teacher pension grant	-	3,023	(3,023)	-	-	-
Recovery Premium	-	28,354	(28,354)	-	-	-
Other DfE/EFSA grants	-	9,171	(9,171)	-	-	-
CIF/DFC revenue expenditure	-	-	(54,569)	54,569	-	-
Other government grants	-	131,306	(35,359)	-	-	95,947
Other restricted income	-	25,580	(24,939)	-	-	641
SEN funding	-	158,741	(158,741)	-	-	-
Nursery funding	-	184,926	(184,926)	-	-	-
School led tutoring	-	23,861	(23,861)	-	-	-
Mainstream Schools Additional Grant	-	49,428	(49,428)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(576,000)	-	(251,000)	185,000	304,000	(338,000)
	(263,039)	4,407,483	(4,271,005)	37,702	304,000	215,141

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

18. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Fixed assets	15,205,236	-	(2,774,444)	-	-	12,430,792
DFC	-	62,700	(853)	(54,569)	-	7,278
CIF	42,744	-	(17,141)	-	-	25,603
Capital expenditure from GAG	103,172	-	(14,441)	16,867	-	105,598
	<u>15,351,152</u>	<u>62,700</u>	<u>(2,806,879)</u>	<u>(37,702)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,569,271</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>15,088,113</u>	<u>4,470,183</u>	<u>(7,077,884)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>304,000</u>	<u>12,784,412</u>
Total funds	<u><u>15,380,965</u></u>	<u><u>4,562,475</u></u>	<u><u>(7,077,884)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>304,000</u></u>	<u><u>13,169,556</u></u>

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18. Statement of funds (continued)

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

General Annual Grant (GAG)

This represents funding from the ESFA to cover the costs of recurrent expenditure. The transfer from GAG relates to a contribution of £16,867 from GAG funding towards the purchase of capital assets during the period and a transfer of £185,000 to the pension reserve representing the employer contributions to the LGPS.

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

Other DfE/ESFA Grants

This represents Pupil Premium, Rates Relief, PE and Sports Grants, FSM supplementary grant, Teacher pay grant, Teacher pension grant, COVID catch up premium, Universal Infant Free School Meals and other income from DfE / ESFA received in the period. These funds are used to raise achievement and improve outcomes for pupils, or to provide support for pupils from low income families.

The COVID Recovery Premium, is to be utilised to help pupils catch-up on missed learning, as a result of the impact of COVID.

Other Government Grants

This represents other funding from the government towards the provision of education.

Other Restricted Income

This represents funding received from other bodies towards a specific purpose.

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds

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

DfE/ESFA Capital Grants

Capital grants, are made up of Devolved Formula Capital which is received by the Trust to use to maintain and improve its buildings and facilities and Conditional Improvement Fund Income to be used to improve buildings.

The total fixed asset funds were £12,569,271 at 31 August 2023, and the total fixed assets on the balance sheet were £12,561,242. The difference of £8,029 relates to unspent CIF funding.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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18. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2021 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2022 £</i>
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	310,514	74,468	(78,144)	(13,986)	-	292,852
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	198,177	2,915,566	(2,716,077)	(84,705)	-	312,961
Rates Relief	-	17,470	(17,470)	-	-	-
PE and Sport Grant	20,410	53,270	(73,680)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	70,224	(70,224)	-	-	-
Supplementary Grant	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	234,342	(234,342)	-	-	-
Teacher pay grant	-	1,505	(1,505)	-	-	-
Teacher pension grant	-	4,252	(4,252)	-	-	-
Recovery Premium	-	24,258	(16,210)	(8,048)	-	-
Other DfE/EFSA grants	-	63,563	(63,563)	-	-	-
CIF/DFC revenue expenditure	-	-	(35,962)	35,962	-	-
Other government grants	13,500	361,001	(374,501)	-	-	-
Income from other schools	200	-	(200)	-	-	-
Other restricted income	12,000	28,145	(40,145)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(2,219,000)	-	(311,000)	-	1,954,000	(576,000)
	<u>(1,969,713)</u>	<u>3,773,596</u>	<u>(3,964,131)</u>	<u>(56,791)</u>	<u>1,954,000</u>	<u>(263,039)</u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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18. Statement of funds (continued)

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2021 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2022 £</i>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Fixed assets	15,557,054	-	(533,794)	181,976	-	15,205,236
DFC	16,841	19,121	-	(35,962)	-	-
CIF	-	213,718	-	(170,974)	-	42,744
Capital expenditure from GAG	14,305	-	(6,870)	95,737	-	103,172
	<u>15,588,200</u>	<u>232,839</u>	<u>(540,664)</u>	<u>70,777</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,351,152</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>13,618,487</u>	<u>4,006,435</u>	<u>(4,504,795)</u>	<u>13,986</u>	<u>1,954,000</u>	<u>15,088,113</u>
Total funds	<u><u>13,929,001</u></u>	<u><u>4,080,903</u></u>	<u><u>(4,582,939)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>1,954,000</u></u>	<u><u>15,380,965</u></u>

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

18. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Ad Meliora Trust	66,615	(68,907)
Blenheim Park Academy	45,581	19,568
Reffley Academy	308,388	299,356
Greenpark Academy	517,701	355,796
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	938,285	605,813
Restricted fixed asset fund	12,569,271	15,351,152
Pension reserve	(338,000)	(576,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	13,169,556	15,380,965
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AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18. Statement of funds (continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Ad Meliora Trust	168,514	71,361	-	173,779	413,654	423,035
Blenheim Park Academy	321,934	42,071	32,618	1,038,886	1,435,509	569,520
Reffley Academy	1,167,863	112,090	103,744	1,637,307	3,021,004	1,711,812
Greenpark Academy	1,121,335	197,237	57,298	283,612	1,659,482	1,337,908
Trust	<u>2,779,646</u>	<u>422,759</u>	<u>193,660</u>	<u>3,133,584</u>	<u>6,529,649</u>	<u>4,042,275</u>

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	12,561,242	12,561,242
Current assets	385,144	860,592	8,029	1,253,765
Creditors due within one year	-	(307,451)	-	(307,451)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(338,000)	-	(338,000)
Total	385,144	215,141	12,569,271	13,169,556

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	15,308,408	15,308,408
Current assets	292,852	784,428	42,744	1,120,024
Creditors due within one year	-	(471,467)	-	(471,467)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(576,000)	-	(576,000)
Total	292,852	(263,039)	15,351,152	15,380,965

AD MELIORA ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(2,515,409)	(502,036)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	548,235	540,664
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(62,700)	-
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	41,000	273,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	25,000	38,000
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	68,279	(55,315)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(164,016)	321,888
Impairment of fixed assets	2,258,644	-
Net cash provided by operating activities	199,033	616,201

21. Cash flows from investing activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(59,713)	(277,713)
Capital grants from DfE Group	62,700	(603)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	2,987	(278,316)

22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand and at bank	1,147,181	945,161
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,147,181	945,161

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

23. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	945,161	202,020	1,147,181
	945,161	202,020	1,147,181

24. Pension commitments

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020 and of the LGPS 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £58,983 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022 - £85,860) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

24. Pension commitments (continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 30 October 2023. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million
- the SCAPE discount rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 1.7% above the rate of CPI, and is based on the Office for Budget Responsibility's forecast for long-term GDP growth.

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £330,744 (2022 - £294,080).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2023/10/valuation-result.aspx>).

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £234,000 (2022 - £189,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £185,000 (2022 - £150,000) and employees' contributions totalled £49,000 (2022 - £39,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 20.3 - 22.7 per cent for employers and 5.5 - 12.5 per cent for employees.

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

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

24. Pension commitments (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2023	2022
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.70	3.75
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.20	4.25
Inflation assumption (CPI)	3.00	3.05

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

	2023	2022
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	20.6	21.7
Females	22.3	24.1
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	20.7	22.9
Females	25.4	26.0

As at 31 August 2023 the Trust had a pension liability of £338,000 (2022: £576,000). The sensitivity analysis detailed below would increase/(decrease) the closing defined obligation in the following way;

Sensitivity analysis

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Discount rate -0.1%	53	9
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	93	19
Pension increase rate +0.1%	52	9

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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24. Pension commitments (continued)

Share of scheme assets

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

	At 31 August 2023	<i>At 31 August 2022</i>
	£	£
Equities	991,000	870,730
Bonds	693,700	657,490
Property	237,840	213,240
Cash	59,460	35,540
Total market value of assets	1,982,000	1,777,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £(5,000) (2022 - £19,000).

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

	2023	<i>2022</i>
	£	£
Current service cost	(226,000)	(423,000)
Interest income	80,000	28,000
Interest cost	(105,000)	(66,000)
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	(251,000)	(461,000)

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

	2023	<i>2022</i>
	£	£
At 1 September	2,353,000	3,811,000
Current service cost	226,000	423,000
Interest cost	105,000	66,000
Employee contributions	49,000	39,000
Actuarial gains	(389,000)	(1,963,000)
Benefits paid	(24,000)	(23,000)
At 31 August	2,320,000	2,353,000

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

24. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 September	1,777,000	1,592,000
Interest income	80,000	28,000
Actuarial losses	(85,000)	(9,000)
Employer contributions	185,000	150,000
Employee contributions	49,000	39,000
Benefits paid	(24,000)	(23,000)
At 31 August	1,982,000	1,777,000

25. Operating lease commitments

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Not later than 1 year	-	1,530

26. Members' liability

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

27. Related party transactions

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain Trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 12.