

Company Registration No. 07976516 (England and Wales)

**ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees

D Camilleri (Foundation Governor)
M Edwards (Local Governor)
P Gribben (Foundation Governor)
M Hutchinson (Chair & Foundation Governor) *
M D'Souza (Foundation Governor,)*
L Weeks (Head Teacher & Accounting Officer)*
R Monaghan (Foundation Governor)*
M Connell (Vice Chair & Foundation Governor)
E Williamson (Parent Governor,)
C Hutchins (Foundation Governor)*
M Wilson (Staff Governor)
C Hardiman (Parent Governor) (Resigned 12 October 2023)
K Chan (Resigned 23 November 2022)
A Garlick (staff Governor) (Resigned 5 October 2023)
D Harrington (appointed 13 October 2023)
G McCarthy (appointed 5 October 2023)

*Members of the Resources and Audit Committee

Members

M Dickens
M Hutchinson
P McCallum

Responsible Officer

C Hutchins

Senior management team

- Head Teacher	L Weeks
- CFO	A Garlick
- SENCO, Maths Science, KS1,	J Richard
- Deputy Head, RE, EG&T,KS2	M Wilson
- PE and English	C Connolly
- Music, IT, MFL	E Atkinson

Company registration number

07976516 (England and Wales)

Registered office

Maybury Close
Petts Wood
Orpington
Kent
BR5 1BL

Independent auditor

Baxter & Co
Lynwood House
Crofton Road
Orpington
BR6 8QE

Bankers

Lloyds Bank PLC
6-8 Market Square
Bromley
BR1 1NA

Solicitors

Winckworth Sherwood
Minerva House
5 Montague Close
London
SE1 9BB

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and independent auditor's reports of the charitable company for the year 01 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' Report, and a Directors' Report under company law.

The principal activity of the company is the operation of a state-funded Academy, St. James' R.C Primary School, providing a state education for students aged 4 to 11. It has a pupil capacity of 218 and had a roll of 218 in the school census in October 2022.

There is a long tradition of providing the highest quality of education that will meet the needs of every child and enable them to achieve their personal best.

Funding is obtained from the Department for Education (DfE) through the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes.

Structure, Governance & Management Constitution

Constitution

The Trustees of St. James' R.C. Primary School, an Academy Trust, are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law and they are governors of the Academy

The academy trust was incorporated as a company on 31st of March, 2012 and the predecessor school converted to academy status on 1st of April, 2012.

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust.

The charitable company is known as St. James' R.C. Primary School, an Academy Trust.

Details of the trustees who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details included at the front of these accounts.

Members' Liability

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

Trustees' Indemnities

The academy trust has not provided any indemnities to any third parties on behalf of any trustees during the year.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

In accordance with the articles, the trustees of the charitable company are the governors. They are appointed as follows:

- The Archbishop shall appoint eight foundation governors one of whom shall be the Parish Priest and two of whom at least shall be eligible for election and appointment as Parent Governors.
- The Governing body may appoint staff governors through a process as they may determine
- The Governing Body may appoint one Local governor
- The Head Teacher shall be treated for all purposes as being an ex officio Governor.

In respect of those appointed by the governors, when a vacancy arises, the governors seek to make an appointment that would maximise the relevant skills and experience on the board as a whole.

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new governors will depend on their existing experience. Where necessary, induction will provide training in charity, educational, legal and financial matters.

All governors are provided with the information needed (including policies, minutes, budgets, etc) to undertake their role as governors. In addition to purchasing bespoke Governor Training from various providers, we also subscribe to Governor Courses provided by the Diocese of Southwark.

Organisational Structure

The board of governors, the majority of whom are non-executive, comprises those persons appointed under the Articles of Association. The board meets at least three times a year and has two committees:

- Resources & Audit Committee.
- Children & Learning Committee.
- Sub-committees are created ad-hoc when necessary, in addition to those reporting into the above. (i.e. Pay / Premises / Admissions / Disciplinary / Appeals / Head Teacher's Performance).

Both committees are formally constituted with terms of reference and comprise appropriately qualified and experienced members.

Governors delegate specific responsibilities to its committees, the activities of which are reported to and discussed at full Governing Body Meetings.

Day to day management of the company is undertaken by the Head Teacher, supported by the Leadership Team. The Head Teacher is the Accounting Officer and the Business Manager is the Finance Officer.

The Trust has no subsidiaries, joint ventures or associates.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The senior management team (SMT) are the key management personnel of the trust. Trustees are also senior management although they receive no pay or other remuneration in respect of their role as trustees. Where staff trustees are in place, they receive remuneration for their role as staff and their pay is determined in the same way as applicable to all other staff. Further details of remuneration paid to staff who are trustees is set out within the notes to the accounts.

The pay of the Principal is set annually by the Pay Committee, having regards to performance against objectives set the previous year. Pay of other SMT members is also set by the Pay Committee again having regard to performance against previously agreed objectives and any recommendations made by the Principal.

Trade Union Facility Time

Relevant union officials

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

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total Cost of facility time	£0
Total Pay bill	£1,052k
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	0%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours.	0%
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Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

The Register of Business Interests confirms that there are no relationships with related parties and any other charities/organisations with which the academy co-operates in the pursuit of charitable activities.

Objectives and activities

The main object of the company is the advancement of education in the United Kingdom.

It achieves this object principally through the operation of St. James' R.C. Primary School, the aim being to provide the highest possible standard of education and pastoral care, maximising the life-chances of its students.

Mission Statement

At St. James' R.C. Primary School we:

- Actively demonstrate the Christian values that are shared by all.
- Maintain a safe, welcoming environment which fosters independence and resilience
- Promote positive relationships and respect for self and others
- Inspire children to be excited by learning.
- Enable everyone to reach their full potential and embrace the future.

WE BELIEVE IN YOU, AND YOUR ABILITY TO SUCCEED

Reports, Policies & Websites

St. James' OFSTED Report

- <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/101656>:

St. James' School Results

Department of Education results prior to Academy conversion:

- <http://www.education.gov.uk/cgi-bin/schools/performance/school.pl?urn=137958>

Department of Education results after Academy conversion:

- <http://www.education.gov.uk/cgi-bin/schools/performance/school.pl?urn=137958>

St. James' Policies

- <http://www.stjamesprimarypettswood.co.uk/information/policies>

St. James' School Websites

- <http://www.stjamesprimarypettswood.co.uk>

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Objectives, strategies and activities

St James' is an Outstanding School and Leaders ensure that it continues to build upon excellence.

- To assess and tackle progress and attainment across the curriculum, including subjects that are not Maths or English.
- To raise standards in Writing at Greater Depth.
- To raise standards in Reading at Greater Depth.
- To enhance opportunities for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and develop links with other Christian faiths.

In setting the objectives and planning the associated activities, governors have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

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 Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education.

We have referred to the guidance in the Charity Commissions general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

The public benefit of St. James' R.C. Primary School is the advancement of education within the local community.

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

St James' again achieved outstanding data which was well above national both in attainment and progress.

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile	School	LA 2022	NA 2023
A Good Level of Development	73.3%	71.9%	67%

Year 1 Phonic Check	School	LA 2022	NA 2023
Working at the required level	96.7%	81%	79 %

Year 2 Phonic Check	School	NA 2023
Working at the required level	100%	89%

Key Stage 1	School	LA 2022	NA 2023
Reading Expected Standard	93%	71.3%	68%
Reading Greater Depth	40%	24.9%	19%
Writing Expected Standard	83%	64.8%	60%
Writing Greater Depth	20%	14.2%	8%
Maths Expected Standard	83%	72.5%	70%
Maths Greater Depth	26%	22%	16%
Reading/Writing/Maths Expected Standard	73%		56%
Reading/Writing/Maths Greater Depth	13%		6%
Science Expected Standard	96%	86.3%	79%

Key Stage 2	School	LA 2023	NA 2023
Reading Test % at Expected Standard	97%		73%
Reading Test % at Greater Depth	72%		29%
Writing Teacher Assessment Expected Standard	97%		73%
Writing Teacher Assessment Greater Depth	44%		13%
Maths Test % at Expected Standard	100%		79%
Maths Test % at Greater Depth	63%		24%
GPS Test % at Expected Standard	94%		72%
GPS Test % at Greater Depth	69%		30%
Reading/Writing/Maths Expected Standard	97%	69%	59%
Reading/Writing/Maths Greater Depth	38%	15%	8%
Science Teacher Assessment Expected Standard	97%		80%

KS2 Average Scaled Score	School	LA	NA
Reading	112	107	105
Maths	112	106	104
GPS	112	107	105

Progress Score	School	NA
Reading Progress (Value Added)	4.2	Sig above
Writing Progress (Value Added)	3.2	Sig above
Maths Progress (Value Added)	4.8	Sig above

Our sports development is continuing to thrive and we are taking part in more competitions with successful results. We are offering even more sporting opportunities for children with a wide variety of interests. However, our sporting ethos thrives on the principal that sporting opportunities exist for all our children irrespective of ability.

We continue to develop and deepen our relationship with the other Catholic Primary Schools of the Bromley Catholic Schools Trust and are moderating with them to ensure that standards are comparable. The Bromley Catholic Schools Trust continues to take advantage of efficiencies in procurement.

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Key Performance Indicators

To monitor the financial performance of the Academy the Governor's use key financial indicators.

- The Current Ratio is a financial ratio that measures whether or not a company has enough resources to pay its debts over the next 12 months. It compares a company's current assets to its current liabilities and we believe is an appropriate measure of the financial health of the Academy.
- Our Current Assets exceed our Current Liabilities by a ratio **3.49 to 1** which is an indication of the strength of the liquidity position of the Academy. Going forward we would like this ratio to remain in the range 2.0/3.0.
- The most effective Cost Control Measure we monitor is Total Staff Costs as a percentage of Total Grant Income. Total Grant Income includes GAG, SEN Matrix Funding and Pupil Premium.
- The current figure is **90.3%** variance level of 77.5% - 82.5%

Going Concern

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

Financial review

We receive our income from a number of different sources. The majority of our income comes from central government via the Education and Skills Funding Agency who provide us with grant, based largely on our student numbers to cover our staffing and other general running costs (General Annual Grant - GAG). The ESFA may provide us with additional grants which are earmarked for specific purposes (such as Pupil Premium which must be used to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils). These appear in the accounts as DfE/ESFA grants. Where we receive grant or other funding from the Local Authority (such as where we undertake responsibilities on their behalf in respect of our students) this appears in the accounts as Other government grants. Such income is collectively referred to as "Restricted Funds". Other income is received from parents (for example as contributions to trip or other costs) and from third parties (for example from our bank for interest on our account balances or from others who are charged for their use of our facilities). Such other income may be restricted or unrestricted, depending on whether it comes to us with conditions as to its use or whether it is available for spending at the discretion of the trustees.

We hold funds in two broad categories, funds which are available for spending and other funds which are not available for spending.

Spendable funds are in turn sub-categorised between those which are available for spending at the discretion of trustees ("Unrestricted Funds") and those which are subject to condition or restriction, ("Restricted Funds").

Funds not available for spending include the book value of fixed assets such as land, buildings and equipment. These have a value and are therefore included as assets in the accounts but clearly, we cannot spend this value. In common with all academies and Local Authorities, our share of the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit must also be reflected in our accounts and as this is not a conventional liability, it does not need to be deducted from spendable funds. We meet our obligations in respect of the LGPS by paying over pension contributions due as calculated by the scheme's actuaries.

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The following balances held were held at 31 August:

Fund	Category	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
GAG	Restricted General Funds	5	75
Other DfE/EFA Grants	Restricted General Funds	-	-
Other Government Grants	Restricted General Funds	-	-
Other Income	Restricted General Funds	39	54
	Sub-total General Restricted Funds	44	85
Unspent Capital Grants	Restricted Fixed Asset Fund	29	541
Other Income	Unrestricted General Fund	-	-
	Sub-Total Spendable Funds	73	670
Net Book Value of Fixed Assets	Restricted Fixed Asset Fund	-	-
Share of LGPS Deficit	Restricted Pension Reserve	-	(15)
	Total All Funds	73	655

During the year under review there was a decrease of £85k (2022: increase of £51k) on general restricted funds, a movement of £nil (2022: decrease of £92k) on unrestricted funds and after LGPS valuation adjustments, depreciation and capital income and expenditure, an overall decrease of £582k (2022: increase of £397k).

The Governors have reviewed future forecast projections and have taken into account the impact of COVID-19 on the Trust. Although COVID-19 has had some material effect on the Schools operations, the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The School also received additional funding for COVID-19 in the year to support pupil's educational recovery.

The School adopts a three-year budget plan to forecast funding and reserve levels. Expected funding is planned for based on funding received through the GAG funding and other various grants. Most of the funding received, such as the GAG funding is variable based on the number of pupils in the school. The pupil roll is actively monitored and where a drop in pupil numbers may be seen, action is taken to encourage pupil intake. Other means of generating income is also considered, such as income from lettings, breakfast and afterschool clubs.

Salaries that are budgeted for take into consideration pay progressions and inflation throughout the three years. Contracts, services and materials are also budgeted for with the plans of the School in mind. Inflation is applied throughout all expenditure at a rate of 2%. Contracts are reviewed on an on-going basis, and considered for renewal or cancellation. Future capital projects have been planned for and adequately budgeted for in line with expected funding received.

The budget is provided to Governors for approval prior to submission to the ESFA.

The Schools level of reserves is monitored. This cost primarily consists of monthly salaries. Monthly GAG funding received helps to offset the cost of these salaries on an on-going basis.

Monthly management reports are created and provided to Governors containing the following:

- Cumulative expense analysis with budget monitoring
- Cash flow summaries
- Trial balances
- Aged debtor reports
- Historic expense analysis

These reports help to determine the School's financial position and monitor expenditure to ensure budgets remain in line with expectations. Reasonable adjustments are made on an on-going basis through analysis of these reports.

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Reserves Policy

The principal policy on reserves is that accumulation of unspent GAG (Government Allocated Grant) balances should not breach any limits thereon set out in the Funding agreement.

The level of reserves should never be in deficit.

Each year the Governors review the resource requirements and grant and other income that is forecast for the coming year and an annual budget is formulated and approved.

Investment Policy

There are no investments held beyond cash deposits retained with the major UK clearing banks. Speculative investments are not permitted.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The governors have assessed the major risks to which the company is exposed, in particular those relating to academic performance/finances/child welfare.

The governors have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the company faces, and have developed policies and procedures to mitigate those risks. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover.

The company has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement.

The risk management process has been codified in a risk register implemented by the Senior Leadership Team and overseen by Governors. The principal financial risk faced by the company is that ongoing pressure on funding results in a risk that deficits may be experienced.

The budgeting and reporting process, including scrutiny by the governors of actual financial performance, mitigates the risk.

As the nature of the financial instruments dealt with by the company is relatively simple (bank balances, debtors and "trade" creditors), governors consider the associated risk in this area to be minimal.

The risk resulting from the company's share of the LGPS (Local Government Pension Scheme) deficit is managed by following the advice of the scheme's actuaries, specifically as regards the level of contributions payable, ensuring that annual budgets are drawn up to reflect the actuary's advice.

Our fundraising practices

The trust organise fundraising events and appeals and co-ordinate the activities of our supporters both in the academy and in the wider community on behalf of the trust.

The trust does not use professional fundraisers or involve commercial participators.

There have been no complaints about fundraising activity this year.

The trust complies with the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice.

All fundraising is undertaken by the trust in a manner that seeks to ensure that it is not unreasonably intrusive or persistent. Contact is made through email, academy newsletters, our websites and via students. All fundraising material contains clear instructions on how a person can be removed from mailing lists.

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Plans for Future Periods

The principal task facing the school is to maintain and improve on the excellent educational standards achieved.

Through the strong Catholic ethos the staff, parents, governors are committed to working together to ensure that the needs and aspirations of every single pupil of the School are met.

In addition there are a number of key priorities for the year ahead:

- To maintain and upkeep the school buildings and the school grounds.
- To ensure that the school premises continue to meet all health and safety requirements.
- To continue to move forward and raise standards.
- To improve the progress and attainment of all pupils.
- To ensure that our safeguarding procedures continue to be robust and are in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021.
- To ensure that interventions are targeted, tracked and evaluated and have a positive impact on pupil outcomes.

Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others

The Academy does not act as a Custodian Trustee and therefore does not hold any funds on behalf of others.

Auditor

Insofar 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 Trustees' Report, incorporating a Strategic Report, was approved by order of the Board, as the company directors, on7 November 2023..... and signed on its behalf by:


.....
M Hutchinson
Chair & Foundation Governor

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Scope of responsibility

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

The Board has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Headteacher, 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 St. James' R.C. Primary School and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is also responsible for reporting to the Board any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

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

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
D Camilleri (Foundation Governor)	2	3
E Williamson (Parent Governor)	2	3
M Edwards (Local Governor)	2	3
M D'Souza (Foundation Governor)	3	3
P Gribben (Foundation Governor)	1	3
K Clubbs (Foundation Governor)	1	3
M Hutchinson (Chair & Foundation Governor)	3	3
A Garlick (Staff Governor)	3	3
L Weeks (Head Teacher & Accounting Officer)	3	3
R Monaghan (Foundation Governor)	3	3
M Connell (Foundation Governor)	3	3
C Hardiman (Parent Governor)	2	3
M Wilson (Staff Governor)	3	3

There were no key changes to the composition of the Board during the year.

Conflict of interest

The Governing Clerk ensures that a Declaration of pecuniary and personal interest forms are completed at the start of each academic year and these are monitored throughout the year.

Governance reviews

The Governing Body is very experienced and is made up of individuals with wide ranging and appropriate skills. Governors attend training courses and make use of on-line resources to ensure the enhancement of their appropriate skills. The Governing Body will continue with a programme of self-evaluation.

The Resources and Audit committee is a committee of the main Board. Its purpose is to advise the Board on financial matters, monitoring financial management, financial position and taking responsibility for the process of risk management.

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The attendance record of each Trustee at the Resource & Audit Meetings was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
M Hutchinson (Chair & Foundation Governor)	3	3
A Garlick (Staff Governor)	3	3
L Weeks (Head Teacher & Accounting Officer)	3	3
R Monaghan (Foundation Governor)	3	3
M Wilson (Deputy Head Teacher)	3	3
Mark Hutchins (Foundation Governor)	3	3
M D'Souza (Foundation Governor)	1	3

Governors continue to enhance their skills by attending relevant courses that will continue to help underpin the strength of the board's oversight of the operational activities of the school.

Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer the Head Teacher has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to 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 available. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

The Accounting Officer in conjunction with the Finance Manager constantly drive to improve our use of resources to deliver best value for money. The essential upgrade of painting and maintenance of classrooms, to ensure we get the best possible value for the School in our procurement. The new decoration have made a huge positive difference to the children's learning environment. As in previous years we will continue to ensure we obtain excellent value for money in order to provide for our community of Staff, Parents and Students a working environment that inspires excellence.

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 Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in St. James' R.C. Primary School for the period 01 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 01 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.

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board;
- regular reviews by the resources committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- Identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the trustees have appointed board member Mr Mark Hutchins to the role of Responsible Officer. He has a wealth of experience from the commercial world and has worked closely with the Finance Manager and fellow board member Amanda Garlick to ensure the trust maintains a strong Internal Audit function.

During the period three reports were commissioned to review transactions and systems. The Trustees then considered these findings. Over the year no material control weaknesses were reported and the Trustees are satisfied that the role of RO has been fulfilled very effectively.

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer the Headteacher has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

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

Approved by order of the Board on 7 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



M Hutchinson

Chair & Foundation Governor



L Weeks

Head Teacher

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE


FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

As accounting officer of St. James' R.C. Primary School, I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board 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 in place 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's Board are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of 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 and ESFA.

L Weeks
Accounting Officer

.....

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The trustees (who are also the directors of St. James' R.C. Primary School for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the Financial Statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 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 in 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; and
- 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 that 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 on 7 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



M Hutchinson

Chair & Foundation Governor

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinion

We have audited the Financial Statements of St. James' R.C. Primary School for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the Financial Statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), 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 charitable company'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;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the 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.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the Financial Statements and our auditor's 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.

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the Financial Statements are prepared is consistent with the Financial Statements; and
- the Trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees 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 charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Statements

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

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of management to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing internal assurance reports.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

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



**Louise Hallsworth FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Baxter & Co**

21 December 2023
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**Chartered Certified Accountants
Statutory Auditor**

Lynwood House
Crofton Road
Orpington
Kent
BR6 8QE

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 20 May 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by St. James' R.C. Primary School during the period 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 St. James' R.C. Primary School and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the St. James' R.C. Primary School 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 St. James' R.C. Primary School and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of St. James' R.C. Primary School's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of St. James' R.C. Primary School's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 April 2012 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 period 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 to our conclusion includes:

- Review of payments to staff;
- Review of payments to suppliers and other third parties;
- Review of grant and other income streams;
- Review of some key financial control procedures;
- Discussions with finance staff;
- Consideration of the record maintained by the Accounting Officer of the oversight they have exercised;
- Consideration of the programme of internal scrutiny implemented by the Academy Trust in order to comply with its obligations under 3.1 of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, issued by the ESFA.

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Conclusion

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

Baxter & Co.

Reporting Accountant

Baxter & Co
Lynwood House
Crofton Road
Orpington
Kent
BR6 8QE

Dated: 21 December 2023

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	14	16	30	860
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	32	1,121	-	1,153	1,088
Other trading activities	5	115	-	-	115	117
Total		<u>147</u>	<u>1,135</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>1,298</u>	<u>2,065</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	5	-	-	5	5
Charitable activities:						
- Grants	7	-	528	-	528	-
- Educational operations	8	142	1,232	-	1,374	1,657
Total	6	<u>147</u>	<u>1,760</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,907</u>	<u>1,662</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		-	(625)	16	(609)	403
Transfers between funds	16	-	528	(528)	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	27	-	27	510
Net movement in funds		-	(70)	(512)	(582)	913
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		-	114	541	655	(258)
Total funds carried forward		<u>-</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>655</u>

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Comparative year information		Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds:		Total 2022 £'000
Year ended 31 August 2022			General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	
	Notes				
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	-	15	845	860
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	27	1,061	-	1,088
Other trading activities	5	91	26	-	117
Total		<u>118</u>	<u>1,102</u>	<u>845</u>	<u>2,065</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	5	-	-	5
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	205	1,449	3	1,657
Total	6	<u>210</u>	<u>1,449</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1,662</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		(92)	(347)	842	403
Transfers between funds	16	-	321	(321)	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	510	-	510
Net movement in funds		(92)	484	521	913
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		92	(370)	20	(258)
Total funds carried forward		<u>-</u>	<u>114</u>	<u>541</u>	<u>655</u>

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

		2023		2022	
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Current assets					
Debtors	13	49		308	
Cash at bank and in hand		177		650	
		<u>226</u>		<u>958</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(153)		(288)	
		<u></u>		<u></u>	
Net current assets			73		670
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	18		-		(15)
			<u>73</u>		<u>655</u>
Total net assets			<u>73</u>		<u>655</u>
Funds of the Academy Trust:					
Restricted funds	16				
- Fixed asset funds			29		541
- Restricted income funds			44		129
- Pension reserve			-		(15)
			<u>73</u>		<u>655</u>
Total restricted funds			73		655
Unrestricted income funds	16		-		-
			<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
Total funds			<u>73</u>		<u>655</u>

The Financial Statements on pages 22 to 44 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 7 November 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:



M Hutchinson
Chair & Foundation Governor

Company registration number 07976516 (England and Wales)

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £'000	£'000	2022 £'000	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash used in operating activities	19		(489)		(433)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Capital grants from DfE Group		16		845	
Net cash provided by investing activities			16		845
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(473)		412
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			650		238
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			177		650

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

1 Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

The Financial Statements of the Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their Financial Statements 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, ie whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable company to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the Financial Statements and have concluded that the 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 period 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.

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.4 Expenditure

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

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

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.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £2,500 or more per item (or less if they form part of a larger purchase or project where the total cost exceeds £12,500) 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 that require 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. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired / funded by other income, the fixed asset fund is also credited. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The land and buildings used by the Academy Trust are occupied under a licence to occupy agreement with the Diocesan Board. This does not transfer substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership and hence no value is attributed to them within these financial statements.

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

Computer equipment	3 years
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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.

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 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 of services it must provide.

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 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 basis are as follows.

Financial assets

Trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities

Trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition.

Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.9 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 chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

1.10 Pensions benefits

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 and the assets and the liabilities are held separately from those of the Academy Trust.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated 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 based on quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. The 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 are recognised in the period to which they relate.

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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 net income or expenditure 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.

1.11 Fund accounting

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

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

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

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 18, will impact on 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

In preparing these Financial Statements, the Trustees have not needed to exercise any subjective judgements that would be critical to the Academy Trust's Financial Statements.

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Capital grants	-	16	16	845
Other donations	-	14	14	15
	<u>-</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>860</u>

4 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	944	944	928
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- UIFSM	-	38	38	37
- Pupil premium	-	17	17	16
- Others	-	63	63	45
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,062</u>	<u>1,062</u>	<u>1,026</u>
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	24	24	18
	<u>-</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>18</u>
COVID-19 additional funding				
DfE/ESFA				
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	3	3	3
	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
Other funding				
Catering income	26	-	26	27
Other incoming resources	6	32	38	14
	<u>32</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>41</u>
Total funding	<u>32</u>	<u>1,121</u>	<u>1,153</u>	<u>1,088</u>

The Academy Trust has been eligible to claim additional funding in the year from government support schemes in response to the Coronavirus outbreak. The funding received is shown above under "COVID-19 additional funding".

The funding received for Coronavirus funding relates to £1k National Tutoring Programme and £2k Recovery Premium.

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

5 Other trading activities	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Hire of facilities	6	-	6	5
Before and after school club income	109	-	109	86
Other	-	-	-	26
	<u>115</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>115</u>	<u>117</u>

6 Expenditure	Staff costs £'000	Non-pay expenditure		Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
		Premises £'000	Other £'000		
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	-	-	5	5	5
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	822	-	93	915	805
- Allocated support costs	239	118	102	459	641
Grants - support costs	-	528	-	528	211
	<u>1,061</u>	<u>646</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>1,907</u>	<u>1,662</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Operating lease rentals	2	2
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	-	3
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	7	6
- Other services	9	11
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(2)	9
	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>

7 Analysis of grant expenditure

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Improvements to diocesan property occupied by the Academy Trust	-	528	528	321
	<u>-</u>	<u>528</u>	<u>528</u>	<u>321</u>

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

8 Charitable activities	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Direct costs				
Educational operations	11	904	915	805
Support costs				
Educational operations	131	856	987	852
	<u>142</u>	<u>1,760</u>	<u>1,902</u>	<u>1,657</u>
Analysis of costs			2023	2022
			£'000	£'000
Direct costs				
Teaching and educational support staff costs			822	740
Staff development			2	2
Depreciation			-	2
Technology costs			-	4
Educational supplies and services			33	36
Educational consultancy			11	5
Other direct costs			47	16
			<u>915</u>	<u>805</u>
Support costs				
Support staff costs			225	256
Defined benefit pension scheme - staff costs (FRS102 adjustment)			14	68
Depreciation			-	1
Technology costs			5	-
Maintenance of premises and equipment			550	338
Cleaning			22	21
Energy costs			32	14
Rent, rates and other occupancy costs			28	25
Insurance			12	9
Security and transport			2	-
Catering			59	54
Defined benefit pension scheme - finance costs (FRS102 adjustment)			(2)	9
Other support costs			23	39
Governance costs			17	18
			<u>987</u>	<u>852</u>

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

9 Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Wages and salaries	797	755
Social security costs	65	63
Pension costs	176	169
Defined benefit pension scheme - staff costs (FRS102 adjustment)	14	68
Staff costs - employees	1,052	1,055
Agency staff costs	9	9
Total staff expenditure	1,061	1,064

Staff numbers

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Teachers	11	11
Administration and support	23	25
Management	3	3
	37	39

Higher paid staff

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £409,427 (2022: £392,243).

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more of the Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Academy Trust. The Head Teacher and other Staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Head Teacher and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as Trustees.

The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

L Weeks (Head Teacher):

- Remuneration: £75,000 - £80,000 (2022: £70,000 - £75,000)
- Employer's pension contributions: £15,000 - £20,000 (2022: £5,000 - £10,000)

A Garlick (Staff Trustee - resigned 05/10/23):

- Remuneration: £40,000 - £45,000 (2022: £35,000 - £40,000)
- Employer's pension contributions: £5,000 - £10,000 (2022: £nil - £5,000)

M Willson (Staff Trustee):

- Remuneration: £50,000 - £55,000 (2022: £55,000 - £60,000)
- Employer's pension contributions: £5,000 - £10,000 (2022: £5,000 - £10,000)

No expenses were paid to trustees.

Other related party transactions involving the Trustees are set out within the related parties note.

11 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 Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2023 is included in the total insurance cost.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment £'000
Cost	
At 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023	36
	—
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023	36
	—
Net book value	
At 31 August 2023	-
	—
At 31 August 2022	-
	—

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

12 Tangible fixed assets

(Continued)

The Academy occupies the Land & Buildings under the terms of a licence to occupy that does not confer substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership. The land and buildings are owned by Southwark Diocese (the landlord). The landlord and the Academy Trust have entered into a supplemental agreement with the Secretary of State for Education which grants the Academy Trust the right to occupy the land and buildings, subject inter-alia to the landlord's ability to give two year's notice of termination of the agreement.

The Trustees of the Academy Trust have considered carefully the requirements of and guidance notes within the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the ESFA. They have concluded, taking into account the rights and obligations placed upon the Academy Trust by the supplemental agreement, that the substance of the arrangement is not materially different to its legal form. Accordingly they have concluded that it would be misleading to recognise the Academy's right to occupy its buildings as a fixed asset on its balance sheet.

Playing Fields are occupied on the basis of a 125 year lease with the London Borough of Bromley. The Trustees of the Academy Trust do not consider that this has a material value, bearing in mind the legal restrictions that exist as to permissible use of the land.

13 Debtors

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Trade debtors	6	1
VAT recoverable	13	52
Prepayments and accrued income	30	255
	<u>49</u>	<u>308</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Trade creditors	73	208
Other taxation and social security	15	15
Other creditors	19	19
Accruals and deferred income	46	46
	<u>153</u>	<u>288</u>

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

15 Deferred income	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	37	35
	<u>37</u>	<u>35</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	35	23
Released from previous years	(35)	(23)
Resources deferred in the year	37	35
	<u>37</u>	<u>35</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	<u>37</u>	<u>35</u>

Deferred income relates to Universal Infant Free School Meal grant of £23k (2022: £22k) and Trip deferred income of £14k (2022: £13k).

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	75	944	(1,542)	528	5
UIFSM	-	38	(38)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	17	(17)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	3	(3)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	63	(63)	-	-
Other government grants	-	24	(24)	-	-
Other restricted funds	54	46	(61)	-	39
Pension reserve	(15)	-	(12)	27	-
	<u>114</u>	<u>1,135</u>	<u>(1,760)</u>	<u>555</u>	<u>44</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	541	16	-	(528)	29
	<u>541</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(528)</u>	<u>29</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>655</u>	<u>1,151</u>	<u>(1,760)</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>73</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	-	147	(147)	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>(147)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>655</u>	<u>1,298</u>	<u>(1,907)</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>73</u>

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

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023. All restricted funds are available to be spent for the purposes for which the funds were received.

The Pension Reserve deficit represents the Academy Trust's share of the LGPS pension fund deficit, as valued by the scheme's actuaries. This will be eliminated over the long term, following advice from the actuaries as to contribution rates.

The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund represents the net book value of fixed assets plus the unspent element of Capital funds. When assets are purchased the fund is increased and depreciation charges reduce the fund.

Unrestricted Funds represent balances held at period end that can be applied at the discretion of the Trustees, to support any of the Academy's charitable purposes.

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

16 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	928	(1,174)	321	75
UIFSM	-	37	(37)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	16	(16)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	3	(3)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	45	(45)	-	-
Other government grants	-	18	(18)	-	-
Other restricted funds	78	55	(79)	-	54
Pension reserve	(448)	-	(77)	510	(15)
	<u>(370)</u>	<u>1,102</u>	<u>(1,449)</u>	<u>831</u>	<u>114</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	17	845	-	(321)	541
Capital expenditure from GAG and other funds	3	-	(3)	-	-
	<u>20</u>	<u>845</u>	<u>(3)</u>	<u>(321)</u>	<u>541</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>(350)</u>	<u>1,947</u>	<u>(1,452)</u>	<u>510</u>	<u>655</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	92	118	(210)	-	-
	<u>92</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>(210)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>(258)</u>	<u>2,065</u>	<u>(1,662)</u>	<u>510</u>	<u>655</u>

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Current assets	-	197	29	226
Current liabilities	-	(153)	-	(153)
	<u>-</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>73</u>
Total net assets	<u>-</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>73</u>

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
	Funds	General	Fixed asset	Funds
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:				
Current assets	-	417	541	958
Current liabilities	-	(288)	-	(288)
Pension scheme liability	-	(15)	-	(15)
Total net assets	-	114	541	655

18 Pension and similar obligations

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 London Borough of Bromley. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2019, and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £19k were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022: £19k) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer 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. The assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £106k (2022: £108k).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website.

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 23.3% for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% for employees.

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

Total contributions made	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Employer's contributions	80	64
Employees' contributions	25	20
Total contributions	<u>105</u>	<u>84</u>
Principal actuarial assumptions	2023	2022
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	4.30	4.30
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.90	2.90
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.40	4.30
Rate of CPI inflation	<u>2.80</u>	<u>2.80</u>

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2023 Years	2022 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.70	22.8
- Females	24.00	25.3
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.70	24.6
- Females	25.70	27.2

Scheme liabilities would have been affected by changes in assumptions as follows:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Discount rate + 0.1%	932	908
Discount rate - 0.1%	962	948
Life expectancy + 1 year	965	946
Life expectancy - 1 year	929	910
Salary rate + 0.1%	950	930
Salary rate - 0.1%	944	926
Pensions rate + 0.1%	962	948
Pensions rate - 0.1%	932	908

Defined benefit pension scheme net asset/(liability)

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Scheme assets	1,012	913
Scheme obligations	(1,012)	(928)
Net asset/(liability)	-	(15)

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

	2023 Fair value £'000	2022 Fair value £'000
Equities	631	590
Other Bonds	81	69
Government Bonds	25	20
Cash / Liquidity	28	15
Property	63	65
Other assets	184	154
Total market value of assets	1,012	913

The actual return on scheme assets was £(3,000) (2022: £(90,000)).

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18 Pension and similar obligations		(Continued)	
Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2023	2022	
	£'000	£'000	
Current service cost	91	130	
Interest income	(42)	(16)	
Interest cost	40	25	
Administration expenses	3	2	
	<u>92</u>	<u>141</u>	
	<u>92</u>	<u>141</u>	
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations			2023
			£'000
At 1 September 2022			928
Current service cost			91
Interest cost			40
Employee contributions			25
Actuarial (gain)			(72)
			<u>1,012</u>
At 31 August 2023			<u>1,012</u>
			<u>1,012</u>
Changes in the fair value of the Academy Trust's share of scheme assets			2023
			£'000
At 1 September 2022			913
Interest income			42
Actuarial (loss)			(45)
Employer contributions			80
Employee contributions			25
Administration expenses			(3)
			<u>1,012</u>
At 31 August 2023			<u>1,012</u>
			<u>1,012</u>

The asset ceiling adjustment has been accounted for via FRS102 adjustment of £65k to the actuarial (gain) / loss.

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities

	Notes	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(609)	403
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(16)	(845)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	18	14	68
Defined benefit pension scheme finance (income)/cost	18	(2)	9
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		-	3
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		259	(292)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(135)	221
Net cash used in operating activities		<u>(489)</u>	<u>(433)</u>

20 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2022 £'000	Cash flows £'000	31 August 2023 £'000
Cash	650	(473)	177
	<u>650</u>	<u>(473)</u>	<u>177</u>

21 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

At 31 August 2023 the total of the Academy Trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Amounts due within one year	-	2
	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>

22 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the Academy Trust and the composition of the Board being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the Trustees have an interest. The following related party transactions took place in the financial period.

J Flower, a close family member of A Garlick (a Trustee) is employed at the Trust. Their appointment was made in open competition and the respective Trustee was not involved in the decision making process regarding the appointment. The amounts paid were within the normal pay scale for their role and no special treatment was received as a result of their relationship to the respective Trustee.

In entering into the above transactions, the Trust has complied with the requirements of ESFA's Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

ST. JAMES' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

23 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 or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he or she ceases to be a member.

24 Prior period adjustment

Prior period adjustment relates to a transfer between Restricted fixed asset fund and GAG for improvements to diocesan property of £110k.

