

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

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<b>Members</b>	Mr J Field (Chair) (Resigned 25 October 2022) Mrs K Alcock Mrs S Davey Mr D Elliott Mr M Lees (Askel Veur) Mr R Willoughby (Appointed 19 January 2023)
<b>Trustees</b>	Mrs J Eason, Chair of Trustees <sup>1,2,3,4</sup> Mr D Sharp, Vice Chair <sup>1,2,3</sup> Mr G Anderson <sup>1,4</sup> Mrs M Andrews <sup>1,3</sup> Canon P Gay (Askel Veur), Askel Veur <sup>1,3,4</sup> Mrs J Osborne (Askel Veur), Askel Veur <sup>2,3</sup> Mr P Taylor-McCartney (Resigned 20 September 2022) Dr A Parfitt (Resigned 3 February 2023) <sup>1,2</sup> Mr A Cooke <sup>2,3,4</sup>  <sup>1</sup> Education Committee <sup>2</sup> Finance and Resources Committee <sup>3</sup> Audit and Risk Committee <sup>4</sup> Pay Committee
<b>Company registered number</b>	07657923
<b>Company name</b>	Leading Edge Academies Partnership
<b>Principal and Registered office</b>	Unit H Pattern Shop Trevoarn Hayle Cornwall TR27 4EZ
<b>Company secretary</b>	L Sadler (Resigned 30/11/2022) H Peerless (Appointed 03/01/2023)
<b>Accounting Officer</b>	K Butcher
<b>Senior management team</b>	H Peerless, Director of Governance (Appointed 03/01/2023) D Teasdale, Chief Operating Officer L Sadler, Governance Professional (Resigned 30/11/2022) K Butcher, Chief Executive Officer
<b>Independent auditors</b>	Bishop Fleming LLP Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors Chy Nyverow Newham Road Truro Cornwall TR1 2DP

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

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**Bankers**

Lloyds Bank PLC  
Market House  
Penzance  
Cornwall  
TR18 2TN

**Solicitors**

Browne Jacobson  
Ground Floor  
Keble House  
Southernhay Gardens  
Exeter  
Devon  
EX1 1NT

## **LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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

The Trust operates three primary academies, two secondary academies and one 'all-through' academy in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Its academies have a combined pupil capacity of 2880 and had a roll of 2403 in the school census on October 2023.

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **Constitution**

The Trust was incorporated on 3 June 2011 and opened as a Multi Academy Trust with just one member school, Mounts Bay Academy, on the same date. It is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Trust. The Trustees of Leading Edge Academies Partnership are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company operates as 'Leading Edge Academies Partnership'.

Details of the Trustees who have served throughout the year ended 31 August 2023 and to the date the accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administration Details.

#### **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 £10, for the debts and liabilities contracted before they cease to be a Member.

One member resigned and one member was recruited in the year covered by this report.

#### **Trustees' Indemnities**

The Companies Act 2006 s236 requires disclosure concerning qualifying third-party indemnity provisions. As required in the Trust's Articles of Association, indemnity insurance has been taken out to cover the liability of Trustees, which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default or breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Trust, provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission, which the Trustees knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty or which was committed by the Trustees in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not and provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Trustees in their capacity as Trustees. The limit of this indemnity is £10.

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £1 million on any one claim.

#### **Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees**

As set out in its Articles of Association and Funding Agreement, the Trust has the following Trustees:

- Up to 6 Member-appointed Trustees (which can include the CEO)
- No fewer than 2 Representative Trustees appointed by the Diocese (Askel Veur), but not exceeding 25% of the total number
- Up to 2 co-opted Trustees appointed by the Trust Board.

Trustees are required to appoint no fewer than 2 parent directors where the Trustees have not appointed Local Governing Bodies in each academy which include parent representatives. The Trust's Local Governing Bodies (known as Local Academy Committees) include provision for parent representatives and so this article is not applied.

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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Trustees are appointed on the basis of the specific skills they can bring to the Board of Trustees, to ensure a strong and varied skill set from a range of business and educational backgrounds, including Church representation. An initial assessment of applicants is undertaken in consultation with the Members, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board. Interviews of suitable candidates are co-ordinated by the Director of Governance (Governance Professional), Chair and Vice-Chair and all appointments are reviewed and ratified by the Trustees/Members (as appropriate) before being formally confirmed in post.

Trustees are appointed for a four-year period initially. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be re-appointed or re-elected.

The Diocesan body referred to as 'Askel Veur' is empowered to appoint two Trustees. When appointing new Trustees, consideration will be given by the Board to the mix of skills and experience of existing Trustees to ensure the Board has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the development of the Trust's academies.

Two Trustees resigned and no new Trustees were appointed in the year covered by this report.

**Policies and Procedures adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees**

Upon the appointment of Trustees, induction is undertaken via a face-to-face session with the CEO, Chair of the Trust Board and Governance Professional to appraise them of the role of Trustee and familiarise them with the Scheme of Delegation, policies, procedures and the Trust's current position.

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend upon their existing experience and always include a visit to one of the academies, with an opportunity to meet staff and pupils. All Trustees are provided with copies of documents essential to their role, for example a copy of the National Governance Association's (NGA's) publication entitled 'Welcome to a Multi Academy Trust, a guide for newly appointed trustees', Trust's Articles of Association, Academy Trust Handbook, Scheme of Delegation, Strategic Plan, safeguarding policies, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents they need to undertake their role as Trustees in the form of a 'Governance Handbook'. As there are normally only two or three new Trustees appointed each year, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual. Advantage is taken of specific courses offered by the Local Authority and other bodies such as the National Governance Association (NGA) and the Confederation of School Trusts (CST).

Training for all Trustees and Local Academy Committee governors is organised each year, which includes training sessions to keep the Trustees/governors updated on relevant developments impacting on their roles and responsibilities.

**Organisational Structure**

The Trust's Members are the guardians of the governance of the Trust, holding the Trust Board to account for effective governance and upholding the charitable purpose of the organisation. Members appoint the Trust Board, but have no day-to-day role in the running of the Trust. The Members meet at least twice per year, including an Annual General Meeting where they receive the audited accounts, appoint auditors for the Trust and receive an annual report on the performance and effectiveness of the Trust. Trustees will organise additional meetings for Members as required to keep them informed of important strategic matters impacting on the Trust.

The Trust Board manages the business of the Trust and has collective accountability and responsibility for the academy Trust and assuring itself that there is compliance with regulatory, contractual, and statutory requirements.

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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The Trust Board provides:

- Strategic leadership of the academy trust: the board defines the trust vision for high quality and inclusive education in line with its charitable objects. It establishes and fosters the trust's culture and sets and champions the trust strategy including determining what, if any, governance functions are delegated to the local tier
- Accountability and assurance: the board has robust effective oversight of the operations and performance of the academy trust, including the provision of education, pupil welfare, overseeing and ensuring appropriate use of funding and effective financial performance and keeping the estate safe and well- maintained
- Engagement: the board has strategic oversight of relationships with stakeholders. The board involves parents, schools and communities so that decision-making is supported by meaningful engagement

The Trust's Scheme of Delegation clearly defines the relationship between the Trust Board, CEO, Executive Team, LACs and Headteachers/Principals. The green shaded boxes indicate at a glance who has authority to make decisions. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is the accounting officer for the Trust.

The Trust Board usually meets twice in the Autumn term, then once per term thereafter to receive reports from its four sub-committees and monitor strategic objectives and compliance. The Board establishes an overall framework for the governance of the academies and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of the committees and other groups. It receives reports including policies from its committees for ratification. The Board also monitors the activities of the committees through the minutes of their meetings and may from time to time establish working groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

The Trustees are responsible for defining the trust vision and strategy, approving key policies, adopting an annual plan and budget, approving the statutory accounts, monitoring the performance of academies by the use of performance, financial and other data, and making major decisions about the direction of the academies, capital expenditure and staff appointments.

The Trustees and Board of Trustees delegate responsibility for the day- to- day management of the academies to the CEO, who works with the six Headteachers and their Senior Leadership Teams (SLT). The SLTs of each of the academies comprise the Headteacher/Principal, Deputy Headteacher, Assistant Headteachers and in some instances Associate Assistant Headteachers. The Headteachers and SLTs in each academy implement the policies laid down by the Trustees and CEO. Decisions on policy are developed with the guidance of the Executive Headteachers. Performance management of Headteacher is undertaken by the CEO and performance management of the CEO is undertaken by a panel of Trustees as appointed by the Trust Board.

The Trust's Executive Leadership Team consists of the CEO, Chief Operating Officer (COO), Finance Director, Director of People, Director of Governance and the Headteachers/ Principals of the six academies.

The CEO as Accounting Officer, COO, Finance Director and the Finance and Resources Committee are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets; a summary of this is detailed in the Scheme of Delegation. Some spending control is devolved to budget holders, which must be authorized in line with the Scheme of Delegation. The individual Headteachers/Principals, in consultation with the CEO, are responsible for the appointment of staff, though appointment panels for teaching posts should always include a Local Governor where possible.

Each of the Trust's academies has its own Local Academy Committee (LAC), which is responsible for providing local oversight and stakeholder engagement. They undertake functions and decision making in line with their Terms of Reference and the Trust's Scheme of Delegation. This includes:

- providing support and challenge to senior leaders
- engagement with the school, its parents and local community and communicating this to the Trust Board

The budget responsibility is held with the CEO/Accounting Officer and Trust Board.

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
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**Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel**

Performance management is used to determine pay progression for all posts across the Trust. The CEO advises the board of Trustees in respect of the Executive Team. The CEO receives recommendations from the Headteachers/Principals for all teaching and support staff across the academies within the Trust. The Trust's pay policies for support and teaching staff are reviewed annually by the Pay Committee and submitted to the Board for ratification.

CEO pay is determined by the 'Performance Management Committee'; a working group of Trustees, who will benchmark examples from similar sized trusts with reference to the Academy Trust Handbook best practice. All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee has received any remuneration for duties undertaken during the year.

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

**Trade union facility time**

**Relevant union officials**

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
<b>7</b>	<b>6.8</b>

Whilst administrative support was made available, no additional time was requested over the year by the representatives.

**Percentage of time spent on facility time**

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	<b>7</b>
1%-50%	<b>0</b>
51%-99%	<b>0</b>
100%	<b>0</b>

**Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time**

Provide the total cost of facility time	<b>0</b>
Provide the total pay bill	<b>0</b>
Provide the percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (total cost of facility time / total pay bill) x 100	<b>0</b>

**Paid trade union activities**

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours calculated as:  (total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period / total paid facility time hours) x 100	<b>0</b>
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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**Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations**

The Trust has a policy in place for staff and Trustees to disclose and handle related party transactions in line with company and charity law and ESFA guidance (particularly in relation to the Academy Trust Handbook).

There are no related party transactions to report and the Trust has no related parties that control or significantly influence the decisions or operations of Trust schools.

**Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)**

The Trust places great emphasis on its values system and principles by which it works. Through consultation and discussion with the Executive Team and staff at all levels, the Trust's vision and values have been placed at the heart of everything we do at the Trust.

Our employees are vital to the Trust and we regard ongoing, regular engagement with them as a top priority. We measure employee engagement through regular feedback and joint communication sessions. We address any issues raised by our employees as quickly as possible and communicate back to them what we have done. All staff are offered access to a well-being support service through the Trust's membership of the employee assistance programme 'Education Support' and the Trust seeks to ensure that staff welfare is actively considered and addressed. Through our health and safety policies, as well as through the LACs, we also actively seek to ensure that the working environments are of a high standard, safe and secure.

The Trust engages with its employees through many other means and methods, including:

- Encouraging the involvement of employees in the company's performance and related activities eg Research Circles, TeachMeets
- Consulting with employees on key matters, including engaging the relevant union officials
- Having a staff representative on the Local Academy Committees
- Regular updates to all staff Trustees, via half termly updates and newsletters, including covering both financial and non-financial performance
- Regular updates to the Members and Local Academy Committees (LACs) via copies of key documentation, minutes and correspondence from the CEO
- Consulting with staff on Trust strategy and future plans
- Achieving a common awareness on the part of all employees of the factors affecting the performance of the Trust via local updates
- Policies and processes around the employment of persons with disabilities, their career development and training

The Trust encourages the involvement of its employees in its management through the regular meetings and receiving their views on important matters of policy and strategy.

In addition to the above, Link Trustees have been assigned to the six schools in the Trust (two per school) to carry out termly visits, with a specific focus for their visits determined by the CEO. The role of the Link Trustees is aligned with the Trust's Strategic Plan.

In line with the Trust's equal opportunities and recruitment policy, every effort is made to ensure that full and fair consideration is given to all applicants, including those with disabilities, when such vacancies arise.

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

Section 172 of the Companies Act 2006 requires the Trustees to act in the way they consider, in good faith, would be most likely to promote the success of the charity to achieve its charitable purposes.

The Trust makes all key decisions through reference to its long-term strategic plan and after projecting the timing and impact of such decisions. This strategy is primarily designed around the objective to improve the educational outcome for students and every decision and operational approach is regularly reviewed for its impact on all stakeholders and the need for any changes or modifications to decisions previously taken.

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

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Our relationships with partners and suppliers are key to our effectiveness. The Trust actively seeks to engage in service reviews with all key suppliers. These reviews are focussed on a two-way relationship with the Trust with an aim of helping one another to achieve an optimum service as efficiently as possible and according to the best value for money. Where the Trust has procured outsourced services, we seek to ensure that staff and management from that contractor are supported as an equal member of the school community and stakeholders.

We recognise our responsibility to care for the environment and aim to minimise our environmental impact in all our activities. As well as covering environmental issues in our Strategic Plan and school curriculum, the Trust encourages all staff and students to participate in initiatives to reduce negative environmental impacts. These include the promotion of the recycling of waste and actions to maximise efficiency in energy consumption.

During the year, a focus has been to improve contractual transparency with energy providers, providing some cost saving and considerable cost avoidance in the future. Regarding IT provision across the Trust, work has commenced on the development of an IT Strategy, to ensure continuous value for money and an improved quality of service critical to our schools in the provision of a quality educational offer. This will also help us to ensure we are fully compliant with safeguarding needs, GDPR and enhanced cyber security.

Our reputation and public trust in its constituent schools, is fundamental to our future success. We use our organisational values and behaviours in our recruitment and training for our employees to ensure we maintain high standards and these are incorporated into our performance management processes. Our procurement and ethical policies and procedures ensure that our values also form part of our selection of partners and suppliers.

In terms of members of the Trust, fairness in our dealings is upheld through having a clear and well communicated strategy and financial discipline, supported by strong internal controls. We have transparent reporting at regular intervals throughout the year, continual access to senior management and a track record of successful growth through new school joiners, which have been appropriately integrated into the Trust. We aim to be a fully inclusive organisation and we will not unfairly discriminate against our students, staff or any other member of our community and stakeholders.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Objects and Aims**

The principal object and activity of the Trust is to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular, by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing Leading Edge schools that offer a broad range of curriculum opportunities for pupils of different abilities.

The Academy Trust bases all its decisions on three core values adopted within an ecological framework. These are our three Es and they include the following:

- **Excellence**
- **Evolution**
- **Equity**

These values also inform the 'Learner Habits' or expected behaviour for all staff and students in the Trust. They are evident in the ethos of the organisation and support our collective aim of developing an affirmative culture for all.

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

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**Objectives, Strategies and Activities**

Our long term 'Strategic Plan' details our 5-year strategic priorities (2020-2025):

- Priority 1: Increasing quality of provision in our education system to ensure excellent opportunities and outcomes for all.
- Priority 2: Building a positive and expectant culture across the Trust, striving for excellence in all that we do through partnership working and a research-led approach.
- Priority 3: Developing a financially viable, sustainable and ethically driven Multi-Academy Trust which nurtures the talents of all.

In the Schools White Paper 2022, the Department for Education published the five pillars of quality for multi-academy trusts. Our 2022-2023 strategic priorities sat under these five pillars:

1. High Quality and Inclusive Education
2. School Improvement
3. Workforce
4. Finance and Operations
5. Governance and Leadership

**Priority 1 - High Quality and Inclusive Education**

Our first priority for 2022-2023 was to increase pupil attendance. A range of strategies were put in place and as a result the attendance across the trust fell in-line with National Average as targeted.

All schools focused on curriculum development ensuring breadth and balance and striving for an ambitious curriculum for all. The positive result of this work was remarked on in recent Ofsted inspections.

Collaboration was a fundamental part of improving quality of education; of particular success, the introduction of instructional rounds as a method of peer review. A range of activities including poetry recitals, sports, drama and dance were also introduced giving pupils the opportunity to work with peers from across the trust. Robust monitoring procedures were developed, seeking external advice and support where most useful.

**Priority 2 - Trust-wide School Improvement Systems and Processes**

The trusts school improvement strategy was further refined during the academic year which allowed increased accountability and a more targeted approach to school improvement which makes best use of strengths to support capacity and improvement in others.

The Trust growth strategy was refined and a local primary school successfully joined us on a 'Trust Partnership Agreement'. As part of the agreement, they joined in all Leading Edge school improvement activities.

The development of a seamless data collection and reporting process was begun during the academic year. The remedial work has now been completed and full launch will take place in January 2024. The new system will invariably increase efficiency and reduce workload.

The trust has recognised that School Improvement capacity will need to be increased in 2023-2024 to ensure effective school improvement in the schools which need it most.

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

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**Priority 3 – Strategic Governance**

The focus in 2022/23 was on ensuring that the Trust's governance practices and procedures were effective and compliant as well as improving the governance experience for members, trustees and governors. A review of statutory and regulatory requirements against the articles of association, Academy Trust Handbook, etc has provided assurance of compliance. This has included embedding recruitment procedures, checks, and records for members, trustees and governors to ensure consistency across the schools and central team. The Trust has also continued to develop its training requirements and offer, particularly at the local governance layer in order to embed good practice across the Trust.

Going forward to 2023/24, the strategic priority for governance will be to continue to develop the local layer of school governance to define how our Local Academy Committees contribute to school improvement, trust governance and stakeholder engagement.

**Priority 4 – Business Services**

We were pleased to appoint a communications lead for the Trust who developed the appropriate systems and processes to communicate with stakeholders. This included planned comms through social media and the development and delivery of a half-termly staff newsletter.

Further work was undertaken to evaluate the current state of the Trust estate. CIF bids were submitted for all schools and additional funding identified from Trust and Foundation funding. This has paved the way for the development of a whole-Trust estates strategy in 2023-2024. Training was undertaken to ensure a sound knowledge base within the central team. Work and activities were completed across all schools to support the sustainability agenda and resource identified to consider the wider sustainability strategy in 2023-2024.

Work was carried out by various stakeholder groups as part of the development of a Trust Digital Strategy. Work has begun on streamlining Trust systems including the agreement to move to a single MIS system across all schools.

Considerable work has been undertaken to align business systems and processes across Trust schools. Internal audit reports have been used to drive improvement in key areas and to identify opportunities for improvement. A Trust Trading Subsidiary is being set up to meet the needs of the organisation.

Time and energy has been given to developing relationships with local LA maintained schools and to providing opportunities for collaborative working. This includes some formal partnership working. Opportunities for growth will continue to be considered in 2023-2024.

**Priority 5 - Workforce**

Recruitment processes and procedures were standardised across all Trust schools. With improved systems introduced for managing vacancies centrally. Following an audit of the staff induction process, a standardised model for induction was developed and trialed in a small number of settings. An improved induction process will be rolled out across the Trust in 2023 – 2024.

Work carried out to identify priorities for Trust-wide training for colleagues from a range of roles. This training programme will be further developed in 2023 –2024.

HR data capture and utilisation has been improved to facilitate a consistent approach to management. Absence and exit interviews are undertaken in a consistent manner and findings used to inform the process. Staff incentives have been broadened and will continue to be developed in 2023 – 2024.

Early-stage development of training programme for Trust leaders has been useful and will inform further developments and roll out in 2023 – 2024. Communication to staff has been improved by use of the Trust newsletter.

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

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**Public Benefit**

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

The Academy Trust aims to advance for the public benefit, education in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. In particular, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, by estimating, maintaining, managing and developing schools, offering a broad curriculum.

Academies within the Trust provide facilities for recreational and other leisure time occupation for the community at large in the interests of social welfare and with the interest of improving the life of the said community.

As an Academy Trust we have a duty to support other local schools. In particular, the secondary schools support the local Primary schools through use of our premises and specialist skills in all subjects.

**STRATEGIC REPORT**

**Achievements and Performance**

The Academy Trust remained as six schools with all schools contributing 5% of GAG to the central fund. The achievement and performance data have been included below.

Secondary GCSE Results 2022-2023

	Mounts Bay Academy	Fowey River Academy	Five Islands Academy	Cornwall Local Authority	All state-funded schools in England
No. of pupils	199	98	32	N/A	N/A
Progress 8	-0.39	-0.6	0.73	-0.11	-0.03
Entering EBac	39	36	31	24	39
EBacc average point score	3.88	3.42	4.44	3.71	4.05
Grade 5+ or above in English and Maths	44	30	63	39	45
Attainment 8 Score	45.1	39.5	53.2	44.1	46.2
Staying in education or entering employment	93	95	80	94	94

Primary Statutory Tests

Primary assessment attainment data for 2022-2023 will be nationally published this year, however progress data will not due to the disruption to key stage 1 testing in 2020 and 2021.

We were pleased that attainment at St Buryan improved in all areas in 2023 and exercise caution when looking at the data due to the small cohort sizes.

The data highlights some targeted work for us to do in writing in 2023-2024 across all of the schools. Robust data analysis and context will be taken to account when supporting school improvement in the specific areas needed.

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

Phonics attainment is good across the trust when compared to national averages.

KS2 SATs	Maths (%)	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	GPS (%)
National	73	73	71	72
Ludgvan	56	76	59	76
St Buryan	69	62	53	77
St Hilary	69	74	66	77
Five Islands Academy	74	53	37	47

Y2 Phonics	% of pupils passing (number of pupils)
National	79%
Ludgvan	90%
St Buryan	70%
St Hilary	76%
Five Islands Academy	88%

We know that outcomes for disadvantaged pupils are the biggest concern nationally, regionally and locally. This is also the case in our Leading Edge schools and will be a focus for us in 2023-2024.

St Buryan Academy was the only school to receive an Ofsted inspection during 2022-2023. This was an ungraded inspection and confirmed that the school is still 'good'. Five Islands Academy received a SIAM's inspection which was also judged as 'good' with many areas outstanding. All of the schools continued to access the Challenge Partner Quality Assurance reviews as a means of external assurance for quality of education.

A substantial amount of work went into raising attendance levels across our schools in 2022-2023. We are really pleased that this work had the impact of bringing us in-line with National Averages for attendance.

The Trust commissioned a Trust Peer review via the Challenge Partners network in March 2023 which identified many strengths. The main area for development arising from the review was preparing for future growth.

Numbers on roll have remained stable across the Trust.

**Key Performance Indicators**

The main financial performance indicator is the level of reserves held at the Balance Sheet date. In particular, the management of spending against total income. In the period under review, £595,049 was carried forward representing 1.5% of total income.

As funding is based on pupil numbers, this is also a key performance indicator. Pupil numbers for the 2022/23 year-end was 2,377, remaining steady.

Another key financial performance indicator is staffing costs as a percentage of total income. For 2022/23 this was 75.7% compared to 75.12% in 2022.

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

	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Total unrestricted funds balance	£1,162,506 (5% of Total Income)	£595,049
Pupil to teacher ratio	20.2	15.86
Teaching to non-teaching staff ratio	1	1.19
Student attendance %	Target 1% above National Average	91.4%
Ratio of staff costs to total income	78%	75.7%

**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.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Most of the Trust's income is obtained from the DfE via the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to specific purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. The Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the DfE which are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the Fixed Asset Fund. The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the useful life of the assets concerned, as defined in the Trust's accounting policies.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, the Trust received a total income of £18,599,314 and incurred a total expenditure of £20,199,921. The excess of expenditure over income for the year was £1,600,607.

As at 31 August 2023 the net book value of fixed assets was £36,217,521 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 16 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Trust.

The land, buildings and other assets were transferred to the Trust upon conversion. Assets have been included in the financial statements at a best estimate, taking account of the purchase price and remaining useful lives.

The Trust has taken on the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme in respect of its non-teaching staff transferred on conversion.

Key financial policies adopted or reviewed during the year include the Finance Policy which lays out the framework for financial management, including financial responsibilities of the Board, headteachers, managers, budget holders and other staff, as well as delegated authority for spending. Other policies reviewed and updated included the expenses, investment and reserves policies.

**Reserves Policy**

As part of the overall governance of the Trust, there is transparency across the Trust in relation to the level of reserves that exist, how they are to be maintained and a clear understanding of the capacity in which these reserves may be utilised.

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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The Trustees review the reserve levels of the Trust regularly. The aim is to maintain cumulative reserves as a proportion of total income of between 3-5%.

The total reserves as at 31/08/23 are £39,066,729 (excluding the defined benefit pension liability), although £38,471,680 is invested in fixed assets or represents non GAG restricted funds. The remaining £595,049 is the balance that the Trustees monitor in accordance with the Board's policy. This represents 3.2% of total income.

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

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

**Investment Policy**

Trustees are committed to ensuring that all funds under their control are managed in such a way as to maximise return whilst minimising risk. Reserve levels are reviewed and cash flows are monitored regularly to ensure that immediate financial commitments can be met.

**PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES**

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

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

**Financial (expenditure)** – The Trust continues to monitor increased costs to the organisation, particularly the anticipated increased cost of energy. The Finance and Resources Committee scrutinise non-salary spend at each meeting, challenging leaders to identify efficiencies and savings. Budget forecast scenarios are presented to Trustees for review and reflect anticipated price increases and the potential impact on Trust reserves.

**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. Trustees continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks. Robust recruitment processes have ensured that Executive and Trustee appointments are made based on skills, experience, and requirements of the Trust.

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

**Safeguarding and child protection** - 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 and safety and discipline.



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

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**Staffing** - the success of the Trust is reliant upon the quality of its staff. Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure the continued development and training of staff, as well as to ensure there is clear succession planning. The Trustees have agreed to the appointment of a Director of People who is responsible for the development and delivery of effective HR systems. The Director of People will also be responsible for the development of the Trust People and Wellbeing Strategies.

**Fraud and mismanagement of funds** - The Trust has appointed the Cornwall Council Financial Audit Team to carry out checks on financial systems and records, as part of their Trust audit function and as required by the Academy Trust Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and develop their skills in this area. Internal Audit has also been carried out by an appropriately trained staff member across all high-risk aspects of financial management.

**Creditors / debtors** – at the year end, the Trust had no significant liabilities arising from trade creditors or debtors that would have a significant effect on liquidity.

**Pension liability** – the Board of Trustees recognises that the defined benefit pension scheme deficit (Local Government Pension Scheme), which is set out in Note 28 to the financial statements, represents a significant potential liability. However, as the Trustees consider the Trust can meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, this risk from this liability is minimised.

**Estates** – Trustees are aware of the risks related to the management of the school estate. Health and safety compliance is audited as part of our audit relationship with Cornwall Council. We ensure that regular condition surveys are carried out across Trust schools. The limitations of DfE funding for estates mean that the challenge of maintaining school buildings is significant. RAAC self-assessments have been completed in all schools, but we await feedback from the DfE regarding the impact of Tonkin Deck.

**Risk management** - The Trust has continued to strengthen its risk management process throughout the year following the introduction of the Audit and Risk Committee. This has facilitated improved risk management processes across the Trust which, have been communicated to staff in all schools. The Trust has agreed a Risk Management Strategy, a Risk Register, and a Risk Management Plan. These have been discussed by Trustees and include the financial risks to the Trust. The register is regularly reviewed considering any new information and formally reviewed annually. Significant risks at school level are escalated to the Audit and Risk Committee and significant organisational risks are escalated to full board for consideration.

Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed. The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess and minimise those risks, including internal controls described elsewhere. Trustees also agreed a robust external assurance programme which has provided Trustees with the evidence that appropriate controls are in place. Where significant financial risk remains, Trustees have ensured they have adequate insurance cover.

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

## **FUNDRAISING**

Under the provisions of the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016, the Trust does not work with commercial participators or professional fundraisers and does not engage third parties to undertake fundraising activities on its behalf.

Should individuals wish to make a complaint about any fundraising activities conducted by the Trust, they should follow the complaints policy or whistleblowing policy as appropriate.

## **STREAMLINED ENERGY AND CARBON REPORTING**

SECR disclosures are mandatory for listed and large unlisted UK companies with reporting cycles beginning on or after 1st April 2019.

This report summarises Leading Edge Academies Partnership's (Leading Edge's) energy usage, associated emissions, energy efficiency actions and energy performance under the government policy Streamlined Energy & Carbon Reporting (SECR). This is implemented by the Companies (Directors' Report) and Limited Liability Partnerships (Energy and Carbon Report) Regulations 2018.

Under the SECR legislation, Leading Edge must disclose its energy consumption, emissions, intensity metrics and all energy efficiency improvements implemented for all UK operations. An operational boundary has been applied for the purposes of the reporting.

A total of 13.73% of consumption data used for SECR has been estimated to achieve 100% data coverage. This has decreased from the FY2021/22 estimation level of 41.00%.

Reporting Year: September 2022 – August 2023

Leading Edge Scope 1 direct and 3 indirect emissions (combustion of natural gas and transportation fuels) for this reporting year are 371.54 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, resulting from the direct combustion of 1,722,749 kWh of fuel. This represents a carbon increase of 4.49% from the previous year ending August 2022.

Scope 2 indirect emissions (purchased electricity) for this reporting year are 190.05 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, resulting from the consumption of 917,794 kWh of electricity purchased and consumed in day-to-day business operations. This represents a carbon reduction of 23.88% from the previous year ending August 2022.

Leading Edge's operations have an intensity metric of 0.24 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per student for this reporting year. This represents a reduction in the operational carbon intensity of 7.88% from the previous year ending August 2022.

The following tables show the consumption and associated emissions for financial years ending August 2023 and August 2022 for all operations.

Total consumption and location-based emissions are reported in Tables 4 and 5.

Scope 1 consumption and emissions include direct combustion of natural gas, and fuels utilised for transportation operations, for example, company vehicle fleets.

Scope 2 consumption and emissions cover indirect emissions related to the consumption of purchased electricity in day-to-day business operations.

Scope 3 consumption and emissions cover emissions resulting from sources not directly owned by Leading Edge i.e., grey fleet business travel undertaken in employee-owned vehicles only.

**Table 3: Leading Edge Academies Partnership Total Emissions Intensity Metric**

Intensity Metrics	Location-based tCO <sub>2</sub> e		Market-based tCO <sub>2</sub> e
	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23
Total No. of students	2,377	2,360	2,377
Total Staff FTE	277.4	281.3	277.4
All Scopes tCO <sub>2</sub> e per No. of Students	0.24	0.26	0.22
Percentage change	-7.88%		n/a
All Scopes tCO <sub>2</sub> e per No. of Students	2.02	2.15	1.88
Percentage change	-5.91%		n/a

**Table 4: Leading Edge Academies Partnership 2022/23 Total Energy Consumption (kWh)**

Utility and Scope	2022/23 Consumption kWh		2021/22 Consumption kWh	
	UK	Total	UK	Total
<b>Scope 1 Total</b>	<b>1,694,987</b>	<b>1,694,987</b>	<b>1,621,852</b>	<b>1,621,852</b>
Gaseous and Other Fuels (Scope 1)	1,518,619	1,518,619	1,469,982	1,469,982
Transportation (Scope 1)	176,367	176,367	151,870	151,870
<b>Scope 2 Total</b>	<b>917,794</b>	<b>917,794</b>	<b>1,291,076</b>	<b>1,291,076</b>
Grid-Supplied Electricity (Scope 2)	917,794	917,794	1,291,076	1,291,076
<b>Scope 3 Total</b>	<b>27,762</b>	<b>27,762</b>	<b>17,176</b>	<b>17,176</b>
Transportation (Scope 3)	27,762	27,762	17,176	17,176
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,640,543</b>	<b>2,640,543</b>	<b>2,930,104</b>	<b>2,930,104</b>

**Table 5: Leading Edge Academies Partnership 2022/23 Total Location-based Emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e).**

Utility and Scope	2022/23 Consumption tCO <sub>2</sub> e		2021/22 Consumption tCO <sub>2</sub> e	
	UK	Total	UK	Total
<b>Scope 1 Total</b>	<b>365.3</b>	<b>365.3</b>	<b>351.63</b>	<b>351.63</b>
Gaseous and Other Fuels (Scope 1)	325.63	325.63	316.6	316.6
Transportation (Scope 1)	39.67	39.67	35.03	35.03
<b>Scope 2 Total</b>	<b>190.05</b>	<b>190.05</b>	<b>249.67</b>	<b>249.67</b>
Grid-Supplied Electricity (Scope 2)	190.05	190.05	249.67	249.67
<b>Scope 3 Total</b>	<b>6.24</b>	<b>6.24</b>	<b>3.96</b>	<b>3.96</b>
Transportation (Scope 3)	6.24	6.24	3.96	3.96
<b>Total</b>	<b>561.6</b>	<b>561.6</b>	<b>605.26</b>	<b>605.26</b>

**Emission Intensity Breakdown for Total Location-Based Emissions**

	Natural Gas & Other Fuels	Electricity	Transport	Total
<b>Carbon Intensity Metric</b>				
FY2022/23 tCO <sub>2</sub> e per student	0.14	0.08	0.02	<b>0.24</b>
FY2021/22 tCO <sub>2</sub> e per student	0.13	0.11	0.02	<b>0.26</b>
YOY percentage change (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	2.12%	-24.42%	16.91%	<b>-7.88%</b>

**Energy Efficiency Improvements**

Leading Edge Academies Partnership is committed to year-on-year improvements in its operational energy efficiency. A register of energy efficiency measures has been compiled, with a view to implementing these measures in the next five years.

Measures ongoing and undertaken through FY2022/23:

**LED Lighting Refurbishment:**

Lighting refurbishments replacing existing fluorescent installations in several academies have been undertaken this reporting year. These installations will further reduce the energy consumption of the academies.

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

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**Building Thermal Performance Improvements:**

Significant building works have been carried out at Mounts Bay Academy to improve thermal comfort and energy efficiency across the school site.

**Heat Source Pumps:**

Heat source pumps have been installed at the St Hilary site to provide a more efficient and better regulated source of heat.

**Windows and Roof Replacements:**

Additional capital funding has been used to replace windows and roofs to improve energy efficiency by retaining more heat in the colder months.

**Reporting Methodology**

This report (including the Scope 1, 2 and 3 consumption and CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions data) has been developed and calculated using the GHG Protocol – A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (World Resources Institute and World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 2004); Greenhouse Gas Protocol – Scope 2 Guidance (World Resources Institute, 2015); ISO 14064-1 and ISO 14064-2 (ISO, 2018; ISO, 2019); Environmental Reporting Guidelines: Including Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting Guidance (HM Government, 2019).

Government Emissions Factor Database 2023 version 1.1 has been used, utilising the published kWh gross calorific value (CV) and kgCO<sub>2</sub>e emissions factors relevant for the reporting period 01/09/2022 – 31/08/2023.

For properties where Leading Edge Academies Partnership dual-reported on location-based and market-based emissions, a supplier specific emissions factor was used for Drax, Engie, Corona Energy, EDF and SSE. For properties where the supply contracts changed during the reporting period, this was apportioned to account for the relevant number of days that a meter was held under each contract.

Estimations were undertaken to cover missing billing periods for properties directly invoiced to Leading Edge Academies Partnership. These were calculated on a kWh/day pro-rata basis at the meter level.

For properties where Leading Edge Academies Partnership is indirectly responsible for utilities (i.e., via a landlord or service charge) or no data is available for the meter, the median consumption for properties, with similar operations was calculated at meter level and applied to the properties with no available data.

All estimations equated to 13.73% of reported consumption.

Data quality is of high importance for Leading Edge Academies. For future reporting years, we recommend Leading Edge prioritise data completeness and invoice availability by having regular check-ins with the suppliers to ensure there are year-on-year data quality improvements.

Intensity metrics have been calculated using total tCO<sub>2</sub>e figures and the selected performance indicator agreed with Leading Edge Academies Partnership for the relevant report period:

- Number of Students FY2022/23 (FY2021/22) 2,377 (2,360)
- Staff FTE FY2022/23 (FY2021/22) 277.4 (281.3)

**PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

The Trust will continue to strive to provide outstanding education and improve the levels of performance of its pupils at all levels and aim to attract high quality teachers and support staff in order to deliver its objectives. In 2023-2024 the Trust will continue to work towards the 5 Year Strategic Priorities detailed under 'Objectives and Activities'.

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

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**FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS**

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

**AUDITOR**

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

The auditors, Bishop Fleming LLP, are willing to continue in office and a resolution to appoint them will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

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



**Jackie Eason**

Chair of Trustees

Date: *6 December 2023*

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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The following statement is provided to enable readers of the Trust's financial statements to obtain a better understanding of its governance and legal structure.

This statement covers the period from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023.

**SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY**

As Trustees, we acknowledge that we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Leading Edge Academies Partnership (the '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 contained in the DfE's Governance Handbook Competency Framework.

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

**GOVERNANCE**

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The full Board of Trustees has formally met five times during the year ended 31 August 2023. In addition, the three main sub-committees of Education, Finance and Resources and Audit and Risk have also each met at least termly.

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

<b>Name of Trustee</b>	<b>Total meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a possible</b>
Jackie Eason (Chair)	5	5
Dave Sharp (Vice Chair)	5	5
Gary Anderson	4	5
Mandy Andrews	4	5
Tony Cooke	2	5
Perran Gay	4	5
Jane Osborne	5	5
Anne Parfitt	1	3
Paul Taylor-McCartney	0	1

**Changes in the Composition of the Board 2022-23**

Over the course of the year, there have been no significant changes to the composition of the Board.

The Chair and Vice- Chair of the Board, Jackie Eason and Dave Sharp, were re- elected at the Trust Board meeting on 12 September 2022.

Two Trustees, Paul Taylor-McCartney and Anne Parfitt, resigned over the course of the year. No new Trustees have been appointed over the course of the year but recruitment processes are underway.

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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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Our Trustees play a vital role on the Board, add value to the decision- making process and have a major impact on the overall success of the Trust. To ensure business continuity and as a part of our succession planning an advertisement for new Trustees remains live on the Trust's website.

**Coverage of the Work of the Board**

Trustees have a detailed Governance Handbook that communicates the scope of their work and functions.

The main Board of Trustees is now supported by four sub-committees as follows:

- **Finance and Resources Committee** – this Committee meets at least three times a year and is responsible for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing policy and performance in relation to financial management, compliance with reporting and regulatory requirements and reporting, receiving reports from the Responsible Officer/internal audit and drafting the annual budget, including setting staffing levels. It also incorporates the role of an admissions, premises and human resources committee.
- **Education Committee** – this Committee meets at least three times a year to monitor, evaluate and review Trust policy, practice and performance in relation to curriculum planning, communications, target setting and assessment, examinations and all pastoral and student welfare issues, including attendance.
- **Audit and Risk Committee** – this Committee meets at least three times a year on a termly basis to monitor, evaluate and review the adequacy and effectiveness of the Trust's governance, risk management, internal control and value for money systems and frameworks.
- **Pay Committee** – this Committee meets at least twice a year, to determine and agree with the Board, the framework for the remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer and such other members of the executive management of the Trust. This committee does not have delegated authority regarding the CEO's pay progression but will make a recommendation to the Trust Board on an annual basis. The remit of this committee also includes oversight of the Trust's approach to executive pay and to review the Trust's annual pay policy and awards to ensure they are financially sustainable.

In adherence with the Academy Trust Handbook the Board and its sub-committees meet on a regular basis to discharge their respective responsibilities and ensure robust governance and effective management arrangements. The three main committees (Education, Finance and Resources and Audit and Risk) meet before the full Board meetings to ensure the effective and detailed scrutiny of all proposals before they are presented to the full Board for approval.

Attendance at the sub-committee meetings in the year was as follows:

Education Committee

<b>Name of Trustee</b>	<b>Total meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a possible</b>
Gary Anderson (Chair)	3	3
Mandy Andrews	1	3
Perran Gay	3	3
Dave Sharp	2	2
Jackie Eason	3	3
Anne Parfitt	1	2



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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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Finance and Resources Committee

<b>Name of Trustee</b>	<b>Total meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a possible</b>
Tony Cooke (Chair)	3	3
Jackie Eason	3	3
Jane Osborne	3	3
Dave Sharp	1	3
Anne Parfitt	0	2

Audit and Risk Committee

<b>Name of Trustee</b>	<b>Total meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a possible</b>
Dave Sharp (Chair)	3	3
Mandy Andrews	3	3
Tony Cooke	3	3
Jackie Eason	2	3
Perran Gay	2	3
Jane Osborne	3	3

Pay Committee

<b>Name</b>	<b>Total meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a possible</b>
Perran Gay (Chair)	2	2
Gary Anderson	2	2
Tony Cooke	2	2
Jackie Eason	1	2

**Performance of the Board including Key Challenges**

Pre-Board and pre-Committee meetings are attended by the Chair, CEO/COO and Director of Governance to discuss and plan agendas in readiness for the full Board and respective sub-committee meetings. These meetings are very effective and help to maintain focus during the meeting. All Board and Committee meeting agendas incorporate space for reflection on how effective the meeting has been, which enables identification of good practice in terms of agenda-setting, information and data and opportunity for discussion and scrutiny.

Finance remains a challenge faced by trusts across the country. This area has been closely scrutinised by the Board and with careful budget monitoring the Board has ensured there are sufficient reserves for good financial management protocol going forward.

**Information and Data used by the Board**

The Trust receives reports from the CEO, COO, Finance Director and the Executive Headteachers (Primary and Secondary), which include full sets of comparative data using agreed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that have been reviewed and adapted by the full Board over the year. The Board has confirmed that the data is sufficiently strategic and robust to allow the Board to make rational and objective decisions. This is constantly reviewed by the Board as the Trust continues to grow and develop.

**Conflict of Interest**

The Trust maintains an up-to-date Register of Interests for Members, Trustees, Local Governors and Senior Executive Leaders as per the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook. These are published on the

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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Trust and individual school websites as relevant. Members, Trustees and Governors must declare at the start of every meeting if they have a pecuniary or other interest in the matters being discussed and the Registers of Interest are updated accordingly.

Finance staff refer to the Registers of Interest on a regular basis to identify any potential conflicts of interest or related party transactions and are kept updated regarding changes to the Register as relevant.

**GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

Following a full External Review of Governance (ERG) in 2021/22, which was undertaken by a national leader of governance from the National Governance Association (NGA), in 2022/23 the Trust has undertaken governance reviews internally, including a Trust Peer Review via Challenge Partners. The Peer Review report recognized that 'Trustees were very clear about where the Trust is in its development and the impact that it is having on the schools in the Trust'. Trustees have also undertaken a self-review using the CST's Strong Trust Assurance Framework.

Trustees are aware of the key areas for improvement across all Trust schools. Trustees visit schools regularly with a key visit focus agreed by the Board. Trustees are conscious of the need to reflect on opportunities for growth and have assigned time to reflect in Board meetings this year regarding potential options.

Areas for governance development identified by the Board and executive leaders have been incorporated into the Trust's Annual Strategic Plan for 2023/24, with a particular focus on enhancing communication between the Trust Board and Local Academy Committees. These objectives will be regularly monitored by Trust Board over the coming year.

**REVIEW OF VALUE FOR MONEY**

As Accounting Officer, the CEO 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 through:

- Robust financial governance and budget management and ensuring that the level of our top slice contribution is kept to the minimum necessary to allow the central functions of the Trust, thus ensuring the maximum resources are available to deliver a high-quality educational offer in all our schools.
- Value for money purchasing, both in the central budget and across the Trust.
- Reviewing controls and managing risk.
- Considering allocation/targeting/use of resources.
- Not allocating time/resources to areas where few improvements can be achieved.
- Making comparisons with similar Academies using data provided by the ESFA and the Government.
- Challenging proposals and examining their effectiveness and efficiency.
- Deploying staff effectively.
- Reviewing quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching using the preferred model of 'Curriculum Led Financial Planning'.
- Reviewing the quality of children's learning to enable children to achieve nationally expected progress.
- Outlining procedures for accepting best value quotes, noting that this is not necessarily the cheapest quote, an example being insurance.

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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During the year ending 31 August 2023, the Trust has:

- Operated with a top slice contribution of 5%.
- Aligned numerous contracts for the supply of goods and services across our schools to ensure best value.
- Worked closely with the DfE to negotiate additional funding for the capital build works at Fowey River Academy.
- Worked closely with school leaders to ensure that the additional capital funding provided by the DfE was used appropriately.
- Further developed Trust systems with the use of Parago to monitor health and safety compliance across the Trust.
- Have carried out appropriate maintenance as required and identified need to make applications for CIF funding.

**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 at Leading Edge Academies Partnership for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

**CAPACITY TO HANDLE RISK**

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

**THE RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK**

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

- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees.
- Regular reviews by the Finance and Resources Committee of reports that indicate financial performance against Trust KPIs forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes.
- Regular reviews by the Audit and Risk Committee of reports that assure the adequacy and effectiveness of the Trust's governance, risk management, internal control and value for money systems and frameworks.
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance.
- Clearly defined purchasing (assets purchase or capital investment) guidelines.
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties.
- Identification and management of risks.

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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

- Trustees have appointed the Local Authority Team to carry out a programme of internal checks.
- Trustees have re-appointed Bishop Fleming LLP as the external auditor, to perform additional checks.

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

- Payroll
- Data and IT Management
- Risk Management
- Safer Recruitment

On a termly basis the auditor/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 auditor/reviewer prepare a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress. Any issues reported have been swiftly actioned by the Finance Director, COO and the Accounting Officer during the year.

**REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS**

As Accounting Officer, the CEO 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/reviewer.
- The work of the external auditor.
- The financial management.
- The external review of governance process.
- The work of the executive team within the Trust which has responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- The financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool
- Correspondence from ESFA e.g. financial notice to improve/notice to improve (FNtI/NtI) 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 Finance and Resources Committee and Audit and Risk Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place as outlined in one of our three key values, 'evolution'.

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



**Jackie Eason**  
Chair of Trustees  
Date: 6 December 2023



**Kelley Butcher**  
Accounting Officer  
Date: 6 December 2023

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

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

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

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance 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.



**Kelley Butcher**  
Accounting Officer  
Date: *6 December 2023*

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Jackie Eason**  
(Chair of Trustees)

Date: *6 December 2023*

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HORIZON MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**

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**OPINION**

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

**BASIS FOR OPINION**

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

**CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN**

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

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

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

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF  
LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP (CONTINUED)**

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

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

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

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

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

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES**

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

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



**AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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

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

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

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

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

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

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF  
LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP (CONTINUED)**

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

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

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

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

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

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

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF  
LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP (CONTINUED)**

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**USE OF OUR REPORT**

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



**Alison Oliver FCA (Senior statutory auditor)**

for and on behalf of

**Bishop Fleming LLP**

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditors

Chy Nyverow

Newham Road

Truro

Cornwall

TR1 2DP

Date: *15 December 2023*

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO LEADING  
EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY**

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 17 June 2019 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 Leading Edge Academies Partnership during the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

**RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP'S  
ACCOUNTING OFFICER AND THE REPORTING ACCOUNTANT**

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Leading Edge Academies Partnership's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated June 2011 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

**APPROACH**

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes:

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

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

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

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

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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.

**CONCLUSION**

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



**Bishop Fleming LLP**  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditors  
Chy Nyverow  
Newham Road  
Truro  
Cornwall  
TR1 2DP

Date: *15 December 2023*

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	36,971	-	420,771	457,742	420,378
Other trading activities	6	248,833	-	-	248,833	330,028
Investments	7	214	-	-	214	200
Charitable activities	4	1,000,004	16,892,521	-	17,892,525	16,491,243
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>1,286,022</b>	<b>16,892,521</b>	<b>420,771</b>	<b>18,599,314</b>	<b>17,241,849</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>						
Raising funds	9	193,454	-	-	193,454	117,543
Charitable activities	10	1,359,027	17,486,062	1,161,378	20,006,467	18,719,812
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>1,552,481</b>	<b>17,486,062</b>	<b>1,161,378</b>	<b>20,199,921</b>	<b>18,837,355</b>
<b>NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE)</b>		<b>(266,459)</b>	<b>(593,541)</b>	<b>(740,607)</b>	<b>(1,600,607)</b>	<b>(1,595,506)</b>
Transfers between funds	20	(181,021)	(46,044)	227,065	-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS/(LOSSES)</b>		<b>(447,480)</b>	<b>(639,585)</b>	<b>(513,542)</b>	<b>(1,600,607)</b>	<b>(1,595,506)</b>
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	28	-	1,162,000	-	1,162,000	7,926,000
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>(447,480)</b>	<b>522,415</b>	<b>(513,542)</b>	<b>(438,607)</b>	<b>6,330,494</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		1,042,529	(916,846)	38,984,653	39,110,336	32,779,842
Net movement in funds		(447,480)	522,415	(513,542)	(438,607)	6,330,494
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>595,049</b>	<b>(394,431)</b>	<b>38,471,111</b>	<b>38,671,729</b>	<b>39,110,336</b>

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

The notes on pages 40 to 72 form part of these financial statements.

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)  
REGISTERED NUMBER:07657923**

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible assets	16	<b>36,217,521</b>	36,389,995
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	17	<b>3,208,970</b>	3,670,067
Cash at bank and in hand	25	<b>1,130,064</b>	1,252,655
		<u><b>4,339,034</b></u>	<u>4,922,722</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	<b>(1,460,111)</b>	(1,134,757)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>2,878,923</b>	3,787,965
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u><b>39,096,444</b></u>	<u>40,177,960</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	19	<b>(29,715)</b>	(43,624)
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	28	<b>(395,000)</b>	(1,024,000)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u><u><b>38,671,729</b></u></u>	<u><u>39,110,336</u></u>

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)  
REGISTERED NUMBER:07657923**

**BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)  
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>FUNDS OF THE ACADEMY TRUST</b>			
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS:</b>			
Fixed asset funds	20	<b>38,471,111</b>	38,984,653
Restricted income funds	20	<b>569</b>	107,154
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Restricted funds excluding pension reserve	20	<b>38,471,680</b>	39,091,807
Pension reserve	20	<b>(395,000)</b>	(1,024,000)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	20	<b>38,076,680</b>	38,067,807
Unrestricted income funds			
Designated funds	20	<b>178,721</b>	203,781
General funds	20	<b>416,328</b>	838,748
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS</b>	20	<b>595,049</b>	1,042,529
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>38,671,729</b>	39,110,336
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The financial statements on pages 36 to 72 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:

*J. A. Eason*

**Mrs J Eason**

(Chair of Trustees)

Date: *6 December 2023*

The notes on pages 40 to 72 form part of these financial statements.



**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	22	<b>3,087,387</b>	887,009
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
	24	<b>(3,196,202)</b>	(1,491,742)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
	23	<b>(13,776)</b>	48,969
<b>CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE YEAR</b>			
		<b>(122,591)</b>	(555,764)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<b>1,252,655</b>	1,808,419
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR</b>	25, 26	<b>1,130,064</b>	1,252,655

The notes on pages 40 to 72 form part of these financial statements

## **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

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

### **1.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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

### **1.2 GOING CONCERN**

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

### **1.3 INCOME**

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

- **Grants**

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period 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 period it is receivable and to the extent the Academy Trust has provided the goods or services.

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**1.4 EXPENDITURE**

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

- **Expenditure on raising funds**

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

- **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

**1.5 INTEREST RECEIVABLE**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Academy 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 Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

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

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**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 and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset using a combination of straight line and reducing balance depreciation over its expected useful life, as follows:

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 2% Straight Line
Long term leasehold land and buildings	- Over the lease term, with a 50 year maximum for buildings
Furniture and fixtures	- 20% Straight Line
Computer equipment	- 33% Straight Line
Motor vehicles	- 25% Reducing Balance

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use and reclassified to freehold or leasehold land and buildings.

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

**1.8 DEBTORS**

Trade and other debtors with no stated interest rate and due within one year are recorded at the amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be received. Prepayments are valued at the amount paid.

**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 and cash on desposit that has a notice period of less than 30 days.

**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 Academy Trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**1.11 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 17. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 18 and 19. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

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

**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.

**1.13 PENSIONS**

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

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

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

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

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**1.14 FUND ACCOUNTING**

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

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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

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

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

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

**2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND AREAS OF JUDGEMENT**

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The valuation of land and buildings transferred on conversion to an academy. The Trustees use all information available including valuation reports and benchmarking these valuations to determine the fair value.

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

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 28, 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.

Critical areas of judgement:

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

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

**3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Donations	36,971	-	<b>36,971</b>
Capital Grants	-	420,771	<b>420,771</b>
	<u>36,971</u>	<u>420,771</u>	<u><b>457,742</b></u>

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>
Donations	31,290	-	31,290
Capital Grants	-	389,088	389,088
	<u>31,290</u>	<u>389,088</u>	<u>420,378</u>

**4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Education	1,000,004	16,774,854	<b>17,774,858</b>
Boarding	-	117,667	<b>117,667</b>
	<u>1,000,004</u>	<u>16,892,521</u>	<u><b>17,892,525</b></u>

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>
Education	801,277	15,574,606	16,375,883
Boarding	-	115,360	115,360
	<u>801,277</u>	<u>15,689,966</u>	<u>16,491,243</u>

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**5. FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY TRUST'S CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
<b>EDUCATION</b>			
<b>DFE/ESFA GRANTS</b>			
General Annual Grant	-	14,577,151	<b>14,577,151</b>
Other DfE/ESFA Grants:			
Pupil Premium	-	521,022	<b>521,022</b>
School Supplementary Grants	-	377,123	<b>377,123</b>
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	514,208	<b>514,208</b>
	-	-	<b>15,989,504</b>
<b>OTHER GOVERNMENT GRANTS</b>			
High Needs	-	238,607	<b>238,607</b>
Other Government Grants	-	339,900	<b>339,900</b>
	-	578,507	<b>578,507</b>
<b>Other income from the Academy Trust's education</b>	<b>1,000,004</b>	<b>95,306</b>	<b>1,095,310</b>
<b>COVID-19 ADDITIONAL FUNDING (DFE/ESFA)</b>			
Recovery Premium	-	111,537	<b>111,537</b>
	-	111,537	<b>111,537</b>
	<b>1,000,004</b>	<b>16,774,854</b>	<b>17,774,858</b>

In 2023, the Academy Trust received £111,537 of funding for recovery premium and costs incurred in respect of this funding totalled £111,537.



**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**5. FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY TRUST'S CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
<b>EDUCATION</b>			
<b>DFE/ESFA GRANTS</b>			
General Annual Grant	-	13,920,081	13,920,081
Other DfE/ESFA Grants:			
Pupil Premium	-	465,905	465,905
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	420,165	420,165
	-	-	14,806,151
<b>OTHER GOVERNMENT GRANTS</b>			
High Needs	-	206,683	206,683
Other Local Authority income	-	395,924	395,924
	-	602,607	602,607
<b>Other income from the Academy Trust's education</b>	<b>801,277</b>	<b>66,527</b>	<b>867,804</b>
<b>COVID-19 ADDITIONAL FUNDING (DFE/ESFA)</b>			
12-15 Vaccination Program	-	4,504	4,504
Recovery Premium	-	58,800	58,800
	-	63,304	63,304
<b>COVID-19 ADDITIONAL FUNDING (NON-DFE/ESFA)</b>			
Mass Testing	-	36,017	36,017
	-	36,017	36,017
	<b>801,277</b>	<b>15,574,606</b>	<b>16,375,883</b>

In 2022, the Academy Trust received £58,800 of funding for recovery premium and costs incurred in respect of this funding totalled £58,800.

The Academy Trust received £4,504) of funding for the 12-15 vaccination programme and costs incurred in respect of this funding totalled £4,504.

The Academy Trust received £36,017 of funding for mass testing and costs incurred in respect of this funding totalled £36,017.

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**6. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	Total funds 2022 £
Lettings	226,791	<b>226,791</b>	245,949
Consultancy	-	-	60,945
Fees received	22,042	<b>22,042</b>	23,134
	<u>248,833</u>	<u><b>248,833</b></u>	<u>330,028</u>

All 2022 income related to unrestricted funds.

**7. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	Total funds 2022 £
Bank interest	214	<b>214</b>	200
	<u>214</u>	<u><b>214</b></u>	<u>200</u>

All 2022 income related to unrestricted funds.

**8. EXPENDITURE**

	<b>Staff Costs 2023 £</b>	<b>Premises 2023 £</b>	<b>Other 2023 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Cost of generating voluntary income				
Direct costs	-	-	193,454	<b>193,454</b>
Education:				
Direct costs	11,942,633	1,161,378	959,668	<b>14,063,679</b>
Allocated support costs	2,505,093	1,236,546	2,083,480	<b>5,825,119</b>
Boarding:				
Allocated support costs	73,963	35,310	8,396	<b>117,669</b>
	<u>14,521,689</u>	<u>2,433,234</u>	<u>3,244,998</u>	<u><b>20,199,921</b></u>

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**8. EXPENDITURE (CONTINUED)**

	Staff Costs 2022 £	Premises 2022 £	Other 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Costs of generating voluntary income:				
Direct costs	-	-	117,543	117,543
Education:				
Direct costs	11,380,341	1,002,430	704,463	13,087,234
Allocated support costs	2,630,636	1,283,515	1,603,248	5,517,399
Boarding:				
Allocated support costs	74,847	-	40,332	115,179
	<u>14,085,824</u>	<u>2,285,945</u>	<u>2,465,586</u>	<u>18,837,355</u>

**9. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS**

**FUNDRAISING TRADING EXPENSES**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	Total funds 2022 £
Trips subsistence	14,864	<b>14,864</b>	15,030
Trips	178,590	<b>178,590</b>	102,513
	<u>193,454</u>	<u><b>193,454</b></u>	<u>117,543</u>

All 2022 income related to unrestricted funds.

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**10. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES**

	<b>Activities undertaken directly 2023 £</b>	<b>Support costs 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Education	14,063,679	5,825,119	<b>19,888,798</b>
Boarding	-	117,669	<b>117,669</b>
	<u>14,063,679</u>	<u>5,942,788</u>	<u><b>20,006,467</b></u>
	<u><u>14,063,679</u></u>	<u><u>5,942,788</u></u>	<u><u><b>20,006,467</b></u></u>
	<b>Activities undertaken directly 2022 £</b>	<b>Support costs 2022 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>
Education	13,087,234	5,517,399	18,604,633
Boarding	-	115,179	115,179
	<u>13,087,234</u>	<u>5,632,578</u>	<u>18,719,812</u>
	<u><u>13,087,234</u></u>	<u><u>5,632,578</u></u>	<u><u>18,719,812</u></u>

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

**10. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**

**ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS**

	<b>Education 2023 £</b>	<b>Boarding 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Pension finance cost	157,000	-	<b>157,000</b>
Staff costs	2,505,093	73,963	<b>2,579,056</b>
Depreciation	644,870	-	<b>644,870</b>
Staff development	38,787	-	<b>38,787</b>
Supply teachers	5,218	-	<b>5,218</b>
Recruitment and support	27,166	-	<b>27,166</b>
Maintenance of premises and equipment	422,403	20,464	<b>442,867</b>
Cleaning	188,669	-	<b>188,669</b>
Rent and rates	217,162	1,172	<b>218,334</b>
Energy costs	369,896	13,674	<b>383,570</b>
Insurance	67,435	-	<b>67,435</b>
Security and transport	137,374	-	<b>137,374</b>
Catering	359,966	8,396	<b>368,362</b>
Technology costs	277,744	-	<b>277,744</b>
Office overheads	157,153	-	<b>157,153</b>
Legal and professional - other	311,201	-	<b>311,201</b>
Bank interest and charges	873	-	<b>873</b>
(Profit) / Loss on disposal of fixed assets	(89,150)	-	<b>(89,150)</b>
Governance costs	26,259	-	<b>26,259</b>
	<u>5,825,119</u>	<u>117,669</u>	<u><b>5,942,788</b></u>

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**10. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**

**ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS (continued)**

	Education 2022 £	Boarding 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Pension finance costs	74,000	-	74,000
Staff costs	2,630,636	74,847	2,705,483
Depreciation	551,359	-	551,359
Staff development	40,649	-	40,649
Other costs	70	-	70
Recruitment and support	22,396	-	22,396
Maintenance of premises and equipment	349,340	12,214	361,554
Cleaning	165,504	-	165,504
Rent and rates	226,220	708	226,928
Energy costs	253,740	2,229	255,969
Insurance	111,788	3,885	115,673
Security and transport	116,996	-	116,996
Catering	304,550	12,198	316,748
Technology costs	260,064	-	260,064
Office overheads	174,112	2,861	176,973
Legal and professional - other	235,872	6,237	242,109
Bank interest and charges	795	-	795
(Profit) / Loss on disposal of fixed assets	(24,925)	-	(24,925)
Governance costs	24,233	-	24,233
	<u>5,517,399</u>	<u>115,179</u>	<u>5,632,578</u>

**11. NET EXPENDITURE**

Net expenditure for the year includes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Operating lease rentals	276,201	292,677
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,161,378	913,663
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	18,500	18,500
- other services	2,350	4,250
	<u>1,458,429</u>	<u>1,229,120</u>

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

**12. STAFF**

**a. STAFF COSTS**

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	<b>10,786,412</b>	9,749,001
Social security costs	<b>1,024,111</b>	946,387
Pension costs	<b>2,554,504</b>	3,255,823
	<b>14,365,027</b>	13,951,211
Agency staff costs	<b>114,921</b>	134,613
Staff restructuring costs	<b>41,741</b>	-
	<b>14,521,689</b>	14,085,824

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	£	£
Redundancy payments	<b>23,091</b>	-
Severance payments	<b>18,350</b>	-
Other restructuring costs	<b>300</b>	-
	<b>41,741</b>	-

**b. NON-STATUTORY/NON-CONTRACTUAL STAFF SEVERANCE PAYMENTS**

Included in staff restructuring costs is one non-statutory/non-contractual severance payment totalling £18,350 (2022: £nil).

**c. STAFF NUMBERS**

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

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	No.	No.
Management	<b>11</b>	31
Teaching	<b>158</b>	135
Administration/Support	<b>211</b>	215
	<b>380</b>	381

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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**12. STAFF (CONTINUED)**

**d. HIGHER PAID STAFF**

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

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	<b>No.</b>	No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	<b>10</b>	8
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	<b>6</b>	2
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	<b>1</b>	1
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	<b>1</b>	2
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	<b>1</b>	1
	<b>=====</b>	<b>=====</b>

The above employees participated in the Teachers' Pension Scheme. During the year ended 31 August 2023, pension contributions for employees whose emoluments fell within the above bands amounted to £322,427 (2022: £227,420).

**e. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL**

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £266,495 (2022: £265,897).



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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**13. CENTRAL SERVICES**

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

- HR Services
- Financial Services
- Legal Services
- Educational Support
- Others as arising

The Academy Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

Schools are charged 5% of their GAG allocations plus 5% supplementary grant funding and 2.5% MSAG annually for these services.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	£	£
Fowey River Academy	<b>181,546</b>	164,611
Five Islands Academy	<b>158,134</b>	145,269
St Hilary School	<b>53,022</b>	51,396
Ludgvan School	<b>48,446</b>	42,395
Mounts Bay Academy	<b>296,455</b>	286,700
St Buryan Primary School	<b>21,012</b>	19,258
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>758,615</b>	709,629

**14. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES**

The Principal and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Principal and staff under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as Trustees. Other Trustees did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the Academy Trust in respect of their role as Trustees. The value of Trustees' gross salary in the year was as follows: £NIL (2022: K Butcher £95,000 - £100,000), employer's pension contributions: £NIL (2022: £20,000 - £25,000). K Butcher resigned as a Trustee in the prior year.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, expenses totalling £278 were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 Trustee (2022 - £1,218 to 2 Trustees) to cover travel, office supplies and parking.

**15. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE**

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £227 (2022 - £500). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

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**16. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Freehold property £	Long-term leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
<b>COST</b>						
At 1 September 2022	758,511	38,940,542	1,021,554	359,802	24,734	41,105,143
Additions	4,420	397,964	407,827	180,369	-	990,580
Disposals	-	-	(650)	(35,883)	(9,195)	(45,728)
At 31 August 2023	<u>762,931</u>	<u>39,338,506</u>	<u>1,428,731</u>	<u>504,288</u>	<u>15,539</u>	<u>42,049,995</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>						
At 1 September 2022	31,709	3,960,919	438,235	264,870	19,415	4,715,148
Charge for the year	15,259	768,905	255,794	120,397	1,023	1,161,378
On disposals	-	-	(650)	(35,434)	(7,968)	(44,052)
At 31 August 2023	<u>46,968</u>	<u>4,729,824</u>	<u>693,379</u>	<u>349,833</u>	<u>12,470</u>	<u>5,832,474</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>						
At 31 August 2023	<u>715,963</u>	<u>34,608,682</u>	<u>735,352</u>	<u>154,455</u>	<u>3,069</u>	<u>36,217,521</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>726,802</u>	<u>34,979,623</u>	<u>583,319</u>	<u>94,932</u>	<u>5,319</u>	<u>36,389,995</u>

**17. DEBTORS**

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	38,794	26,670
Prepayments and accrued income	3,023,647	3,554,569
VAT recoverable	146,529	88,828
	<u>3,208,970</u>	<u>3,670,067</u>

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2023 £	2022 £
Other loans	13,777	14,161
Trade creditors	453,848	373,034
Other taxation and social security	248,410	238,488
Other creditors	263,261	251,925
Accruals and deferred income	480,815	257,149
	<u>1,460,111</u>	<u>1,134,757</u>
	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	172,631	168,695
Resources deferred during the year	281,654	172,631
Amounts released from previous periods	(172,631)	(168,695)
<b>Deferred income at 31 August 2022</b>	<u>281,654</u>	<u>172,631</u>

Deferred income represents income received in 2023 that relate to the subsequent school year. At the balance sheet date, the Academy Trust was holding funds received in advance that primarily relate to school trips, rates, ERASMUS, and UIFSM.

**19. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR**

	2023 £	2022 £
Other loans	29,715	43,624

Included within other loans are the remaining balances of a loan of £3,778 from Salix Finance Ltd which was provided on the following terms: Repayable over 7 years bi-annual payments and interest free with 2.5 years remaining. The loan was transferred from St Hilary School.

Also included within other loans are the remaining balances of a loan of £6,914 from Salix Finance Ltd provided to St Buryan Academy Primary School on the following terms: repayable over 5 years bi-annual payments and interest free with 3.5 years remaining; and the remaining balances of a loan of £38,552 provided to Mounts Bay Academy on the following terms: repayable over 5 years bi-annual payments and interest free with 3.5 years remaining.

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS**

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>						
3G pitch	203,781	-	-	(25,060)	-	178,721
<b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>						
General Funds	838,748	1,286,022	(1,552,481)	(155,961)	-	416,328
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>1,042,529</b>	<b>1,286,022</b>	<b>(1,552,481)</b>	<b>(181,021)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>595,049</b>
<b>RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	2,037	14,694,819	(14,713,100)	16,244	-	-
Higher needs	-	238,607	(238,607)	-	-	-
Pupil premium	-	521,022	(521,022)	-	-	-
Universal infant free school meals	-	83,568	(83,568)	-	-	-
PE & sports	-	69,980	(69,980)	-	-	-
Other LA grants	5,899	297,694	(241,305)	(62,288)	-	-
Other restricted	99,218	137,511	(236,160)	-	-	569
Other ESFA grants	-	849,320	(849,320)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,024,000)	-	(533,000)	-	1,162,000	(395,000)
	<b>(916,846)</b>	<b>16,892,521</b>	<b>(17,486,062)</b>	<b>(46,044)</b>	<b>1,162,000</b>	<b>(394,431)</b>

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)**

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
<b>RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS</b>						
Tangible fixed asset fund	36,389,995	-	(1,161,378)	988,904	-	36,217,521
Condition Improvement Fund (CIF)	2,598,974	-	-	(104,366)	-	2,494,608
Other DfE Grants	(236,297)	-	-	(29,734)	-	(266,031)
Devolved Formula Capital	-	60,591	-	(60,591)	-	-
Other Restricted Funds	123,844	360,180	-	(459,011)	-	25,013
School Condition Allocation (SCA)	108,137	-	-	(108,137)	-	-
	<u>38,984,653</u>	<u>420,771</u>	<u>(1,161,378)</u>	<u>227,065</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38,471,111</u>
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<u>38,067,807</u>	<u>17,313,292</u>	<u>(18,647,440)</u>	<u>181,021</u>	<u>1,162,000</u>	<u>38,076,680</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>39,110,336</u></u>	<u><u>18,599,314</u></u>	<u><u>(20,199,921)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>1,162,000</u></u>	<u><u>38,671,729</u></u>

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

**DESIGNATED FUNDS**

The designated funds have been set up to fund the replacement of the football pitch carpet. The grant received from the Football Association towards the original 3G football pitch requires that the football pitch carpet is replaced every 7 years, therefore funds are set aside for this purpose as well as associated expenditure.

**RESTRICTED FUNDS**

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

Higher needs - Funding received by the Local Authority to fund further support for students with additional needs.

Pupil premium - Income from the ESFA which is used to address the current inequalities by ensuring that funding to tackle disadvantage reaches the pupils who need it most.

**20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)**

UIFSM - All pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 in state-funded schools in England are eligible for free school meals.

PE & Sports - The PE and sport grant is additional funding given to publicly funded schools in England to improve physical education (PE) and sport in primary schools.

Other ESFA grants - Represents all other funding received from the ESFA.

Other LA grants - Represents other funding from the Local Authority.

Other restricted - Represents other restricted income.

Pension Reserve - This represents the academy's share of the assets and liabilities in the Local Government Pension Scheme. As with most pension schemes this is currently in deficit due to an excess of scheme liabilities over scheme assets which was inherited on conversion to an academy. The academy is following recommendations of the actuary to reduce the deficit by making additional contributions over a number of years.

**RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS**

Tangible fixed asset fund - Represents the buildings and equipment donated to the Trust from the Local Authority on conversion to an academy, as well as purchases for fixed assets made from GAG and other restricted funds.

CIF - The Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) is an annual bidding round for eligible academies, sixth-form colleges and VA schools to apply for capital funding. The priority for the fund is to address significant condition need, keeping education provider buildings safe and in good working order. This includes funding projects to address health and safety issues, building compliance and poor building condition.

DFC - This represents funding from the ESFA to cover the maintenance and purchase of the Trust's assets.

Other restricted capital - This represents other funding received for capital projects.

SCA - ALAT was allocated School Condition Allocation (SCA) funding in 2019-20, so this was paid to the trusts which took over the running of the rebrokered academies. Fowey River Academy, was rebrokered to Leading Edge Academy partnership and the balance brought forward related to this.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

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

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**20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)**

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>						
3G pitch	203,781	-	-	-	-	203,781
<b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>						
General Funds	864,574	1,162,795	(965,865)	(222,756)	-	838,748
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>1,068,355</b>	<b>1,162,795</b>	<b>(965,865)</b>	<b>(222,756)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,042,529</b>
	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
<b>RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	26,783	14,035,443	(13,988,379)	(71,810)	-	2,037
Higher needs	-	56,959	(56,959)	-	-	-
Pupil premium	4,647	465,905	(470,552)	-	-	-
Summer school	78,492	-	(78,492)	-	-	-
Universal infant free school meals	-	81,928	(81,928)	-	-	-
PE & sports	11,353	69,890	(81,243)	-	-	-
Other LA grants	-	287,428	(175,594)	(105,935)	-	5,899
Other restricted	32,585	692,413	(725,879)	100,099	-	99,218
Pension reserve	(7,697,000)	-	(1,253,000)	-	7,926,000	(1,024,000)
	<b>(7,543,140)</b>	<b>15,689,966</b>	<b>(16,912,026)</b>	<b>(77,646)</b>	<b>7,926,000</b>	<b>(916,846)</b>

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)**

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
<b>RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS</b>						
Tangible fixed asset fund	35,443,504	-	(959,464)	1,905,955	-	36,389,995
Condition Improvement Fund (CIF)	3,764,887	132,432	-	(1,298,345)	-	2,598,974
Other DfE Grants	(210,297)	-	-	(26,000)	-	(236,297)
Devolved Formula Capital	-	60,559	-	(60,559)	-	-
Other Restricted Funds	7,942	196,097	-	(80,195)	-	123,844
School Condition Allocation (SCA)	248,591	-	-	(140,454)	-	108,137
	<u>39,254,627</u>	<u>389,088</u>	<u>(959,464)</u>	<u>300,402</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38,984,653</u>
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<u>31,711,487</u>	<u>16,079,054</u>	<u>(17,871,490)</u>	<u>222,756</u>	<u>7,926,000</u>	<u>38,067,807</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>32,779,842</u></u>	<u><u>17,241,849</u></u>	<u><u>(18,837,355)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>7,926,000</u></u>	<u><u>39,110,336</u></u>



**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)**

**Total funds analysis by academy**

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	£	£
Mounts Bay Academy	<b>488,839</b>	682,592
St Hilary School	<b>51,803</b>	135,774
Ludgvan School	<b>67,135</b>	158,205
Fowey River Academy	<b>(62,838)</b>	38,921
The Five Islands academy	<b>59,958</b>	124,772
St Buryan	<b>8,679</b>	39,207
Central	<b>(17,958)</b>	(29,788)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	<b>595,618</b>	1,149,683
Restricted fixed asset fund	<b>38,471,111</b>	38,984,653
Pension reserve	<b>(395,000)</b>	(1,024,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38,671,729</b>	39,110,336
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The following academies are carrying a net deficit on their portion of the funds as follows:

	<b>Deficit</b>
	£
Central	<b>(17,958)</b>
Fowey River Academy	<b>(62,838)</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>

The Academy Trust is taking the following action to return the academies to surplus:

**Fowey**

The Trust is making significant investment into school improvement capacity at Fowey. We believe the associated improvement in outcomes at Fowey will prompt increased pupil numbers as the reputation of the school improves. This will result in an improved and hopefully break-even financial position.

**Central**

The central deficit has reduced year on year due to prudent financial management. The investment in school improvement at Fowey will lead to an increase in pupil numbers and a subsequent increase in the value of the 5% top slice. In addition, the Trust continues to pursue its growth agenda with the intention of like-minded schools joining Leading Edge.

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**20. 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 £
Mounts Bay Academy	4,588,574	737,730	657,478	922,808	<b>6,906,590</b>
St Hilary School	925,439	153,542	103,322	182,301	<b>1,364,604</b>
Ludgvan School	845,138	135,904	97,712	160,720	<b>1,239,474</b>
Fowey River Academy	2,702,217	718,942	261,894	664,500	<b>4,347,553</b>
The Five Islands Academy	2,160,049	445,232	146,417	532,996	<b>3,284,694</b>
St Buryan Academy	354,799	88,322	25,382	69,688	<b>538,191</b>
Central services	256,417	220,389	11,073	336,558	<b>824,437</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,832,633</b>	<b>2,500,061</b>	<b>1,303,278</b>	<b>2,869,571</b>	<b>18,505,543</b>

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2022 £
Mounts Bay Academy	4,059,150	800,971	620,434	868,119	6,348,674
St Hilary School	810,246	127,272	77,636	171,292	1,186,446
Ludgvan School	681,084	102,968	51,776	116,566	952,394
Fowey River Academy	2,097,114	807,762	412,814	437,304	3,754,994
The Five Islands academy	1,968,081	491,703	166,852	470,469	3,097,105
St Buryan	316,850	74,252	38,978	67,461	497,541
Central services	207,202	289,556	2,911	288,068	787,737
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,139,727</b>	<b>2,694,484</b>	<b>1,371,401</b>	<b>2,419,279</b>	<b>16,624,891</b>

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**21. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

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

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	36,217,521	<b>36,217,521</b>
Current assets	595,049	1,490,395	2,253,590	<b>4,339,034</b>
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,460,111)	-	<b>(1,460,111)</b>
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(29,715)	-	<b>(29,715)</b>
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(395,000)	-	<b>(395,000)</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>595,049</b>	<b>(394,431)</b>	<b>38,471,111</b>	<b>38,671,729</b>

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

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	36,389,995	36,389,995
Current assets	1,042,529	1,285,535	2,594,658	4,922,722
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,134,757)	-	(1,134,757)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(43,624)	-	(43,624)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(1,024,000)	-	(1,024,000)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,042,529</b>	<b>(916,846)</b>	<b>38,984,653</b>	<b>39,110,336</b>

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**22. RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	2023 £	2022 £
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<b>(1,600,607)</b>	(1,595,506)
<b>ADJUSTMENTS FOR:</b>		
Depreciation	<b>1,161,378</b>	959,464
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	<b>(420,771)</b>	(389,088)
Interest receivable	<b>(214)</b>	(200)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	<b>233,000</b>	1,117,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	<b>300,000</b>	136,000
Increase in debtors	<b>3,195,392</b>	1,013,525
Increase in creditors	<b>308,359</b>	(329,261)
Profit on disposal of tangible fixed assets	<b>(89,150)</b>	(24,925)
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>3,087,387</b>	887,009

**23. CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES**

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	56,724
Repayments of borrowing	<b>(13,776)</b>	(7,755)
<b>NET CASH (USED IN)/PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(13,776)</b>	48,969

**24. CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES**

	2023 £	2022 £
Interest receivable	<b>214</b>	200
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	<b>(973,718)</b>	(1,907,625)
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets	<b>90,826</b>	26,595
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	<b>(2,313,524)</b>	389,088
<b>NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(3,196,202)</b>	(1,491,742)

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**25. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand and at bank	1,130,064	1,252,655
<b>TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>1,130,064</b>	<b>1,252,655</b>

**26. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT**

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	Other non- cash changes £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,252,655	(122,591)	-	1,130,064
Debt due within 1 year	(14,161)	13,776	(13,392)	(13,777)
Debt due after 1 year	(43,624)	-	13,909	(29,715)
	<b>1,194,870</b>	<b>(108,815)</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>1,086,572</b>

**27. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS**

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>CONTRACTED FOR BUT NOT PROVIDED IN THESE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</b>		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	711,188	2,587,648

## **28. PENSION COMMITMENTS**

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

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

Contributions amounting to £260,487 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022 - £249,978) and are included within creditors.

### **TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME**

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

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

### **VALUATION OF THE TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME**

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 26 October 2023. The key elements of the previous valuation as at 31 March 2016 which was effective for the year ended 31 August 2023 are:

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

The 2020 valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024 and effective until 31 March 2027. The employer contribution rate for this period will be 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy).

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**28. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)**

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,646,999 (2022 - £1,555,949).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2019/04/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx>) for 2016 and [www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2023/10/valuation-result.aspx](https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2023/10/valuation-result.aspx) for 2020.

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

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £576,053 (2022 - £749,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £371,053 (2022 - £575,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 205,000 (2022 - £174,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.1 per cent for employers and 5.5 - 12.5 per cent for employees.

As described in note 1.13 the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Academy Trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Academy Trust at the balance sheet date.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

**PRINCIPAL ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS**

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	<b>3.00</b>	3.05
Rate of increase in pensions	<b>3.00</b>	3.05
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	<b>5.20</b>	4.25

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

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
Males	<b>18.0</b>	21.3
Females	<b>23.5</b>	23.9
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	<b>21.5</b>	22.5
Females	<b>25.3</b>	25.6

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**28. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS**

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	<b>£000</b>	£000
Discount rate -0.1%	<b>224</b>	246
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	<b>381</b>	397
CPI rate +0.1%	<b>210</b>	228
Salary increase rate +0.1%	<b>18</b>	20
	<b>=====</b>	<b>=====</b>

**SHARE OF SCHEME ASSETS**

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

	<b>At 31 August 2023</b>	At 31 August 2022
	<b>£</b>	£
Equities	<b>5,017,000</b>	4,991,000
Bonds	<b>3,284,000</b>	3,030,000
Property	<b>638,000</b>	713,000
Cash	<b>182,000</b>	178,000
	<b>=====</b>	<b>=====</b>
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>9,121,000</b>	8,912,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £984,000 (2022 - £(644,000)).

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

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	<b>£</b>	£
Current service cost	<b>(901,000)</b>	(1,692,000)
Interest income	<b>394,000</b>	148,000
Interest cost	<b>(443,000)</b>	(284,000)
	<b>=====</b>	<b>=====</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>(950,000)</b>	(1,828,000)



**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
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**28. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)**

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

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Opening defined benefit obligation</b>	<b>9,937,000</b>	16,326,000
Current service cost	<b>901,000</b>	1,692,000
Interest cost	<b>443,000</b>	284,000
Employee contributions	<b>205,000</b>	174,000
Actuarial gains	<b>(1,846,000)</b>	(8,434,000)
Benefits paid	<b>(124,000)</b>	(105,000)
<b>Closing defined benefit obligation</b>	<b>9,516,000</b>	9,937,000

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

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Opening fair value of scheme assets</b>	<b>8,913,000</b>	8,629,000
Interest income	<b>143,000</b>	148,000
Actuarial losses/(gains)	<b>(684,000)</b>	(508,000)
Employer contributions	<b>668,000</b>	575,000
Employee contributions	<b>205,000</b>	174,000
Benefits paid	<b>(124,000)</b>	(105,000)
<b>Closing fair value of scheme assets</b>	<b>9,121,000</b>	8,913,000

**29. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS**

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Not later than 1 year	<b>297,768</b>	223,688
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	<b>231,329</b>	385,624
	<b>529,097</b>	609,312

**30. MEMBERS' LIABILITY**

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

**LEADING EDGE ACADEMIES PARTNERSHIP  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

**31. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Owing to the nature of the Academy Trust and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the Trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the Academy Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

The following related party transactions took place in the year:

Purchases totalling £2,325 (2022: £nil) were made from Hayle Youth Project, a charity in which one of the Trustees of Leading Edge Academies Partnership is also a Trustee. No balances were due to Hayle Youth Project at the year end.

**32. BOARDING SCHOOL TRADING ACCOUNT**

	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
<b>INCOME</b>				
Boarding income	117,667		115,360	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>117,667</b>		115,360
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
<b>DIRECT EXPENDITURE</b>				
Educational supplies	-		20	
<b>OTHER EXPENDITURE</b>				
Maintenance of premises and equipment	20,464		12,214	
Energy costs	14,846		2,937	
Catering	8,396		12,198	
General office costs	-		2,861	
Wages and salaries	58,773		61,777	
National insurance	4,991		4,520	
Pension costs	10,197		9,150	
Furniture & equipment	-		3,885	
Capital expenditure	-		6,237	
<b>TOTAL OTHER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>117,667</b>		<b>115,779</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>117,667</b>		115,799
<b>NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE</b>		-		(419)
<b>BOARDING SCHOOL DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR</b>		-		(419)