

Company registration number 08172039 (England and Wales)

**NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

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NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

Mr D Coniff
 Ms J Stapleton (Appointed 13.07.2023)
 Mr S Richards
 Mrs C Waterman (Resigned 01.02.2023)
 Mr A White

Trustees

Mrs S Appleby-Kabi
 Mrs R Corkin (Resigned 31 December 2022)
 Mr J Fazackerley (Resigned 21 July 2023)
 Mr R Hardcastle
 Ms J Kedwards (CEO & Accounting Officer)
 Mr J Marscheider
 Mrs Julie Stapleton (Resigned 23 May 2023)
 Mr J Stockdale (Chair of Trustees)
 Ms J Bownes (Appointed 4 January 2023)
 Ms N Dixon (Appointed 6 February 2023)
 Mr O Osinaike (Appointed 13 June 2023)
 Ms C Waterman (Appointed 2 February 2023)

Senior management team

- Chief Executive Officer	Ms J Kedwards
- Chief Financial Officer (resigned 5 December 2022)	Mrs A Basra
- Chief Financial Officer (appointed 23 January 2023)	Mr D Gibson
- Trust School Improvement Lead	Mr M Rapps
- Trust Curriculum and Professional Learning Lead	Mrs A Carter
- Chief Operating Officer	Mrs J Ricketts
- Headteacher - Abington Vale Primary School	Mrs L Cichuta
- Headteacher - Blackthorn Primary School	Mr R Williams
- Headteacher - East Hunsbury Primary	Mrs K Pennington
- Joint Headteacher - Ecton Brook Primary School	Mrs D Archer
- Joint Headteacher - Ecton Brook Primary School	Mr N Woods
- Headteacher - Headlands Primary School & Stanton Cross Primary School	Mr D Smith
- Headteacher - Langland Community School	Miss D Christy
- Headteacher - Lings Primary School (resigned 30 April 2023)	Mr M Wilson
- Interim Headteacher - Lings Primary School (appointed 1 May 2023)	Mr M Bushell
- Headteacher - Rectory Farm Primary School	Mrs B Williams
- Headteacher - Simon de Senlis Primary	Mrs J Fennelly
- Headteacher - Thorplands Primary	Mrs S Mawer
- Headteacher - Upton Meadows Primary School	Mrs C Searing

Company registration number

08172039 (England and Wales)

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Principal and registered office

Headlands Primary School
Bushland Road
Northampton
Northamptonshire
NN3 2NS

Academies operated

Abington Vale Primary School
Blackthorn Primary School
East Hunsbury Primary School
Ecton Brook Primary School
Headlands Primary School
Langland Community School
Lings Primary School
Park Junior School
Rectory Farm Primary School
Simon de Senlis Primary School
Stanton Cross Primary School
Thorplands Primary School
Upton Meadows Primary School

Location

Northamptonshire
Northamptonshire
Northamptonshire
Northamptonshire
Northamptonshire
Buckinghamshire
Northamptonshire
Northamptonshire
Northamptonshire
Northamptonshire
Northamptonshire
Northamptonshire
Northamptonshire

Headteacher

Mrs L Cichuta
Mrs R Williams
Mrs K Pennington
Mrs D Archer/Mr N Woods
Mr D Smith
Miss D Christy
Mr M Bushell
Mr D Tebbutt
Mrs B Williams
Mrs J Fennelly
Mr D Smith
Mrs S Mawer
Mrs C Searing

Independent auditor

Ellacotts Audit Services Limited
Countrywide House
23 West Bar
Banbury
Oxfordshire
OX16 9SA
England

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
PO Box 1000
Andover
BX 1 1LT

Solicitors

Browne Jacobson LLP
44 Castle Gate
Nottingham
NG1 7BJ

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report and strategic report under company law.

The Academy Trust operates 13 schools for pupils aged 4-11 serving a catchment area in Northampton and Milton Keynes. Its schools have a combined pupil capacity of 4,125 mainstream school-age children with additional capacity for 100 children with special educational needs in special unit provisions and 155 part time pre-schooled children in nursery or pre school provisions. The Trust also works in partnership with Weston Favell Church of England Primary School which has an additional 420 children and 29 pre school children.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's trust deed is the primary governing document of the Academy Trust.

The charitable company operates as Northampton Primary Academy Trust ("NPAT").

The trustees of NPAT are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the trustees who served during the year, and to the date these financial statements are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on pages 1 and 2.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

Trustees benefit from indemnity insurance to cover the liability of the trustees which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, breach of Trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Academy Trust. The cost of this insurance in the year was included within the Trust's Combined Schools Insurance policy with Zurich.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

The NPAT members are responsible for appointing up to nine trustees with further trustees being appointed by the board of trustees. We have successfully recruited new members and trustees via Inspiring Governance and LinkedIn. The board of trustees is made up of skilled professionals from the field of education and business and finance from both the public and private sector.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

The training and induction provided for new trustees depends on their existing experience. Where necessary induction will provide training on charity, education, legal and financial matters. All trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as trustees. Induction tends to be tailored specifically to the individual and their needs.

Local Governing Bodies

In most cases, and where a school's provision is deemed Good by Ofsted, the board of trustees delegates the day-to-day monitoring of school performance to local governing bodies (LGBs). The responsibilities and accountabilities of LGBs are outlined in the Trust's Scheme of Delegation. LGBs work as committees to the board and follow a work plan outlined by the board.

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

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

Organisational structure

The Trust comprises of 13 Primary Schools:

- Abington Vale Primary School
- Blackthorn Primary School
- East Hunsbury Primary School
- Ecton Brook Primary School
- Headlands Primary School
- Lings Primary School
- Langland Community School
- Park Junior School (joined 1 September 2022)
- Rectory Farm Primary School
- Simon De Senlis Primary School
- Stanton Cross Primary School (opened 1 September 2022)
- Thorplands Primary School; and
- Upton Meadows Primary School

The Trust also continues its partnership agreement with Weston Favell Church of England Primary School.

Each school follows agreed policies, procedures and approaches in all aspects of operations and finance whilst remaining fully accountable for their own practice under the oversight and direction of the Board of Trustees and their own local governing bodies according to the Trust's Scheme of Delegation.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

NPAT adheres to its own Pay Policy and Executive Pay Policy. These policies are reviewed and endorsed annually by the board of trustees with regard to the setting of key management personnel pay. Every three years executive pay is benchmarked by trustees with support and guidance from external HR company EPM to ensure consistency and fairness.

Full appraisal and mid-year meetings are held with every central employee and annual pay recommendations within the recommended salary scales are made and approved by trustees within the pay committee. Similarly, school appraisal information is sent to the relevant LGB pay panel along with evidence of targets met so that all pay recommendations are approved by the school LGB. Headteacher performance management takes place with an external advisor, the NPAT Chief Executive Officer and LGB representatives.

Engagement with employees

Employees have been consulted on issues of concern to them by means of regular consultative committee and staff meetings and have been kept informed on specific matters directly by management. The Academy Trust carries out exit interviews for all staff leaving the organisation and has adopted a procedure of upward feedback for senior management and the trustees.

The Academy Trust has implemented a number of detailed policies in relation to all aspects of personnel matters including:

- Pay Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Grievance Policy
- Appraisal and Capability Policy
- Equality Policy
- Code of Conduct Flexible Working Policy
- Management of Absence Policy

In accordance with the Trust's Equality Policy, NPAT has long-established fair employment practices in the recruitment, selection, retention and training of disabled staff.

Full details of these policies are available from the Academy Trust's offices.

Trade Union Facilities time

There were no employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period.

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

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

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

The Trust has a reputation for achieving and maintaining high standards and this is evident in the relationships we develop with our staff, our pupils and their families and our school communities as a whole. We also look for similar high standards with those companies we engage with contractually to supply goods and services. The Trust strongly believes in collaboration and seeks the views of others where it can have a positive impact on decisions to be made. In the reporting period the Trust has:

- Consulted with employees on policies and procedural changes to ensure the successful delivery of outcomes for everyone within our school communities.
- Built relationships with new suppliers to ensure that they understand what it means to work with the Trust and the impact of what they do to make and how it impacts on our pupils.
- Continued to identify opportunities to consolidate contracts across the Trust to achieve value for money.
- Used robust procurement with Trust wide representation to ensure that all suppliers achieve high standards of service and will have a positive impact on the lives of our pupils.
- Where possible, and where we can ensure good value for money, we source goods and services from local suppliers to support the local community, give new businesses opportunities and reduce the impact on the environment.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The Academy Trust has a partnership agreement in place with Weston Favell Church of England Primary School. The Headteacher of the School is a member of the NPAT Headteacher Development Group and is a full and active part of the Trust. Similarly, the Chair of the Weston Favell Church of England Primary School board of trustees is an active member of the NPAT governance group and works in consultation and collaboration with NPAT governance processes and protocols. Some individual schools remain members of local school cluster groups; these are informal relationships with no written agreements in place.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

With responsibility for approximately 4,800 children across Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes, the Trust is driven by our aspirational vision: **"to achieve educational excellence, create opportunities and enrich lives"**. Our mission is **"to develop a multi-academy trust of highly effective and sustainable schools"**. The aim of the NPAT Education Strategy is to further improve educational provision and raise the academic attainment of all children across the Trust. The strategy also aims to reduce the inequality for disadvantaged children in the Trust.

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

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

Objectives, strategies and activities

The objectives and aims will be achieved by engaging with evidence and:

- Improving the quality of teacher professional development to ensure the most effective classroom practice
- Securing high-quality leadership at all levels across schools
- Ensuring schools have an effective approach to the teaching of English and Mathematics
- Developing a broad, rich and rigorous curriculum offer in Science, History, Geography, R.E. and Art and wider curriculum subjects
- Developing and implementing an effective, evidence-based strategy to target improved educational provision for disadvantaged children

We want all children to leave NPAT schools at least in line with their peers in terms of educational outcomes, ready and able to access the secondary curriculum successfully at their next schools. We aim to do this through an exciting and rigorous curriculum which offers cultural capital and develops each child holistically.

Our central services is evolving over a two-year period to deliver the following:

- Educational Support - to deliver efficient and effective operational processes that allow leaders to focus on delivering innovative provision in all of our schools, whilst supporting the needs of children, leaders and staff at all levels in the Trust.
- Evidence Compliance - to ensure that all NPAT schools meet both internal and external compliance requirements, thereby ensuring we are providing a reliable workforce and resources, and safe environments for all stakeholders. This will be achieved through the use of technology to provide efficient, effective and standardised processes.
- Efficiency and Economies of Scale – part of the role of the central team is to ensure that we achieve as a group of schools, what individual schools cannot do their own. We will ensure that all NPAT schools will benefit, where effective, from economies of scale from centralised contract procurement and service reviews. This will give the added benefit of enabling a more streamline process for on-boarding new schools as the Trust continues to grow.

Public benefit

The Trust promotes education for the benefit of the local communities of Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes and offers recreational facilities to a variety of local community groups outside of school hours for the benefit of the general public. Community based projects are also undertaken throughout the year by staff and students which further enhances the public benefit. The trustees have complied with the duty under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission and the trustees have paid due regard to this guidance in deciding what activities are undertaken. NPAT takes seriously its legal and moral purpose: ***"to advance education for the public benefit, readily supporting schools facing challenges and in difficult contexts"***.

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

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

The Trust continued to grow during the year. With just one joiner the previous year (Langland Community School - a one form entry Primary school located in Milton Keynes and the Trust's first school outside of Northampton - being sponsored from 1 January 2022) there have been two new joiners during this reporting period.

During the year, the central team continued with further growth projects resulting in the successful opening of a new free school, Stanton Cross Primary, and the transfer of Park Junior School, Wellingborough, both with effect from 1 September 2022. The addition of these schools has expanded the Trust beyond West Northamptonshire into North Northamptonshire.

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

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

Key performance indicators

In order to ensure there is a quantifiable measure to determine whether the Schools within the Trust are meeting the operational and strategic goals, the following key performance indicators have initially been applied to financial reporting and business monitoring in 2022/23:

	Total Income £000's	Total Expend £000's	Staff Costs as % Of Income	Pupil Numbers	Pupil Teacher Ratio	Income Per Pupil	Expend Per Pupil
Park Junior	1,487	1,501	80.81%	241	21.43	6,170	6,228
Thorplands Primary	1,442	1,463	74.84%	200	22.21	7,210	7,315
Abington Vale Primary	2,444	2,548	72.76%	411	21.92	5,946	6,200
Blackthorn Primary	1,909	1,899	69.08%	189	13.99	10,101	10,048
East Hunsbury Primary	3,003	3,040	77.07%	420	17.76	7,150	7,238
Headlands Primary	3,161	3,197	81.95%	437	18.16	7,233	7,316
Lings Primary	2,527	2,571	69.66%	379	18.68	6,668	6,784
Rectory Farm Primary	1,354	1,396	64.04%	197	21.11	6,873	7,086
Simon de Senlis Primary	2,583	2,672	72.34%	416	21.25	6,209	6,423
Upton Meadows Primary	2,285	2,301	80.35%	384	19.98	5,951	5,992
Ecton Brook Primary	3,543	3,686	71.51%	574	20.67	6,172	6,422
Langland Community	1,492	1,457	76.59%	172	17.19	8,674	8,471
Stanton Cross Primary	337	434	55.91%	30	15.00	11,233	14,467

Trust academic performance

The Trust academic outcomes at the end of Year 6 were in line with national outcomes, with some schools performing above national average and some falling slightly below. Pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds performed in line with their peers nationally. There was a slight reduction in the percentage of pupils reaching age expectation in reading at the end of Year 6. Outcomes in all other key indicators – EYFS, phonics, Year 4 Multiplication Test – improved significantly since the previous year and are in line with or above national averages.

Going concern

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

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

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

Protecting the success of the Academy Trust

The board of trustees believes that promoting success is vital to the continued development and growth of the Trust for all stakeholders. Our reputation says everything about us and who we are as an organisation. The Trust continues to be held in high regard and many of our successes during the year are covered in the strategic report. The following are some examples of how our success promotes the trust and continues to strengthen our reputation:

- Candidates for staff vacancies within the Trust are actively looking for employment with us;
- Senior staff regularly offer advice and support to other schools and trusts and how to develop their organisations;
- The Trust has a strong relationship with the Regional Schools Directors' office and is recognised as a trust that can sponsor schools requiring support;
- Trust documentation is often used as a benchmark by partner organisations; and
- Long-term established partnerships with well known organisations in the arts and sports field to provide opportunities that enrich the lives of our pupils.

Financial review

Much of the academy's income is obtained from the DfE in the form of recurrent grants disbursed via the Education and Skills Funding Agency ("ESFA"), the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

The Trust also received grants for fixed assets from the ESFA and other funding bodies. In accordance with Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting Charities' (SORP 2019), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, total expenditure of £29,557,884 (2022: £26,179,955) (excluding depreciation) was covered by recurrent grant funding from the DfE together with other incoming resources. The deficit of income less expenditure for the year (excluding restricted fixed asset funds and pension adjustment) was £271,375 (2022: £437,871).

At 31 August 2023 the net book value of fixed assets was £64,357,686 (2022: £60,841,110) and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 13 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Trust.

Part of the expenditure included investment into external quality assurance to provide Trustees with an independent evaluation of school provision and performance.

The LGPS deficit of the Academy Trust, being the total of all schools, was £984,000. At 31 August 2022 the pension scheme deficit was £3,397,000.

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

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

Reserves policy

The purpose of the reserves policy for NPAT is to ensure the stability of all of its School operations, to provide protection allowing the ability to adjust quickly to financial circumstances, such as large unplanned expenditure, cyclical maintenance and working capital requirements.

Whilst it is not mandatory to hold reserves, it is generally considered good business practice to do so. Reserves should be held in order to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grant income, to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance or long term sickness where unforeseen costs are incurred and to build up funding for planned future capital projects.

The Trust reserve policy states that at no time will the level of total revenue reserves held by the Trust fall below the equivalent of one month's payroll expenses for the Trust. Each academy within the Trust is required to maintain reserves at a minimum of 5% of their general annual grant funding. These minimum requirements for revenue reserves exclude ring fenced reserves held for specific projects. Where academies fall short of the minimum requirements action plans will be agreed with the Head of school, central finance team and the Trust Chief Executive Officer/Accounting Officer to address the shortfall over an agreed time frame. The current cost pressures being faced by all academies within the Trust in respect of unfunded pay rises and general inflation does mean it is becoming more and more challenging to maintain reserves at an appropriate level.

Purposes

The following purposes are considered appropriate for NPAT:

- Current reserves that are established to manage known risks which are not insurable or where insurance does not provide value for money. An example of this is the staff sickness fund where the premium to protect against losses incurred is very high and excludes cover in certain areas.
- Specific reserves to fund previously agreed and approved projects which have not yet completed. This may include repair and maintenance projects or specific IT projects.
- Capital reserves established in order to fund capital expenditure and other investments that would not be affordable if financed from a single year's funding.
- General reserve to provide for unexpected and unpredictable needs. The target for these reserves should be equal to one month's average payroll costs. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipts of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance.
- Cash flow management reserves used to enable variable cash demands across the Trust or specific parts of the Trust to be managed.

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

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

Investment policy

NPAT does not consider the investment of surplus funds as a primary activity, rather it is the result of good practice as and when circumstances allow.

Purposes

- To ensure adequate cash balances are maintained in the current account to cover day to day working capital requirements;
- To ensure there is no risk of loss in capital value of any cash funds invested;
- To protect the capital value of any invested funds against inflation; and
- To optimise returns on invested funds.

Guidelines

Regular cash flow reports are prepared and monitored to ensure there are adequate liquid funds to meet all payroll related commitments and outstanding creditors that are due for payment. Where the cash flow identifies a base level of cash funds that will be surplus to requirements these may be invested following approval from the Business and Finance Committee. Approval must be signed off and recorded in the committee minutes.

Reviewing

The Trustees carry out a review of this policy on a regular basis to ensure that any new or changed legislation is adhered to.

Principal risks and uncertainties

Through the Academy Trust's risk management procedures, it has considered its risks and uncertainties and planned mitigating action wherever possible. The risks and uncertainties identified by the board of trustees are:

- Change in government funding regime - the academies receive 93.7% of their funding from government agencies;
- Reduction in student numbers either through competition or a damaged reputation;
- Reduction in standards across the academies/poor Ofsted grading;
- Poor leadership;
- Loss of key senior personnel; and
- Complacency in safeguarding processes and systems.

Key controls that the Academy Trust has in place to mitigate these risks include:

- Attendance at government funding agency conferences and participation in focus groups to keep up to date with and influence as far as possible;
- Regular challenge and support on standards and performance between Schools;
- Use of external consultants to monitor and develop core curriculum areas;
- Succession planning strategies; and
- Review, monitoring and challenge provided by LGB's and the Trust's Business, Finance, Audit and Risk committee.

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

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

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

The Academy Trust's greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption are as follows:

	2023	2022
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh):	4,380,489	3,151,607
Scope 1 emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent):		
Gas consumption	496	575
Owned transport	3	3
Total scope 1	499	578
Scope 2 emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent):		
Purchased electricity	351	286
Total gross emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent)	850	864

Qualification and Reporting Methodology

We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2021 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

Intensity measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

We have installed smart meters across all sites and increased video conferencing technology for staff meetings to reduce the need for travel between sites.

We are using School Capital Allocation funding to address structural issues in some of our schools to provide better insulation through the replacement of roofs and windows in our non-Private Finance Initiative (PFI) schools and PFI contractors are addressing structural elements of PFI buildings including replacement roofs and windows.

Fundraising

The Trust operates in accordance with the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016.

The Trust's approach to fundraising is to support the independent work of parents and friends groups linked to our individual schools. The Trust does not work with any commercial participators / professional fundraisers. The Trust ensures any fundraising conforms to recognised standards and has received no fundraising complaints. The Trust will ensure protection of the public, including vulnerable people, from unreasonably intrusive or persistent fundraising approaches, and undue pressure to donate on its behalf.

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

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

Plans for future periods

The Trust has identified the following areas of future development:

- Seeking further like minded schools or academies to join or partner the Trust;
- The recruitment of additional Central Team roles to support school improvement, governance and business and finance developments;
- Increased pooling of resources and supplier centralisation to ensure best value for money;
- Continue to review governance structures to improve strategic development of the Trust and its LGBs;
- Continue to assess centralisation of non-core activities to allow Schools to focus on core educational objectives; and
- The Trust have secured significant commitment to grants from DRAX to support energy efficiency initiatives across Trust schools including solar panels.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

The Academy Trust does not act as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 20/12/2023... and signed on its behalf by:

J Stockdale

.....
Mr J Stockdale

Chair of Trustees

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Scope of responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that NPAT 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 of trustees 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 Northampton Primary Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The Accounting Officer is also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the trustees' report and in the statement of trustee responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met five times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mrs S Appleby-Kabi	5	5
Mrs R Corkin (Resigned 31 December 2022)	1	2
Mr J Fazackerley (Resigned 21 July 2023)	4	5
Mr R Hardcastle	5	5
Ms J Kedwards (CEO & Accounting Officer)	5	5
Mr J Marscheider	5	5
Mrs Julie Stapleton (Resigned 23 May 2023)	4	4
Mr J Stockdale (Chair of Trustees)	4	5
Ms J Bownes (Appointed 4 January 2023)	2	3
Ms N Dixon (Appointed 6 February 2023)	2	2
Mr O Osinaike (Appointed 13 June 2023)	1	1
Ms C Waterman (Appointed 2 February 2023)	3	3

During the year, three trustees resigned and four were appointed, taking the total number of trustees to nine. A long-standing trustee and chair of the business, finance audit and risk committee was among those who resigned. New trustees include Jodie Bownes who is a finance business partner working for one of the UK's largest retailers, Natalie Dixon who leads the early career framework and the national professional qualification programme at Ambition Institute, Oladele Osinaike who is a compliance consultant working at major banks, and Carly Waterman, who is director of the early careers framework at Ambition Institute. Carly was appointed as the safeguarding trustee. A dedicated trust governance professional, Rebecca Howell, was employed in April 2023. These changes have further improved the diversity, skills and challenge of the board.

The number and timing of the meetings of the trust board was reviewed and the schedule of local governing body meetings was reorganised. A new board tool (GovernorHub) was introduced across the Trust to improve communication and accessibility. A governance conference was held in May for all those involved in governance across the Trust, providing communication, community and training.

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

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

During the year, the work of the trust board covered the following areas:

- Trust strategic planning: remaining faithful to the Trust's vision and values; bringing together plans from education and operations; capital expenditure;
- Central team appointments: Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Estates Manager, Executive Office Manager and Trust Governance Professional;
- Risk profile (school-level) implementation;
- External audits: ESFA positive outcome;
- Internal audits: risk, cybersecurity, and cash and banking;
- Budget: monitoring and setting;
- Industrial action: school closures kept to a minimum;
- Schools: Stanton Cross Primary School opened 1 September 2022 and Park Junior School became part of the Trust on 1 September 2022; continued intensive support for Langland Community School;
- Ofsted inspections at five schools; Lings Primary School, Upton Meadows Primary School, East Hunsbury Primary School, Blackthorn Primary School and Thorplands Primary School; and
- Introduction of automated compliance and tracking systems to support efficiency and cross-trust visibility.

The main challenges for the trust board over the course of the year have been in increasing the capacity of the central team to provide excellent and consistent service to our schools, managing and setting budgets with the unknown costs of energy and unfunded pay rises plus the lack of increase in SEND funding for special units and to match demand, and dealing with the impacts of industrial action.

In an external audit of finance and governance conducted by the ESFA in July 2023, the Trust achieved a positive outcome with the Trust being given a green light for growth.

A review of data took place in Spring 2023 taking into account the information trustees wanted to see. The information provided to local governing bodies was standardized so that this can be easily reviewed by the central team and trust board. The Arbor system has enabled much better cross-trust data to be generated. Academic outcomes and tracking data was scrutinized by the education, standards and performance committee.

Conflicts of interest

All members, trustees, leaders and governors were asked to declare their business and pecuniary interests on an annual basis and when there was a change. The register of interests is kept up to date and published on the Trust and school's websites.

A standing item is included on all trust board, committee and local governing body meeting agendas asking those present to declare their interests relating to items on the agenda. Where an interest is declared, trustees/governors/leaders are reminded to remove themselves from the meeting when that item is discussed.

There is a partnership agreement in place with WFPS single academy trust to provide services in school improvement and operations. The Chair of Trustees of WFPS was previously a trustee of NPAT and Chair of BFAR committee. He stepped down as a trustee on 21 July 2023 and as Chair of WFPS on 31 August 2023 therefore this is no longer a related party transaction.

Governance reviews

Trustee questionnaires were completed in January 2023 and this highlighted skills gaps, which were subsequently filled with new trustees. A fresh skills audit was completed in October 2023. An external review of governance is planned for 2023/24.

The business, finance, audit and risk committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to monitor the effectiveness of all Business and Finance functions across the Trust to ensure that all funding received is used to deliver the best outcomes for our children in line with the expectations of the regulating authorities. Over the course of the year, the committee has covered internal and external audits including tracking of the actions from these, receipt of the annual audited accounts, the impact of pay rises and holiday realignment on the budget, central banking for specific schools, setting budgets with schools and the central team, the risk register, central team growth, leadership in schools, staff wellbeing survey results, health and safety audits and communication with the local authority on the Pavilion Nursery.

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

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

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mrs R Corkin (Resigned 31 December 2022)	0	2
Mr J Fazackerley (Resigned 21 July 2023)	4	4
Ms J Kedwards (CEO & Accounting Officer)	4	4
Mr J Marscheider	2	4
Mrs Julie Stapleton (Resigned 23 May 2023)	2	3
Ms J Bownes (Appointed 4 January 2023)	2	2
Ms N Dixon (Appointed 6 February 2023)	1	1

Jackie Frampton (Co-opted Governor) also attended two out of a possible four business, finance, audit and risk committee meetings.

The education, standards and performance committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. The committee is responsible for the strategy, planning and monitoring of matters relating to educational standards, teaching and learning across the Trust. Over the course of the year, the committee has looked at: the education strategy, safeguarding audits, attendance figures, progress and attainment outcomes across the Trust, data point analysis, teacher professional development, curriculum, Ofsted inspections, and suspensions and exclusions across the Trust.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mrs S Appleby-Kabi	3	3
Mr R Hardcastle	3	3
Ms J Kedwards (CEO & Accounting Officer)	3	3
Mr J Stockdale (Chair of Trustees)	2	3
Ms C Waterman (Appointed 2 February 2023)	1	1

Review of value for money

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

The Accounting Officer considers how the Academy 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 or by using a framework where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Retaining Zurich Insurance at a rate below the Risk Protection Arrangement through partnership procurement with the Local Authority.

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 NPAT for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

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

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 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;
- regular reviews by the business, finance, audit and risk committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines; and
- identification and management of risks.

The board of trustees has decided to purchase an internal scrutiny audit service from Strictly Education.

This option has been chosen because trustees felt the Strictly Education were able to provide a breadth of internal audit service that matched trustees' views on risks both financial and non-financial.

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

- Cash and Bank Management
- Cyber Security
- Risk Management

On a termly basis, as there have been three reports, the outcomes have been reported to the board of trustees through the business, finance, audit and risk committee. This has allowed the committee to assess the operation of the systems of control and the discharge of the financial responsibilities of the board of trustees. On an annual basis, Strictly Education prepare a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

Strictly Education delivered their reviews as planned and in summary reported in all three areas that there was reasonable assurance that risks were being mitigated to an acceptable level, with the exception of business continuity planning, which the Trust will now implement in a consistent manner, and cashflow management, which the Trust will now implement with the appointment of a Finance Officer.

Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive Officer 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 Strictly Education
- the school resource self-assessment tool
- the work of the Trust's Executive
- A Governance and Finance audit carried out by ESFA in May 2023

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

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

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of these reviews of the system of internal control by the business, finance, audit and risk Committee and that plans are in place to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 20/12/2023 | 14:58 GMT
..... and signed on its behalf by:

J Kedwards

Ms J Kedwards
CEO & Accounting Officer

J Stockdale

Mr J Stockdale
Chair of Trustees

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

As accounting officer of Northampton Primary Academy Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust board of trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement 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 of trustees 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 the following instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance discovered to date have been notified to the board of trustees and ESFA. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the board of trustees and ESFA:

Financial issues:

It was brought to our attention that no advance approval was sought from ESFA in respect of related party transactions arising with Weston Favell Church of England Primary School, as required by the Academy Trust Handbook.

J Kedwards

Ms J Kedwards

Accounting Officer

20/12/2023 | 18:11 GMT

.....

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

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

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

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

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles 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.

20/12/2023 | 14:58 GMT

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

J Stockdale

Mr J Stockdale
Chair of Trustees

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Northampton Primary Academy Trust (the "Academy Trust") for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of the significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the '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 trustees annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. 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.

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST (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 which includes the strategic report and the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within the trustees' report have 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 strategic report or the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out on page 19, the trustees (who are also the directors of the Academy Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the 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.

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of entity staff in tax and compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- 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.

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

A further description of our responsibilities 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.



Charlotte Toemaes BSc FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Ellacotts Audit Services Limited

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Countrywide House
23 West Bar
Banbury
Oxfordshire
England
OX16 9SA
20/12/2023 | 18:46 GMT

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NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated May 2023 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Northampton Primary Academy Trust 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 Northampton Primary Academy Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Northampton Primary Academy Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Northampton Primary Academy Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Northampton Primary Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Northampton Primary Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 November 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:

- Reviewing the minutes of meetings and other evidence made available to us, relevant to our consideration of regularity;
- A review of the objectives and activities of the Trust, with reference to the income streams and other information available to us as auditors of the Trust;
- Testing a sample of payroll payments to staff;
- Testing of a sample of payments to suppliers and other third parties;
- Testing a sample of credit card payments;
- Testing a sample of grants received and other income streams;
- Evaluating the internal control procedures and reporting lines, and testing as appropriate; and
- Making appropriate enquiries of the Accounting Officer.

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Conclusion

In the course of our work, except for the matters listed below, 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.

Matter 1: No advance approval was sought from ESFA in respect of related party transactions arising with Weston Favell Church of England Primary School, as required by the Academy Trust Handbook.

Ellacotts Audit Services Ltd

Reporting Accountant

Ellacotts Audit Services Limited
Countrywide House
23 West Bar
Banbury
Oxfordshire
OX16 9SA
England

20/12/2023 | 18:47 GMT

Dated:

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General Fixed asset £ £		Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	92,945	5,885	1,107,426	1,206,256	1,482,195
Donations - transfer from local authority on conversion	26	220,751	-	4,636,726	4,857,477	15,796,377
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	28,832,100	-	28,832,100	23,974,306
Other trading activities	5	201,899	-	-	201,899	262,760
Investments	6	5,679	-	-	5,679	628
Total		<u>521,274</u>	<u>28,837,985</u>	<u>5,744,152</u>	<u>35,103,411</u>	<u>41,516,266</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	231,871	608,929	-	840,800	625,340
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	11,671	28,705,413	2,050,659	30,767,743	27,090,371
Total	7	<u>243,542</u>	<u>29,314,342</u>	<u>2,050,659</u>	<u>31,608,543</u>	<u>27,715,711</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		277,732	(476,357)	3,693,493	3,494,868	13,800,555
Other recognised gains						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	2,883,000	-	2,883,000	14,926,000
Net movement in funds		277,732	2,406,643	3,693,493	6,377,868	28,726,555
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		744,835	(841,449)	62,015,185	61,918,571	33,192,016
Total funds carried forward		<u>1,022,567</u>	<u>1,565,194</u>	<u>65,708,678</u>	<u>68,296,439</u>	<u>61,918,571</u>

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		64,357,686		60,841,110
Current assets					
Debtors	14	930,073		956,191	
Cash at bank and in hand		6,245,379		5,611,510	
		<u>7,175,452</u>		<u>6,567,701</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(2,252,699)		(2,093,240)	
Net current assets			<u>4,922,753</u>		<u>4,474,461</u>
Net assets excluding pension liability			69,280,439		65,315,571
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19		(984,000)		(3,397,000)
Total net assets			<u>68,296,439</u>		<u>61,918,571</u>
Funds of the Academy Trust:					
Restricted funds	17				
- Fixed asset funds			65,708,678		62,015,185
- Restricted income funds			2,549,194		2,555,551
- Pension reserve			(984,000)		(3,397,000)
Total restricted funds			<u>67,273,872</u>		<u>61,173,736</u>
Unrestricted income funds	17		<u>1,022,567</u>		<u>744,835</u>
Total funds			<u>68,296,439</u>		<u>61,918,571</u>

The financial statements on pages 25 to 50 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 20/12/2023. I, and are signed on their behalf by:

J Stockdale

Mr J Stockdale
Chair of Trustees

Company registration number 08172039 (England and Wales)

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023	£	2022	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by operating activities	20		230,522		1,383,053
Cash funds transferred on conversion	26		302,477		-
			532,999		1,383,053
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		5,679		628	
Capital grants from DfE Group		756,209		1,029,864	
Capital funding received from sponsors and others		351,217		-	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,012,235)		(762,310)	
			100,870		268,182
Net cash provided by investing activities			100,870		268,182
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			633,869		1,651,235
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			5,611,510		3,960,275
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			6,245,379		5,611,510

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

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

1 Accounting policies

Northampton Primary Academy Trust is a private company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England. Its registered number and address of registered office are detailed on pages 1 and 2. The nature of the Academy Trust's operations and principal activity are detailed in the trustees' report.

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

The financial statements are prepared in £ sterling, rounded to the nearest £1.

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 Academy Trust to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Basis of consolidation

Headlands Primary School has a school fund registered as a charity with the Charity Commission (registration number: 1057403), which is under the control of the Academy Trust. The Academy Trust did not prepare group accounts as the trustees are of the opinion that the results of the school fund are not material to the Academy Trust's financial statements.

1.4 Conversion to an academy trust

The conversion from a state maintained school to an academy trust involved the transfer of identifiable assets and liabilities and the operation of the school for £nil consideration. The substance of the transfer is that of a gift and it has been accounted for on that basis as set out at 1.5 below.

1.5 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.

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

Sponsorship income

Sponsorship income provided to the Academy Trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the statement of financial activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions), where the receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

Donations

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

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in stock and 'Income from other trading activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from other trading activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from other trading activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'.

Donated fixed assets

Donated fixed assets are measured at fair value unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor is used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Academy Trust's accounting policies.

Transfer of assets on conversion

Where assets and liabilities are received by the Academy Trust on conversion to an academy, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the Balance Sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the Academy Trust. An amount of income equal to the net assets received is recognised as a transfer on conversion within 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants'.

1.6 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.

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies**(Continued)**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.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £1,000 or more (or £500 for IT equipment) 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. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold property	2-7% straight line
Leasehold property	2-7% straight line
Computer equipment	33.33% straight line
Furniture and fixtures	15% straight line

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

1.8 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.

1.9 Leased assets

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

1.10 Financial instruments

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

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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.

1.11 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.

1.12 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 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.

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.

1.13 Fund accounting

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

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

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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.

1.14 PFI contracts

Some of the buildings used by the Academy Trust were constructed under a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Contract between Northamptonshire Local Authority and Private Contractor. The project was completed prior to the school's conversion to academy status. On conversion, the Academy has entered into a Schools Agreement with the Local Authority which transfers the Local Authority's main obligations under the PFI Contract to the academy. The PFI Contract is due to end in 2030.

PFI contract payments

The Academy is responsible for the revenue costs of maintaining the facilities. The payments made to the Local Authority in respect of the PFI Contract unitary charge relating to these revenue costs are therefore expensed to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Land & Buildings

The land and buildings are leased to the Academy by the Local Authority on a long (125 year) lease. As the Academy has taken on the risks and rewards associated with the land & buildings, including the long-term maintenance of the property once the PFI Contract has ended, the land and buildings are capitalised as fixed assets on the Academy's balance sheet at valuation using the depreciated replacement cost basis. These assets are then depreciated over the lesser of their useful economic life and the lease period.

Other assets

Other assets under the PFI Contract (for example, equipment and fixtures & fittings provided as part of the PFI Contract facilities) transfer to the Local Authority at the end of the Contract and then to the Academy under the Schools Agreement. The basis of the contract agreement is that at the point of transfer, the assets will be "as new".

The trustees have considered the risks and rewards associated with these other assets, and believe that the Academy does not take on any significant risks in respect of these assets during the PFI Contract term. It has therefore adopted a policy not to record these as assets during the PFI Contract term. It has therefore adopted a policy not to record these as assets in its balance sheet until the replacement assets are transferred to it by the Local Authority at the end of the PFI Contract.

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 19, 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.

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Capital grants	-	1,107,426	1,107,426	1,029,864
Other donations	92,945	5,885	98,830	452,331
	<u>92,945</u>	<u>1,113,311</u>	<u>1,206,256</u>	<u>1,482,195</u>

The income from donations and capital grants was £1,206,256 (2022: £1,482,195) of which £92,945 was unrestricted (2022: £95,691), £5,885 was restricted (2022: £356,640) and £1,107,426 was restricted fixed assets (2022: £1,029,864).

4 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	21,320,708	21,320,708	18,293,242
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- UIFSM	-	467,179	467,179	446,058
- Pupil premium	-	1,460,519	1,460,519	1,267,422
- Start up grants	-	20,833	20,833	75,000
- Teachers pension grant	-	-	-	17,840
- Others	-	1,430,205	1,430,205	857,989
	<u>-</u>	<u>24,699,444</u>	<u>24,699,444</u>	<u>20,957,551</u>
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	3,382,784	3,382,784	2,650,457
	<u>-</u>	<u>749,872</u>	<u>749,872</u>	<u>366,298</u>
Other incoming resources				
	<u>-</u>	<u>28,832,100</u>	<u>28,832,100</u>	<u>23,974,306</u>
Total funding	<u>-</u>	<u>28,832,100</u>	<u>28,832,100</u>	<u>23,974,306</u>

The income from funding for educational operations was £28,832,100 (2022: £23,974,306) of which £28,832,100 was restricted (2022: £23,974,306).

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Lettings income	65,305	-	65,305	129,346
Other income	136,594	-	136,594	133,414
	<u>201,899</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>201,899</u>	<u>262,760</u>

The income from other trading activities was £201,899 (2022: £262,760) of which £201,899 was unrestricted (2022: £262,760).

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Short term deposits	5,679	-	5,679	628

The income from funding for investment income was £5,679 (2022: £628) of which £5,679 was unrestricted (2022: £628).

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure		Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
		Premises £	Other £		
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	840,800	-	-	840,800	625,340
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	16,631,083	-	1,302,701	17,933,784	16,823,842
- Allocated support costs	4,679,404	4,962,895	3,191,660	12,833,959	10,266,529
	<u>22,151,287</u>	<u>4,962,895</u>	<u>4,494,361</u>	<u>31,608,543</u>	<u>27,715,711</u>

The expenditure on raising funds was £840,800 (2022: £625,340) of which £231,871 was unrestricted (2022: £115,281) and £608,929 was restricted (2022: £510,059).

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Operating lease rentals	1,482,635	931,255
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	2,050,659	1,535,756
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	32,500	32,000
- Other services	5,000	16,000
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	160,000	314,000

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

8 Charitable activities	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Direct costs				
Educational operations	11,671	17,922,113	17,933,784	16,823,842
Support costs				
Educational operations	-	12,833,959	12,833,959	10,266,529
	<u>11,671</u>	<u>30,756,072</u>	<u>30,767,743</u>	<u>27,090,371</u>

The expenditure on charitable activities was £30,767,743 (2022: £27,090,371) of which £11,671 was unrestricted (2022: £84,391), £28,705,413 was restricted (2022: £25,470,224) and £2,050,659 was restricted fixed assets (2022: £1,535,756).

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

8 Charitable activities	(Continued)	
	2023	2022
	£	£
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	4,742,515	4,923,619
Depreciation	2,050,659	1,535,756
Technology costs	347,628	256,178
Premises costs	2,912,236	897,472
Legal costs	20,637	22,378
Other support costs	2,727,784	2,598,856
Governance costs	32,500	32,270
	<u>12,833,959</u>	<u>10,266,529</u>

9 Central services

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

- Educational support services
- Legal services
- Other services as arising
- Business, governance and finance services

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

5% of GAG is recharged.

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Abington Vale Primary School	88,736	92,612
Blackthorn Primary School	50,556	60,415
East Hunsbury Primary School	78,692	101,462
Ecton Brook Primary School	197,504	143,635
Headlands Primary School	97,260	105,762
Langland Community School	49,588	36,413
Lings Primary School	91,320	93,741
Park Junior School	61,664	-
Rectory Farm Primary School	51,098	52,102
Simon de Senlis Primary School	96,959	96,026
Stanton Cross Primary School	14,016	-
Thorplands Primary School	53,413	49,576
Upton Meadows Primary School	83,856	82,918
	<u>1,014,662</u>	<u>914,662</u>

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

10 Staff**Staff costs**

Staff costs during the year were:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	16,580,175	13,930,931
Social security costs	1,386,702	1,175,585
Pension costs	3,841,267	4,938,509
	<u>21,808,144</u>	<u>20,045,025</u>
Staff costs - employees	21,808,144	20,045,025
Agency staff costs	307,822	218,138
Staff restructuring costs	35,321	7,052
	<u>22,151,287</u>	<u>20,270,215</u>
Staff development and other staff costs	267,311	314,000
	<u>22,418,598</u>	<u>20,584,215</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy payments	-	4,500
Severance payments	35,321	2,552
	<u>35,321</u>	<u>7,052</u>

Severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual special severance payments totalling £5,321 (2022: £7,052). Individually, the payments were £4,000 and £1,321 (2022: £4,500 and £2,552.)

£0 - £25,000	1
£25,001 - £50,000	1

Staff numbers

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

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Teachers	218	209
Administration and support	466	425
Management	40	22
	<u>724</u>	<u>656</u>

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

10 Staff**(Continued)****Higher paid staff**

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

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
£60,001 - £70,000	2	5
£70,001 - £80,000	6	5
£80,001 - £90,000	7	2
£90,001 - £100,000	1	1
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

All of the above employees participated in the Teachers' Pensions Scheme. During the period ended 31 August 2023, pension contributions for these staff amounted to £275,673 (2022: £231,112).

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 £1,752,479 (2022: £1,531,739).

11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One of the trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Academy Trust. The Headteacher and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Headteacher 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:

Ms J Kedwards (Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer)
 Remuneration £85,000 - £90,000 (2022: £90,000 - £95,000)
 Employer's pension contributions paid £20,000 - £25,000 (2022: £20,000 - £25,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2023, expenses totalling £nil were reimbursed or paid directly to trustees (2022: £nil) in relation to travel expenses.

12 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 £10,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2023 was included in the total insurance cost.

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Leasehold property £	Computer equipment £	Furniture and fixtures £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2022	5,422,475	60,685,434	1,778,794	3,220,236	71,106,939
Transfer on conversion	-	4,555,000	-	-	4,555,000
Additions	-	38,444	117,478	856,313	1,012,235
At 31 August 2023	5,422,475	65,278,878	1,896,272	4,076,549	76,674,174
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	908,230	5,927,584	1,531,558	1,898,457	10,265,829
Charge for the year	-	1,389,588	147,275	513,796	2,050,659
At 31 August 2023	908,230	7,317,172	1,678,833	2,412,253	12,316,488
Net book value					
At 31 August 2023	4,514,245	57,961,706	217,439	1,664,296	64,357,686
At 31 August 2022	4,514,245	54,757,850	247,236	1,321,779	60,841,110

The building of Stanton Cross Primary School was completed prior to 31 August 2022 and the school opened to new pupils on 1 September 2022. The buildings were constructed and paid for by North Northamptonshire Council. A valuation of the current buildings of Stanton Cross Primary School was undertaken by FHP as at 31 August 2022 at a valuation of £10,745,000.

14 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	90,231	15,961
VAT recoverable	329,925	311,952
Prepayments and accrued income	509,917	628,278
	930,073	956,191

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	430,812	505,540
Other taxation and social security	322,515	330,342
Other creditors	392,459	274,092
Accruals and deferred income	1,106,913	983,266
	2,252,699	2,093,240

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

16 Deferred income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	463,277	291,855
	<u>463,277</u>	<u>291,855</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	291,855	325,181
Released from previous years	(291,855)	(325,181)
Resources deferred in the year	463,277	291,855
	<u>463,277</u>	<u>291,855</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	<u>463,277</u>	<u>291,855</u>

At the balance sheet date the Academy Trust was holding funds received in advance relating to Universal Infant Free School Meal grants £300,310 (2022: £267,919), trip income £56,799 (2022: £21,518), Northamptonshire County Council £nil (2022: £2,418) and SEN income £106,168 (2022: £nil) which relate to the 2023/24 academic year.

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022	Income	Expenditure	Gains, losses and transfers	Balance at 31 August 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	922,888	21,320,708	(20,756,107)	-	1,487,489
Start up grants	22,823	20,833	(42,207)	-	1,449
UIFSM	437,000	467,179	(898,390)	-	5,789
Pupil premium	141,029	1,460,519	(1,406,034)	-	195,514
Other DfE/ESFA grants	161,839	1,430,205	(1,332,768)	-	259,276
Local authority	342,557	3,382,784	(3,491,131)	-	234,210
Other restricted funds	527,415	755,757	(917,705)	-	365,467
Pension reserve	(3,397,000)	-	(470,000)	2,883,000	(984,000)
	<u>(841,449)</u>	<u>28,837,985</u>	<u>(29,314,342)</u>	<u>2,883,000</u>	<u>1,565,194</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	59,245,497	4,636,726	(1,691,543)	-	62,190,680
DfE group capital grants	1,340,079	1,107,426	(359,116)	-	2,088,389
Capital expenditure from GAG	1,429,609	-	-	-	1,429,609
	<u>62,015,185</u>	<u>5,744,152</u>	<u>(2,050,659)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>65,708,678</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>61,173,736</u>	<u>34,582,137</u>	<u>(31,365,001)</u>	<u>2,883,000</u>	<u>67,273,872</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	744,835	521,274	(243,542)	-	1,022,567
	<u>744,835</u>	<u>521,274</u>	<u>(243,542)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,022,567</u>
Total funds	<u>61,918,571</u>	<u>35,103,411</u>	<u>(31,608,543)</u>	<u>2,883,000</u>	<u>68,296,439</u>

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

17 Funds**(Continued)**

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

Restricted general funds will be used for educational purposes in line with the Academy Trust's objects and its funding agreement with the ESFA.

Restricted fixed assets funds amounting to £65,708,678 (2022: £62,015,185) will be reserved against future depreciation charges. The balance includes £1,350,992 (2022: £1,174,074) of unspent capital grants.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2023 or 31 August 2022.

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	739,212	18,293,242	(17,910,493)	(199,072)	922,889
Start up grants	-	75,000	(2,177)	(50,000)	22,823
Pupil premium	157,291	1,267,422	(1,259,671)	(24,013)	141,029
COVID-19 catch up premium	86,930	-	(86,930)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	684,061	1,246,706	(1,245,213)	(86,715)	598,839
Local authority	48,216	2,740,837	(2,376,294)	(70,202)	342,557
Miscellaneous	542,077	473,903	(515,794)	(14,945)	485,241
Parental contributions	671	324,214	(282,711)	-	42,174
Pension reserve	(15,486,000)	(536,000)	(2,301,000)	14,926,000	(3,397,000)
	<u>(13,227,542)</u>	<u>23,885,324</u>	<u>(25,980,283)</u>	<u>14,481,053</u>	<u>(841,448)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	43,776,942	16,242,000	(1,535,756)	762,311	59,245,497
Capital expenditure from other funds	1,595,614	-	-	-	1,595,614
Unspent capital grants	442,945	1,029,864	-	(298,735)	1,174,074
	<u>45,815,501</u>	<u>17,271,864</u>	<u>(1,535,756)</u>	<u>463,576</u>	<u>62,015,185</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>32,587,959</u>	<u>41,157,188</u>	<u>(27,516,039)</u>	<u>14,944,629</u>	<u>61,173,737</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	604,057	359,079	(199,672)	(18,629)	744,835
Total funds	<u>33,192,016</u>	<u>41,516,267</u>	<u>(27,715,711)</u>	<u>14,926,000</u>	<u>61,918,572</u>

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

17 Funds**(Continued)****Total funds analysis by academy**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:		
Abington Vale Primary School	560,962	571,382
Blackthorn Primary School	278,576	209,807
East Hunsbury Primary School	369,800	270,421
Ecton Brook Primary School	170,717	298,233
Headlands Primary School	315,639	275,240
Langland Community School	219,038	202,773
Lings Primary School	378,708	352,238
Park Junior School	228,508	-
Rectory Farm Primary School	135,308	89,290
Simon de Senlis Primary School	122,095	205,592
Stanton Cross Primary School	7,272	85,710
Thorplands Primary School	79,633	76,030
Upton Meadows Primary School	17,334	35,829
Central services	688,171	627,841
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	3,571,761	3,300,386
Restricted fixed asset fund	65,708,678	62,015,185
Pension reserve	(984,000)	(3,397,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds	<u>68,296,439</u>	<u>61,918,571</u>

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

17 Funds**(Continued)****Total cost analysis by academy**

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

	Teaching and educational support staff £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Abington Vale Primary School	1,433,197	415,991	79,348	578,636	2,507,172	2,374,144
Blackthorn Primary School	1,048,064	241,645	32,872	500,242	1,822,823	1,818,878
East Hunsbury Primary School	1,918,538	408,174	64,447	516,124	2,907,283	2,776,215
Ecton Brook Primary School	2,243,164	355,911	72,587	1,007,090	3,678,752	3,612,760
Headlands Primary School	2,099,691	531,659	76,445	509,509	3,217,304	3,064,553
Langland Community School	887,736	260,265	48,200	322,858	1,519,059	1,212,999
Lings Primary School	1,473,391	298,717	68,642	625,918	2,466,668	2,365,031
Park Junior School	948,189	301,890	52,361	195,879	1,498,319	-
Rectory Farm Primary School	632,554	189,797	37,905	353,077	1,213,333	1,348,811
Simon de Senlis Primary School	1,659,299	282,662	56,757	685,587	2,684,305	2,476,494
Stanton Cross Primary School	176,575	83,809	27,540	75,218	363,142	112,760
Thorplands Primary School	867,698	232,239	34,742	309,927	1,444,606	1,410,184
Upton Meadows Primary School	1,451,772	417,883	42,439	400,260	2,312,354	2,259,065
Central services	-	965,746	179,190	307,828	1,452,764	1,348,061
	<u>16,839,868</u>	<u>4,986,388</u>	<u>873,475</u>	<u>6,388,153</u>	<u>29,087,884</u>	<u>26,179,955</u>

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	64,357,686	64,357,686
Current assets	1,022,567	4,801,893	1,350,992	7,175,452
Current liabilities	-	(2,252,699)	-	(2,252,699)
Pension scheme liability	-	(984,000)	-	(984,000)
Total net assets	<u>1,022,567</u>	<u>1,565,194</u>	<u>65,708,678</u>	<u>68,296,439</u>

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18 Analysis of net assets between funds**(Continued)**

	Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
	Funds	General	Fixed asset	Funds
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	60,841,110	60,841,110
Current assets	744,835	4,648,791	1,174,075	6,567,701
Current liabilities	-	(2,093,240)	-	(2,093,240)
Pension scheme liability	-	(3,397,000)	-	(3,397,000)
Total net assets	<u>744,835</u>	<u>(841,449)</u>	<u>62,015,185</u>	<u>61,918,571</u>

19 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 Northamptonshire County Council and Buckinghamshire County Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or the end of the financial year.

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.

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 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 charge)
- 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 £2,113,889 (2022: £1,784,286).

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 % for employers and % for employees.

As described in note 26 the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Academy Trust, being the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who joined the scheme in the period. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Academy Trust at the balance sheet date.

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

Total contributions made	2023	2022
	£	£
Employer's contributions	1,286,000	955,000
Employees' contributions	361,000	276,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total contributions	<u>1,647,000</u>	<u>1,231,000</u>

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 Pension and similar obligations **(Continued)**

Principal actuarial assumptions	2023	2022
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.45	3.55 - 3.90
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.2	4.2 - 4.25
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	50.00	50.00

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

	2023	2022
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
- Males	19.1 - 20.7	21.0 - 21.7
- Females	23.0 - 24.3	24.1 - 24.6
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	21.2 - 22.0	22.3 - 22.8
- Females	25.2 - 25.7	25.8 - 26.0

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

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Discount rate - 0.1%	(434,000)	(445,000)
Mortality assumption + 1 year	713,000	691,000
CPI rate + 0.1%	417,000	424,000

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

	2023	2022
	Fair value	Fair value
	£	£
Equities	10,934,280	9,927,000
Corporate bonds	3,991,880	2,302,000
Property	2,256,280	2,014,000
Cash and other liquid assets	173,560	144,000
Total market value of assets	17,356,000	14,387,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £1,527,000 (2022: £(912,000)).

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19	Pension and similar obligations	(Continued)	
	Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2023	2022
		£	£
	Current service cost	1,596,000	2,942,000
	Interest income	(667,000)	(205,000)
	Interest cost	827,000	519,000
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total operating charge	1,756,000	3,256,000
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2023	
		£	
	At 1 September 2022	17,784,000	
	Current service cost	1,596,000	
	Interest cost	827,000	
	Employee contributions	361,000	
	Actuarial gain	(2,023,000)	
	Benefits paid	(205,000)	
		<hr/>	
	At 31 August 2023	18,340,000	
		<hr/> <hr/>	
	Changes in the fair value of the Academy Trust's share of scheme assets	2023	
		£	
	At 1 September 2022	14,387,000	
	Interest income	667,000	
	Actuarial (gain)/loss	860,000	
	Employer contributions	1,286,000	
	Employee contributions	361,000	
	Benefits paid	(205,000)	
		<hr/>	
	At 31 August 2023	17,356,000	
		<hr/> <hr/>	

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20 Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	Notes	2023	2022
		£	£
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		3,494,868	13,800,555
Adjusted for:			
Net surplus on conversion to academy	26	(4,857,477)	(15,706,000)
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(1,107,426)	(1,029,864)
Investment income receivable	6	(5,679)	(628)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	19	310,000	1,987,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	19	160,000	314,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		2,050,659	1,535,756
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		26,118	(144,468)
Increase in creditors		159,459	626,702
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>230,522</u>	<u>1,383,053</u>

21 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2022	Cash flows	31 August 2023
	£	£	£
Cash	5,611,510	633,869	6,245,379
	<u>5,611,510</u>	<u>633,869</u>	<u>6,245,379</u>

22 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	2022
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	68,636	69,787
Amounts due in two and five years	96,161	76,316
	<u>164,797</u>	<u>146,103</u>

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

22 Long-term commitments**(Continued)****Other contractual commitments**

At 31 August 2023 the total of the Academy Trust's future minimum lease payments under other contractual commitments was:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	1,342,741	861,467
Amounts due in two and five years	5,507,031	3,445,869
Amounts due after five years	12,152,112	8,522,205
	<u>19,001,884</u>	<u>12,829,541</u>

The Academy Trust occupies premises which are subject to a private finance initiative (PFI) contract. The Trust itself is not party to this service concession contract, however the Academy Trust has entered into a supporting agreement towards the costs of the Local Authority. The above relates to commitments to operating payments including costs for catering, cleaning, utilities and other ancillary services.

23 Capital commitments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the financial statements	<u>20,752</u>	<u>199,230</u>

24 Related party transactions

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

Expenditure related party transactions

The Academy Trust has been in partnership with Weston Favell Church of England Primary School since 2012. During the period the Academy Trust invoiced Weston Favell Church of England Primary School £101,766 (2022: £102,196) and was invoiced £15,384 (2022: £17,946) by Weston Favell Church of England Primary School. At 31 August 2023 the Academy Trust owed Weston Favell Church of England Primary School £nil (2022: £nil).

No other related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 11.

25 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.

NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

26 Conversion to an academy

On 1 September 2022, Park Junior School, Wellingborough converted to academy trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Northampton Primary Academy Trust from the North Northamptonshire Council Local Authority for £nil consideration.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair values and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain in the statement of financial activities as donations – transfer from local authority on conversion.

The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the statement of financial activities.

Academy	Location	Date of conversion		
Park Junior School	Northamptonshire	1 September 2022		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds:		Total
	£	General	Fixed asset	2023
Net assets transferred:		£	£	£
Leasehold land and buildings	-	-	4,555,000	4,555,000
Cash	220,751	-	81,726	302,477
	<u>220,751</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,636,726</u>	<u>4,857,477</u>
	<u><u>220,751</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>4,636,726</u></u>	<u><u>4,857,477</u></u>
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds:		Total
	£	General	Fixed asset	2023
Funds surplus/(deficit) transferred:		£	£	£
Fixed assets funds	-	-	4,636,726	4,636,726
LA budget funds	220,751	-	-	220,751
	<u>220,751</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,636,726</u>	<u>4,857,477</u>
	<u><u>220,751</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>4,636,726</u></u>	<u><u>4,857,477</u></u>

On conversion to academy status, the Park Junior School site was transferred on a 125 year lease for a peppercorn rent. The land and buildings were valued by FHP Property Consultants on 4 October 2022. The resulting report attributed a value of £4,555,000 to the site at the time of conversion, on a depreciated replacement cost basis.

On conversion Park Junior School also became an employer in the Northamptonshire Pension Fund. A report has been provided by the actuary Hymans Robertson setting out the opening funding position for Park Junior School as at 1 September 2022. On 1 September 2022 the scheme's assets were value at £833,000 and the scheme's liabilities were valued at £833,000 meaning no deficit or surplus was taken on by the trust at the time of conversion.