

**ARDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

**31 AUGUST 2023**

***Company Limited by Guarantee***  
***Registration Number: 07375267***  
***(England & Wales)***

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE ACADEMY, TRUSTEES AND ADVISORS****Members**

Dr C O'Donovan (Chair)  
 S Ashton  
 G Harley – Mason  
 A Stonehewer  
 V Thomas

**Arden Multi Academy Trust - Directors/Trustees**

Dr C O'Donovan (Chair)  
 M Allsopp  
 G Chaplin (resigned 31 August 2023)  
 A Cole  
 A Devitt  
 D Foxon  
 A Gardner  
 G Harley – Mason  
 W Jarema  
 M Murphy (Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer)

**Chief Executive Officer**

M Murphy

**Executive Headteacher**

D Burgess

**Deputy Executive Headteacher**

N Halligan (Appointed 01 January 2023)

**Company Secretary**

C Austin – Chief Finance Officer

**ARDEN ACADEMY****Local Governing Board**

M Carter (Chair)  
 M Allport (Teaching Staff Governor - appointed 31 October 2022)  
 C Barker (Parent Governor)  
 S Bloomer  
 N Brown  
 K Edwards (Parent Governor) (appointed 09 May 2023)  
 J Miners (Associate Staff Governor) (appointed 01 September 2023)  
 P Nicolaides  
 Dr C O'Donovan  
 B Shaikh (Parent Governor) (appointed 01 September 2022)  
 A Stonehewer  
 S Van Genderen (resigned 08 March 2023)  
 J Whitehall  
 C Yip (appointed 01 September 2023)  
 D Warwood (Associate Headteacher)

**Senior Management Team****Associate Headteacher**

D Warwood

**Deputy Headteacher**

M Hooper (resigned 31 August 2023)  
 N Burke (appointed 01 September 2023)

**Deputy Headteacher**

L Page

**Assistant Headteacher**

E Collett

**Assistant Headteacher**

J Gunn

**Assistant Headteacher**

P Simpson

**Assistant Headteacher**

D White

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE ACADEMY, TRUSTEES AND ADVISORS (cont'd)

**PARK HALL ACADEMY**

## Local Governing Board

J Hiorns (Interim Chair)  
 A Ahmed  
 W Bohanna (resigned 29 March 2023)  
 N Chowdhury (Chair - resigned 31 May 2023)  
 J Davies (Teaching Staff Governor)  
 C Dodd (Parent Governor) (appointed 05 September 2022)  
 M Durber-Reeves (resigned 20 July 2022)  
 W Jarema  
 Dr C O'Donovan  
 D Williams (Associate Staff Governor)  
 T Close (Associate Headteacher)

**Senior Management Team**

Associate Headteacher

T Close

Deputy Headteacher

S Gregory

Deputy Headteacher

N Halligan (promoted to AMAT Deputy Executive Headteacher 01 January 2023)

Deputy Headteacher

B Knight

Deputy Headteacher

J Rowland (promoted 05 June 2023 from Senior Assistant Headteacher)

Senior Assistant Headteacher

N Chowdhury (appointed 05 June 2023)

Senior Assistant Headteacher

I Cornell

Assistant Headteacher

R Churchill

Assistant Headteacher

J Jones (promoted from Associate Assistant Headteacher 01 January 2023)

**LODE HEATH SCHOOL**

## Local Governing Board

G Bate (Parent Governor) (Chair) – appointed Chair 08 September 2022)  
 M Allsopp  
 S Aziz (Parent Governor) (resigned 20 March 2023)  
 C Dunbar (Teaching Staff Governor) (appointed 01 February 2023)  
 C Hackney (Teaching Staff Governor)  
 J King  
 I Mackay  
 P Ryan  
 K Saleem (Parent Governor)  
 G Short (appointed 16 March 2023)  
 M Sullivan  
 M Turpin  
 L Suddon (Associate Headteacher)

**Senior Management Team**

Associate Headteacher

L Suddon

Deputy Headteacher

N Burke (resigned 31 August 2023) - Vacancy

Deputy Headteacher

S Rodriguez-Summers

Assistant Headteacher

M Bennett

Assistant Headteacher

G Davies

Assistant Headteacher

A Mohammed

Director

K Farrah

Director

R Thompson

Director

J Hatton

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE ACADEMY, TRUSTEES AND ADVISORS (cont'd)**

<b>HENLEY IN ARDEN SCHOOL</b>	S Westmacott (Chair)
Local Governing Board	S Blyth (Staff Governor) (appointed 07 February 2023)
	R Dudley (Staff Governor)
	R Forsythe (Staff Governor) (appointed 05 September 2022 – resigned 14 November 2022)
	K Howe
	L Lunt
	S Moyle
	S McDonald
	F Walker (Parent Governor)
	K Williams
	P Wright (resigned 16 July 2023)
	J Roper (Associate Headteacher)
<b>Senior Management Team</b>	
Associate Headteacher	J Roper
Deputy Headteacher	N Thompson (resigned 31 December 2022)
Deputy Headteacher	D Price (promoted 01 January 2023 from Assistant Headteacher)
Assistant Headteacher	M Pearson
Assistant Headteacher	B Taylor (appointed 01 January 2023)
Associate Assistant Headteacher / SENCO	C Grantham (appointed 01 September 2022)
Principal & Registered Office	Station Road Knowle Solihull
Company Registration Number	07375267
Independent Auditor	UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP 9-11 Vittoria Street Birmingham B1 3ND

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

The trustees present their report together with the financial statements and auditors report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2023.

The Arden Multi Academy Trust was formed on the 1 April 2015. The trust operates 4 secondary schools, Arden Academy (11-18), Park Hall Academy (11-18), Lode Heath School (11-16) and Henley in Arden School (11-16), serving a catchment areas in Knowle and Dorridge, Solihull, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham and Henley in Arden in Warwickshire. Park Hall Academy joined the multi academy trust on 1 April 2015, Lode Heath School on 1 January 2018 and Henley in Arden on 1 April 2019.

The multi academy trust had a roll of 4,492 11-16 students in October 2022 (2021: 4,457). Arden Academy 1,512 (2021: 1,510), Park Hall Academy 1,124 (2021: 1,114), Lode Heath School 1,164 (2021: 1,156), Henley in Arden 692 (2021: 677). There were 463 (2021: 499) sixth form students comprising; Arden Academy 297 (2021: 305) and Park Hall 166 (2021: 194).

The total pupil numbers are: 4,955 (2021: 4,956).

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT****Constitution**

Arden Multi Academy Trust (AMAT) is a company limited by guarantee with no share capital (registration no: 7849858) and is an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the multi academy trust.

The trustees for Arden Multi Academy Trust Limited are also the directors/trustees of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Arden Multi Academy Trust. Details of the trustees who served during the year (except as noted) are included in the Reference and Administrative details on pages 3 to 5.

**Members' Liability**

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

**Trustees' Indemnities**

AMAT has in place directors and trustees liability insurance indemnity cover to a limit of £10,000,000.

**Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Directors and Trustees**

There are clearly defined and approved procedures for the selection and appointment of directors and trustees which are outlined in the company's standing orders. Consideration is given to the skills of directors and trustees which would enhance the effectiveness of the trust.

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

During the year under review the trustees held 4 board meetings and 8 sub-committee meetings. The training and induction provided for new trustees will depend on their existing experience. Where necessary induction will provide training on charity and educational, legal and financial matters. All new trustees meet with the Chair of Trustees and the CEO and will be given a tour of the academies and the chance to meet with staff and students. 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 (a similar policy applies for new members of each of the academies local governing boards).

**Organisational Structure**

During the year the Trust continued to review and evaluate the new developing centralised executive team along with the new senior leadership structures in all four of the academies – Arden, Lode Heath, Henley in Arden and Park Hall to ensure robust and effective management across the Trust. This was supported by the external independent inspector (SIP). The organisational structure of the Trust consists of four levels: 1) the trustees and executive team 2) the Senior Management Teams in all 4 academies 3) the Heads of Subject & Heads of Year teams 4) the Local Governing Bodies.

The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility, increase accountability, raise standards and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)****Organisational Structure (cont'd)**

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the academies by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the academies, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments. There is a Trust schedule of delegations which is operated by the individual LGB's and senior leadership teams.

The Senior Leaders are currently the central Trust Executive Team who challenge and support the Associate Headteacher's at Arden, Park Hall, Lode Heath and Henley in Arden. They are supported by the leadership teams of each respective Academy as detailed on pages 3, 4 and 5. These leaders control the academies at a senior level implementing the policies laid down by the trustees and reporting back to them. As a group the Senior Leaders are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff (always with the approval of the central executive leaders). Some spending control is devolved to members of the management team, with limits above which a Senior Leader must countersign.

The Senior Leadership Teams and Heads of Year/Head of Subjects are responsible for the day to day operation of the academy, in particular organising the staff, facilities and students.

**Trade union facility time**

Relevant union officials	<b>Numbers</b>	<b>FTE's</b>
Employees who were union officials during the relevant period	9	8.17

**Percentage of time spent on facility time**

	<b>Employee Numbers</b>
Percentage of time	
0%	6
1% - 50%	3
51% - 99%	-
100%	-

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

Total cost of facility time	£9,814
Total pay bill	£26,002,130

**Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as:**

(total cost of facility time ÷ total pay bill) x 100	0.04%
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**Paid trade union activities**

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours calculated as:

(total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period ÷ total paid facility time hours) x 100	0.04%
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**Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel**

Pay and remuneration are overseen by the Trust's Business and Personnel Committee which meets at least termly and is comprised of trustees, local governing body members and senior management. The B&P Committee delegate to their sub-committee Performance and Pay the appraisal and pay of all staff. This committee meets at least twice in October. All staff are subject to a robust performance management policy and procedures which govern pay and awards and the Executive Headteacher leads this area of Quality Assurance.

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

Arden Multi Academy Trust has engaged with all employees by:

- providing employees with information on matters of concern to them
- consulting employees or their representatives regularly so that the views of employees can be taken into account in making decisions which are likely to affect their interests
- encouraging the involvement of employees in the school's performance
- achieving a common awareness on the part of all employees of the factors affecting the performance of the schools
- ensuring all employees and potential employees are treated equally through the safer recruitment and selection policy and promoting opportunities and equality for all. Working practices are assessed in relation to disabled employees and amendments are implemented in conjunction with the agreement of the employee and occupational health.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)****Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the trust**

Arden Multi Academy Trust has fostered relationships with suppliers, customers, beneficiaries, funders and the wider community by meeting Community Groups on a regular basis and ensuring that suppliers are treated fairly and paid within invoice terms whenever possible.

**Connected Organisations**

The Chief Executive Officer of the AMAT and the Consultant Headteacher (Henley in Arden School) are Trustees of the Solihull Academy - Alternative Provision Unit (Free School) which opened in April 2018.

**Arden Multi Academy Trust – Objectives and activities**

It started with our belief in high quality and dynamic education for everyone, right in the heart of our community. That desire has grown into Arden Multi Academy Trust (AMAT).

Arden Multi Academy Trust started life when Arden, an outstandingly successful and innovative school who was asked to support Park Hall Academy in the north of Solihull in 2009. This was a 'light touch' relationship and, following the academy moving into special measures in November 2013, Arden took over the governance, leadership and management of Park Hall. This new relationship saw the creation of Arden Multi Academy Trust (AMAT). Joint working in a spirit of enthusiastic partnership has seen Park Hall develop into an Academy which is now the first choice North Solihull oversubscribed secondary school. Park Hall moved out of 'Special Measures' in September 2015 and was classified in November 2017 and again in 2023 as "good" by Ofsted. Lode Heath School opted to join AMAT in January 2018. We were delighted that the school retained its Ofsted "good" judgement in June 2018 and the impact the Trust has had on the school was recognised by the HMI in the Ofsted report. This judgement was endorsed by the Ofsted inspection in March 2019. The Trust was further enhanced when the "good" Ofsted rated Henley in Arden School joined in April 2019 and in 2023 retained this judgement. Discussions took place throughout the year and following intensive due diligence the Trust now looks forward to welcome Dorridge Primary School and Coppice Junior School (to be called Coppice Academy) on 1 September 2023 to The Arden MAT. This will see the beginning and development of our new exciting Primary Department.

The Trust is one of the strongest and most successful in the West Midlands with all our schools being judged as "good" by Ofsted.

Arden Academy leads the increasingly popular Arden Teaching Alliance which currently consists of five Primary and five Secondary partner schools. This ensures that we help recruit, retain and develop our workforce across both teaching and support staff.

As a Trust we truly value the success of every child and we place the sharing of excellent education practice at the core of this value. We are committed to improving the quality of education and life in Solihull and its immediate surroundings. The Trust operates from its hub in Knowle, South Solihull.

As a Trust we are committed to maintaining our core principles and focus as we grow; working with schools where we believe we can help and who, in turn, can enrich and provide real benefit for the existing Arden Multi Academy Trust family.

Our Trust brings schools together into one organisation so that school leaders; teachers, learners and our community can work and thrive together, gaining from and supporting each other.

Our approach is built around a clear vision of inclusive education and a relentless drive to raise standards - we keep our focus on our learners, ensuring they are supported by great teachers, outstanding leaders and excellent facilities.

We believe in strong ethical leadership, local management and governance. Our Trust is led by our Members and our Board of Trustees; each academy has a Local Governing Body to oversee progress in that school. The Trust Executive function is designed to be lean and focused, providing unwavering attention on getting the best outcomes for our learners, staff and the wider community.

We focus on research and evidence-led school improvement strategies; we develop our leaders and staff and ensure we have excellent and leading practice in our teaching, support and management practices.

Our support and management functions are wholly focused on supporting our schools, with exemplary financial management, excellent human resource support and a continuous drive for value for money, efficiency and effectiveness.



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

Our vision is to lead our schools to become beacons of excellence at the heart of their local community by delivering an exceptional education for local children through consistently inspirational and challenging teaching, exemplary standards, ethical governance and leadership, high quality pastoral care and aspirational goals.

Arden MAT is a supportive Community where young people thrive.

**Our mission:**

We have a single clear mission: *'to provide opportunities that enable every Child to have aspirations, vision, honesty, integrity and great pride in their achievement .*

We achieve this by:

- Ensuring excellent teaching, positive relationships and enjoyment every day
- Enabling all students can be successful learners who feel safe and happy
- Supporting the emotional health and well-being of all members of the Trust - including staff, students and parents
- Encouraging all students to have the highest expectations for their education and their future careers
- Providing an environment where everybody behaves with integrity
- Encouraging self-confidence, responsibility and positive self-image
- Supporting students to be ready to leave our schools with the skills, attributes and character to be independent lifelong learners who will embrace change and enhance society
- Providing opportunities and a learning environment which encourages students and staff to be fit and healthy
- Challenging any type of prejudice based discrimination

To achieve this mission, we are building our Trust with an outstanding local, regional and national reputation.

**Why our Trust exists**

Our Trust exists because we have a commitment and passion for providing great schools for our communities. We consider that a locally led and accountable Trust provides the best outcomes for learners and our communities, supporting schools with challenges and ensuring the best schools become even better.

Our aspirations are solely to support and improve our schools. We will consider associate arrangements for schools that meet our aims and would benefit from such an arrangement and support for other forms of provision where there are clear benefits for all parties.

Across all our schools and community, we provide strategic direction; support; specialist expertise; shared development and services focused on local needs. This is increasingly important at a time when the traditional Local Authority role is diminishing, resources and funding are severely constrained and support services are hard to access.

We are convinced of the importance of and value of local schools working closely together and have designed our Trust to do just that.

We have a sound model in place and our schools are already benefiting from opportunities to work and learn together with the expertise that brings into the Trust.

Our Trust also sponsors schools and has already demonstrated how effective leadership from the Trust has helped improve schools through direct challenge and support and by working closely with fellow schools.

We are proud of our early successes and the high level of interest from schools wishing to join us. As well as our support and services, we also look to bring in new developments and opportunities to advance our school improvement plans.

**The scope of our Trust**

Our involvement currently extends across the secondary age range where we deliver, influence and support provision at all stages.

We currently directly lead and support four secondary schools and in September 2023 we will welcome Dorridge primary and Coppice Academy to the Trust. We hope to see a couple more Secondary Schools and Primary Schools joining the Trust over the next two years.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)****The scope of our Trust (cont'd)**

We aim to support schools that are high performing as well as those moving from (Ofsted) categories. Schools facing challenges and those looking for new arrangements to improve are welcome to see what we offer and if we can help.

We work closely with a wide range of stakeholders at strategic and operational levels; this includes collaborative and formal partnership arrangements with key partners (e.g. the Local Authority and other local post 16 provision).

**Our Aims**

Our objective is for all young people to achieve the high aspirations that we have for them. Within the Trust we provide educational practice delivering distinct and unrivalled schooling to our communities which are benefiting from our unique and tailored approach. Education is at the heart of all we do - our aim is simple: "Excellence in Education". We aim to develop brave, independent, emotionally intelligent people who will embrace and enhance tomorrow's society.

**The Trust will**

- prepare each pupil to get the very best out of their lives
- provide a suitable environment and create an atmosphere for achievement
- enable pupils to find enjoyment in learning through doing
- engender community spirit and our place in the global world
- ensure each individual acts responsibly and is valued equally

**The Trust believes all**

- pupils have the right to learn and achieve uninterrupted by others
- pupils have the right to be able to take risks with their learning in happy and secure academies
- members of our community will co-operate with others and will be polite, considerate and honest
- members of our community will accept that rights come with personal responsibilities
- members of our community will expect high standards of behaviour and promote an understanding of the difference between right and wrong
- pupils have the right to have their progress monitored and be provided with regular constructive feedback and the setting of challenging but realistic future targets

**Our Structure**

We have in place a clear and accountable model for governance at all levels that meet all legal and best practice expectations and demonstrates robust and transparent arrangements for leading our Trust and schools. Our model:

- Ensures we have strong capability and capacity within our Governance structures and staff appointed to the Trust
- Retains a clear model of accountability and delegated governance, holding the CEO, the Executive Headteacher and key operational officers to account so the Trust runs efficiently and effectively
- Maintains knowledge and expertise on system improvement and outcomes for learners of all ages and settings, applying sound Quality Assurance practices
- Demonstrates a clear understanding of Trust Budgets and meeting responsibilities for budget controls and accounting procedures across the Trust with sound risk assessment procedures in place
- Has a commitment to continuous and appropriate self-review and training of our Members and Trustees to ensure they fulfil their key functions
- Ensures LGBs and schools within the Trust are fit for purpose with essential skill sets of Governors, meet clear schemes of delegation and can focus on the core business of education
- Leads and develops the Trust so it grows and becomes sustainable, has due diligence processes that are effective and new schools joining the Trust are well supported and challenged
- Protects the integrity and future of the trust including regular self-review, succession and business planning

**Leadership of the Arden Multi Academy Trust and Trust Board**

We believe in excellent leadership. Martin Murphy was appointed as CEO in September 2018 and was Executive Principal of the Trust from September 2013.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)****Leadership of the Arden Multi Academy Trust and Trust Board (cont'd)**

Martin was previously the Principal of Arden Secondary School and was a key driver in establishing the local Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). Damian Burgess was appointed Executive Headteacher in September 2018 and was previously Headteacher at Park Hall Academy.

The Trust has 5 members and 10 (one vacancy) Trustees with a wealth of experience in the school system and School Improvement, Legal, HR, Finance, Accounting and Governance as well as Trustees from the world of Business and Industry.

**Key Priorities and Principles of the Trust**

The Trust has seven key areas of focus which drive the annual Trust Strategic and Operational Plan, inform individual School Development Plans (SDP's) in each academy and support external funding bids. This ensures consistent reporting and monitoring across the Trust.

Our key areas and expectations for success are detailed in the Operational Plan, but are summarised below:

- i. **Leadership and Management** – we drive continuous improvement of leadership, at all levels, within our academies, with the expectation of strongly “Good” with growing evidence of a high percentage of “Outstanding” leadership. CPD, retention, recruitment and succession planning programmes.
- ii. **Outcomes for pupils - Standards of Achievement and Progress** – we support and challenge our schools to focus on raising achievement for all our learners so that all key measures are rapidly improving to at least nationally expected standards with many schools achieving outstanding results, which are well above national standards. We also work to ensure the highest possible standards of education at Post-16 which is enhanced with enrichment activities and outstanding preparation for the next level of education or for the world of work.
- iii. **Teaching, Learning and Assessment** – we pay unrelenting attention to classroom practice and pedagogy to ensure teaching is strongly “Good” with many areas of “Outstanding practice” so that our learners can achieve and make excellent progress in our schools. The Quality of Teaching and Learning across the trust must ensure our children overcome any barriers and access a rich well-balanced curriculum – our aim is to raise a love of learning through excellent teaching.
- iv. **Personal Development, Pastoral Care, Behaviour and Safeguarding** – we provide high standards of pastoral care and support of children and young people in all our schools so attendance and behaviour for learning is consistently “Good” or better with outstanding safeguarding practices. We must ensure our students will be safe, develop character and positive relationships enabling each individual to develop into strong independent adults. We demand the highest standards of behaviour across our trust.
- v. **Community and Parental Engagement** – we develop our schools so that they are very popular, often oversubscribed and the first choice for parents in our community. Parents and the community have a clear understanding of and high satisfaction levels of the Trust and the significant role it has in improving the quality of education across our area.
- vi. **Effective management and trust services** – we commit to ensuring the Trust is well led and managed, rigorously held to account by the Trust Board, with effective services for our schools which provide value for money. Budget targets are met each year and the Trust has the financial capacity to support school improvement using the Trust Development Fund.
- vii. **Governance and Quality Assurance** – we ensure high quality Governance across the Trust which require that leaders are accountable, challenged and supported. The Trust has effective quality assurance processes in place and an annual programme of external reviews that affirm its effectiveness.

These priorities are the core pillars of our development work, evaluation and accountability systems. Our development plans drive these priorities and each school is evaluated and scrutinised by the Trust wide systems of Governance. Accountability and empowerment to drive teaching standards and the highest outcomes are the AMATs drivers. All quality assurance, self-evaluation through Associate Headteacher reports and scrutiny is focused on our central priorities.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)****Key Priorities and Principles of the Trust (cont'd)**

This relentless focus enables the trust executive; trust Governance and LGBs to evaluate systematically the work and outcomes of leaders, all staff and pupils. Our aim is to empower relentless improvement through careful planning, decisive action and an overall drive to provide the best education and opportunity for all pupils in our care across the trust.

**Integrity**

We demand the highest standards from our staff and students. Our ethos is based on relationships. We build relationships on each and every level based on integrity, honesty and these are the backbone of our trust. When any of these fail we are quick to take action and rectify the situation.

**AMAT Strategic Development – how we manage the next steps**

**Growth** - Our vision is to grow the Trust, over the next two years, with a further two secondary schools and up to two local primary schools that already work in close partnership with us. We are very clear that any growth needs to be carefully planned to ensure our systems and processes are well embedded and there is sufficient capacity within the Trust to support all our schools. While we will consider schools from beyond our immediate locality, our priority is to build a strong, local Trust in the first instance. Any consideration of schools joining the Trust will be carefully managed with appropriate, manageable timescales and robust due diligence processes.

**Partnerships** – The Trust already has significant partnerships in place with local and regional MATS; Teaching Schools; RSC; DfE, and the LA. We will continue to develop these and new partnerships to ensure we are an outward facing organisation with an outstanding network locally, regionally and nationally.

**Leadership development and succession** – We are committed to growing the leaders of tomorrow in our schools and providing the mechanism for staff to work creatively and innovatively. Recruitment and retention of staff is critical and we will work hard to ensure our Trust is seen as a high-performing employer known also for identifying and developing potential leaders.

**Alternative provision** – There is a significant need across our trust to research and pilot a better provision for young people. In particular for those who struggle to engage in school because their behaviour means they are at risk of permanent exclusion or those who have significant mental health issues which makes it almost impossible for them to engage in the school system. Both these groups are at risk of leaving school with poor qualifications and as potential NEETS, the Trust will look at planning and securing high quality alternatives for these students.

**Funding** – We are determined to ensure our schools and the Executive apply best and robust financial processes to get the best from available funds. We will also seek to support schools with additional funding to support new and innovative projects which enhance learning and drive up standards. We will make every effort to successfully attract further investment in our schools.

**Community and culture** – We believe that our schools and the Trust have a critical role to play in our communities. We are exploring new and innovative opportunities for staff and learners to work together across the Trust. This work is in its early stages, however there are already plans to develop Trust student leaders.

**Academy Governance**

Arden Multi Academy Trust (AMAT) is governed by a Board of Trustees accountable to the Department for Education and with overall responsibility and ultimate decision making authority for all the work of the Trust, including establishing and running the Trust's academies.

The Trustees have established a Local Governing Body (“LGB”) for each of the Academies, which ensures that each academy retains its own identity and individuality, working through the common values and core operational systems of the Trust.

The AMAT's strategic board is advised by the Audit and Risk Committee and the Business and Personnel Committee which also has a sub-committee Pay and Performance. The committees provide strategic support across these key operational areas. The Board meets at least once per term and the committees meet at least once every term.

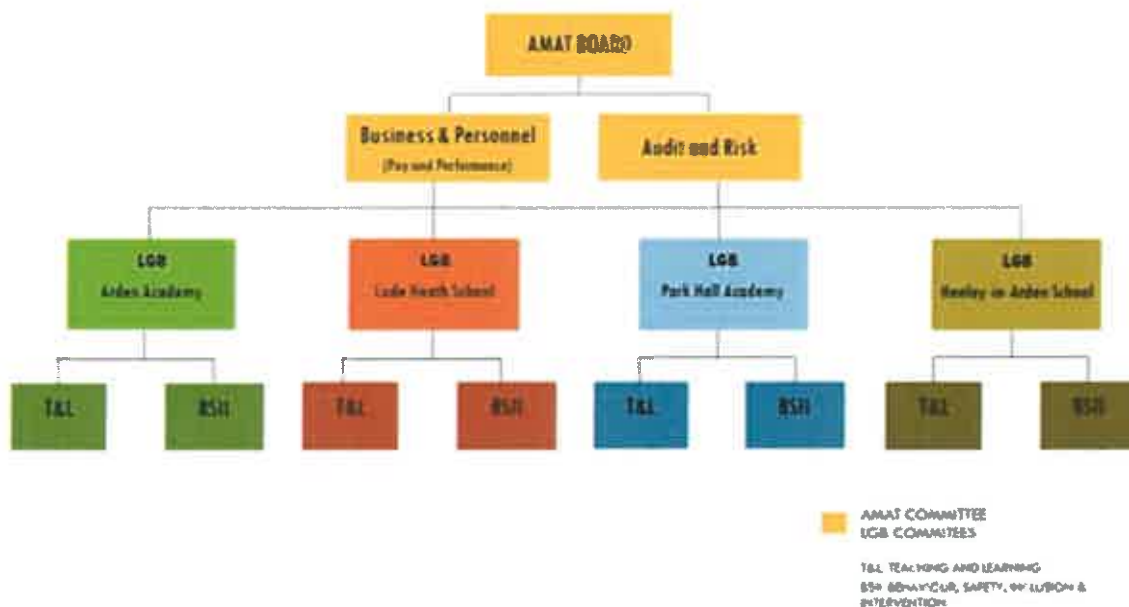
**TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)****Academy Governance (cont'd)**

During the year the Board (including sub Committees) has met on 12 occasions in order to support and challenge the executive team and school leaders during the COVID19 pandemic.

The local governing bodies (LGBs) are advised by a Teaching and Learning Committee (T&L) and a Behaviour, Safety, Inclusion and Intervention Committee (BSII), which provide key focus on ensuring that the young adults who leave our care are prepared for the next stage of their education and are ready and confident to move forward in life.

The LGBs meet termly and the committees generally meet every term.

The Trust has established terms of reference which also set out the delegation of responsibilities between the Board, the central Executive Team (CEO and EH), the LGBs and the Associate Headteachers of each academy.



The AMAT has established terms of reference which also set out the delegation of responsibilities between the Board, the Audit and Risk Committee, Business and Personnel Committee and the Pay and Performance Committee. This new committee governance structure was operational from September 2019.

**Finance**

The Trust is responsible for agreeing a funding model across the Trust and academies, formulating the Trust wide and academy budgets as well as ensuring the highest standards of probity in the use of public finances and resources.

The multi academy trust's main strategy is encompassed in its mission statement.

To this end the activities provided include:

- Tuition and learning opportunities for all students to attain appropriate academic qualifications;
- Training opportunities for all staff, and especially teaching staff;
- Placing of students with industrial and commercial partners;
- A programme of sporting and after school leisure activities for all students;
- A system of after school clubs to allow students to explore science and engineering in a practical and project oriented way;
- A careers advisory service to help students obtain, implement or move on to higher education.

**Equal Opportunities Policy and Accessibility Plans**

The trustees recognise that equal opportunities should be an integral part of good practice within the workplace. The Trust aims to establish equal opportunity in all areas of its activities including creating a working environment in which the contribution and needs of all people are fully valued. All the academies in the Trust have their own access audits and accessibility plans.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)****Equal Opportunities Policy and Accessibility Plans (cont'd)**

Lifts, ramps and disabled toilets are installed where possible and door widths are adequate to enable wheelchair access to all the main areas of the academies. The policy of the Trust is to support recruitment and retention of students and employees with disabilities. The Trust does this by adapting the physical environment of its older buildings and grounds where practical and financially viable.

**Public Benefit**

The trustees have complied with their duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission (on their website) in exercising their powers or duties.

During 2022/23 the following activities relating to public benefit were undertaken:

- 1 The education and learning of 4,955 (2022:4,956) pupils by 546 (2022:556) teachers and other staff
- 2 Improving academic performance by raising educational standards and individual achievement.
- 3 Providing high levels of pastoral care, personal coaching and family support.
- 4 Developing educational links to the benefit of pupils with other educational providers and business.

These key activities were underpinned by the:

- 1 Pro-active succession planning supported the further development of the Trust leadership teams enabling the academies to make further improvements in teaching and learning, assessment and pastoral care.
- 2 Delivery of estate improvements linked to Health and Safety, Accessibility, Teaching & Learning, Facilities, Heating and Lighting and Catering facilities.

**STRATEGIC REPORT****Impact of the global pandemic**

The COVID19 pandemic continued to be an incredible test of leadership across the Trust. This has been noted by Trustees and they are very grateful indeed for the leadership shown in all schools and are very aware of the constant pressures facing school and Trust leaders.

Overall the Trust has done well and the opportunities to share experiences and concerns at all levels has been very beneficial. The Chief Executive Officer and Executive Headteacher and Central Team continued to support the Associate Heads throughout the year as we slowly returned to the new normal.

All the COVID related grants for student support have been accounted for and detailed plans are in place for the academic year 2023/2024. Our strategic plans have all been reviewed and updated in light of the changes and the things we have learnt throughout 2022/2023. These continue to be times of concern since we have not yet fully seen the impact on our students and staff following the pandemic – as a Trust we are not complacent.

**Achievements and Performance**

Arden Multi Academy Trust achievements in 2022/2023 include:

- the full integration of Henley in Arden School into the multi academy trust with a new Senior Leadership team.
- the ongoing work undertaken in developing a shared central services model to realise economies of scale and reduce costs for the academies; the Central Operational Team saw the ongoing implementation of the new 'in house' payroll system which has been a very intense, detailed and successful project. The Trust has also developed a new centralised Health and Safety system to enhance assessment and reporting.
- successful completion at Arden and Henley in Arden of two CIF projects.
- after a period of some 10 years the opening of a public footpath adjacent to Arden Academy.
- the ongoing close working relationship between the academies to share knowledge and expertise, to seek out best practice and to realise the vision of the Trust.

We are pleased with the performance of the schools in the Trust in 2023. The Trust remains one of the highest achieving in the West Midlands.

Arden Academy Trust continues to be justifiably proud of its reputation both locally and nationally. This was reflected in the Ofsted inspection in June 2022 where they received a "Good" judgement.

Park Hall Academy continued to make progress in all areas and is now seen as the flagship first choice secondary school in North Solihull. The success of the school was recognised in the latest Park Hall Academy Ofsted report in May 2023 where they retained their "Good" Ofsted Rating.

## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

**Achievements and Performance (con't)**

Lode Heath School joined AMAT in January 2018. We were delighted that the school retained its Ofsted 'good' judgement in June 2018 and the impact the Trust has had on the school was recognised by the HMI in the Ofsted report. This was endorsed by Ofsted in March 2019.

Henley in Arden joined the Trust in April 2019 – the school retained its 'Good' Ofsted judgement at the latest inspection in December 2022.

All our secondary schools have lengthy waiting lists.

**Overall performance at the end of Key Stage 4 in 2023 – Level 2 Qualifications - all pupils**

Based on the provisional DfE data released in October 2023. Performance will change slightly based on remarks in January 2024 publication.

School Name	Number of pupils at Key Stage 4	Progress 8 Score and Description	Attainment 8	% Achieving EBacc	% Achieving EBacc	% of pupils gaining 'The Basics' at a grade 5	EBacc average point score
				Grade 5	Grade 4		
Arden	293	0.62 Well Above	56.9	23%	32%	63%	4.91
Henley in Arden	129	0.17 Average	48.8	13%	19%	47%	4.24
Lode Heath	220	0.1 Average	44.3	15%	25%	38%	3.88
Park Hall	203	-0.27 Below Average	44.3	4%	8%	32%	3.46
England – State funded	--	-0.03 Average	46.2	17%	24%	45%	4.05

**Overall performance at the end of Key Stage 5 in 2023 – Level 3 Qualifications – all pupils**

Based on the provisional DfE data released in October 2023. Performance will change slightly based on remarks in January 2024 publication. There are no value-added measures due to the use of CAG/TAG grades at the end of Key Stage 4.

School Name	Academic (Number of students)	Academic (Average Result)	Applied General (Number of students)	Applied General (Average Result)	Tech Level (Number of students)	Tech Level (Average Result)
Arden	115	42.63	7	41.43	N/A	N/A
Park Hall	60	34.43	78	36.11	9	38.89
Solihull state-funded schools / colleges	--	37.38	--	31.17	--	32.36
England all schools / colleges	--	39.04	--	31.98	--	30.56

To ensure that standards continually rise, the academy deploys robust monitoring and evaluation systems and extensive training to improve the quality of teaching, learning and assessment. The academy also participates in local and national programmes to improve rates of student progress.

99% of our Key Stage 4 2023 student leavers entered education, employment or training. The students not in education, employment or training for our individual schools are Arden – 5; Henley in Arden – 1; Lode Heath – 4 and Park Hall – 3. Our schools have very rigorous and highly valued careers education programmes.

**Financial Outlook**

The financial position of the Trust by the end of 2022/23 was better than forecast following rigorous financial monitoring throughout the year.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)****Pupil Premium**

The academies benefitted from pupil premium funding during the period. This has been used in various ways across all schools to strengthen student achievement including additional staff and small group withdrawal sessions.

For a more detailed analysis of expenditure please refer to each respective school's website.

**Key Financial Performance Indicators**

The academy trust established a financial budget at the start of the year and the Business and Personnel Committee monitor performance against budget during the period. Further financial and non-financial indicators are reviewed and reported to the Trust Board termly these are:

Number on roll; Next Y7 Accepted Numbers; % Free School Meals (FSM); % Pupil Premium; % SEN students; Attendance (Year 7-11); Teaching Staff Full Time Equivalent (FTE); Pupil/teacher ratio; Student outcomes at KS4 and KS5; EBacc outcomes; Progress 8 and Attainment 8; Projected Post 16 Destination; NEET Data; Recruitment Teaching (Costs); Staff turnover; Quality of Teaching and Learning; Quality of Leadership and Management; Exclusions – number of Permanent and Fixed Term. Throughout 2022/23 all of the KPI's either maintained, sustained outcomes or saw improvement and created no risk issues.

As the Trust develops these will be refined in line with both resource and risk management and risk mitigation strategies.

The trustees consider that the following are key performance indicators for the academy trust, for example:

	Arden Academy		Park Hall Academy	
Year	2023	2022	2023	2022
Pupil numbers	1,809	1,815	1,290	1,308
Staff costs as a percentage of ESFA income	77%	79%	67%	69%
Staff costs as a percentage of total income	71%	73%	63%	65%
Capital expenditure per pupil	£109	£887	£159	£89

	Lode Heath School		Henley in Arden School	
Year	2023	2022	2023	2022
Pupil numbers	1,164	1,156	692	677
Staff costs as a percentage of ESFA income	71%	72%	79%	76%
Staff costs as a percentage of total income	66%	67%	72%	71%
Capital expenditure per pupil	£608	£119	£926	£326

**Going Concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the AMAT 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.

**Promoting the success of the Academy Trust**

The Trustees have promoted the success of the academy trust by having regard to:

- the likely consequences of any decision in the long term;
- the interests of the Trust's employees;
- the need to foster the Trust's charitable relationships with suppliers, customers and others;
- the impact of the Trust's operations on the community and the environment;
- the desirability of the Trust maintaining a reputation for high standards of charitable conduct;
- the need to act fairly as between members of the Trust.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW****Overview**

The principal source of funding for both Academies is the General Annual Grant. Most of the academies income is obtained from the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.



**TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)****Overview (cont'd)**

The academy also receives grants for fixed assets from the ESFA. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by 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 £37,482,000 (2022: £32,250,000) was covered by grant funding from the DfE together with other incoming resources. Capital expenditure of £1,133,000 (2022: £1,205,000) was covered by the capital grant income received. The remaining capital expenditure was funded from reserves.

At 31 August 2023 the net book value of fixed assets was £42,134,000 (2022: £45,269,000) and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 13 to the financial statements. Included in fixed assets is an impairment charge of £3,570,000; this charge has been calculated based on the Department for Education's "desktop" valuations of leasehold land and buildings. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the academy.

The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) figures as at 31 August 2023 for AMAT are based on projecting forward the estimated position at 1 September 2019 and assume that the experience over the year, apart from investment returns, has been in line with the assumptions made at the start of the year.

The estimated FRS 102 deficit at 31 August 2023 is £263,000 (2022: deficit £1,229,000) which compares to a deficit of £644,000 at the admission date of 14 September 2010.

It should be noted that the balance sheet, profit and loss and statement of recognised gains and losses figures will be volatile over time. This is generally because the FRS102 liabilities are largely linked to corporate bond yields whereas the scheme invests a large part of its assets in equities.

**Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies**

The AMAT's financial and risk management objectives are documented in its:

- Official budgets
- Scheme of delegation
- Financial regulations
- Risk management policies
- Risk Register

Particular items which warrant specific disclosure are noted within this annual report.

At the time of reporting, the AMAT's identified key risks are:

- Updated OFSTED framework which is very challenging
- The risk of achievement in core subjects being below expectations caused by national changes to the curriculum and examination structures following the pandemic
- The risk to outcomes from education being delivered in poor quality buildings
- The future financial position of the LGPS pension scheme
- The reduction in funding from the ESFA
- The increases in energy costs
- The potential increases to employer contributions to the TPS
- Changes in Government policy on National Insurance Contributions
- The increasing national shortage of teachers

**Reserves Policy**

The trustees review the reserve levels of the AMAT on a termly basis. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The reason for these reviews is to provide assurance that there is sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance.

The Multi Academy Trust has reserves available after deducting 4 weeks working capital requirements.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)****Financial Position**

The AMAT held fund balances at 31 August 2023 of £49,259,000 (2022: £49,661,000) after allowing for the pension deficit of £263,000 (2022: deficit £1,229,000); comprising £48,641,000 (2022: £49,182,000) of restricted funds and £618,000 (2022: £479,000) of unrestricted general funds.

**Investment Policy**

All investments are made in accordance with the policy of the AMAT. The AMAT's policy on investments are one of minimum risk with all investments being held with the AMAT's bankers. The AMAT will nevertheless seek to maximise interest receipts within this arrangement. Investments are made with regard to Charity Commission guidance in relation to investments.

**PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES**

The Trustees have considered the risks faced by the AMAT throughout its normal operational business. It has sought to address the risks faced by the AMAT by establishing appropriate governance and management arrangements, including the appointment of senior staff and other managers, and establishing robust operational policies. The Trustees considers that these arrangements have been effective throughout the period being reported.

The Trust have established a robust risk management policy which clearly documents the managerial actions that are taking place, and ensures that a systematic risk register and risk management process is in place across all schools. This has been tested fully during the COVID19 pandemic across all areas of the Trust's operations and linked to further investment in Health and Safety support and programmes helps ensure that the trust's estate is safe, well maintained and complies with relevant regulations.

**Risk Management**

The trustees via the Audit and Risk Committee have assessed the major risks to which the academies are exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the AMAT and its finances. Mitigating action, both current and planned, has been identified to address risks. This is also true of all other risks that have been formally identified which have a lower level of impact and/or likelihood. The trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the schools face, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, safeguarding and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. They have maintained systems, including operation procedures, risk assessments, vetting of new staff and visitors, supervision of school grounds and internal financial control in order to minimise risk. Where significant risk still remains, they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover where applicable. The AMAT has an effective system of internal financial controls. Robust internal audit procedures are in place which help assess risk, the Internal Audit timetable is based on the Risk Register with Safeguarding procedures and practice, Human Resources and Payroll procedures and practice and Health and Safety provision all being audited in 2022/23:

All LGB meetings and Trustee meetings have a discussion about risk and the risk register on every termly agenda.

**Fundraising**

Under the provisions of the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 the academy trust approach to fundraising practices is as follows:

- our approach to fundraising is to send a generic letter to parents asking them if they would like to donate to the School fund
- we do not work with any professional fundraisers
- the academy trust has a formal complaints procedure which is accessible from the school website
- the academy trust protects the public, including vulnerable people, from unreasonably intrusive or persistent fundraising approaches, and undue pressure to donate by only sending generic letters to parents/guardians and not approaching anyone directly.

## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

## Fundraising (cont'd)

## Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data - UK	2023	2022
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	5,347,190	5,792,647
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e</u>		
Gas consumption	604	778
Owned transport - mini buses	5	6
Total scope 1	609	784
<u>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e</u>		
Electricity	394	390
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e</u>		
Business travel in employee owned vehicles	6.6	11.2
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	1,010	1,185
<u>Intensity ratio</u>		
Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e per pupil	0.20	0.24

**Quantification 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 2023 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

**Intensity measurement**

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

**Measures taken to improve energy efficiency**

Smart meters are installed across all sites and increased video conferencing technology for meetings, to reduce the need for travel.

The Trust has implemented a number of energy saving measures including using Condition Improvement Funding from the ESFA for Arden Academy to replace single glazed windows and increase insulation in the flat roofs. Funding has also been obtained to replace the boilers and heating infrastructure at Henley in Arden School and replace uninsulated cladding at Lode Heath School, these will be implemented in 2023/24.

Boiler Management Systems have been implemented at Arden to improve the control of the heating systems and LED lights are being installed within the MAT schools.

**Plans for Future Periods**

The deficit position of the Local Government Pension Scheme may result in an increase in employers pension contributions over a period of years. It is intended that the academies will revisit their current business plans and budgets and ascertain how the pension costs might impact on the budgets in the future.

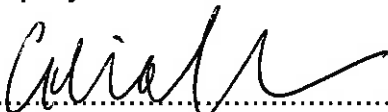
**Auditors**

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

The auditors, UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP, are willing to continue in office and a resolution to appoint them will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

The Trustees' Report incorporating a strategic report was approved by the Board of Trustees, as the company directors on 12 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



.....  
**Dr C O'Donovan, Chair of Trustees**  
**12 December 2023**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****Scope of Responsibility**

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

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

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO 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 AMAT and the Secretary of State for Education. The CEO is also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

**Governance**

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the trustees' report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 4 times throughout the year and attendance at these meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

<b>Trustees</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a Possible</b>
<b>Arden Multi Academy Trust - Directors/Trustees</b>		
Dr C O'Donovan (Chair)	4	4
M Allsopp	4	4
G Chaplin (resigned 31 August 2023)	4	4
A Cole	2	4
A Devitt	3	4
D Foxon	4	4
A Gardner	4	4
G Harley - Mason	4	4
W Jarema	2	4
M Murphy (Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer)	4	4

Financial control of the Trust is maintained through both Board of Trustee meetings and the meetings of the two sub-committees, the Business and Personnel Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee. Every Trustee is also a member of one of these Committees.

**Conflict of Interest**

All Trustees make an annual declaration of their interests in any external organisations. Any conflicts of interest are declared at Trustee meetings and the Trustee concerned either does not vote on any decision made, or in the case of large or contentious decisions, leaves the meeting during discussions and voting.

**Governance Reviews**

An annual self-review of governance has been performed as defined by the National College for Teaching and Leadership. The results of this review has identified the following:

- the character of the trust is preserved and developed;
- the activities of the trust are being undertaken in accordance with the academy trust deed;
- there is clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- the CEO/EH is held to account for the education of performance of the schools and its pupils;
- the financial performance of the schools is monitored and value for money obtained;
- governance by the Board of Trustees is effective.

The Academy Trust carried out a detailed review of governance across all the schools by an external consultant in 2022 and all action points were in place by January 2023 in order to ensure that the Trust is fully compliant. A new programme of Trust led governor training was further developed in 2022/23 and is now planned for delivery throughout 2023/2024.

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**

The AMAT Business and Personnel Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board. Its purpose is to develop the strategic direction and governance procedures on financial matters. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

<b>Trustee/LGB Governor</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a Possible</b>
A Cole (Chair)	4	4
M Allsopp	3	4
W Bohanna	3	4
A Gardner (transferred to Audit & Risk Committee 05 October 2022)	-	-
G Harley-Mason	4	4
W Jarema	4	4
M Murphy	4	4
C O'Donovan	4	4
S Westmacott	3	4

The AMAT Audit & Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

<b>Trustee/LGB Governor</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a Possible</b>
G Chaplin (Chair) (resigned 31 August 2023)	4	4
A Ahmed (appointed 15 March 2023)	1	2
A Devitt	3	4
A Gardner (transferred from Business and Personnel Committee on 05 October 2022)	4	4
I Mackay	4	4

**Review of Value for Money**

As accounting officer the CEO has responsibility for ensuring that the multi academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The accounting officer considers how the trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Continuously scrutinising all lines of the revenue budget each month and in particular closely controlling salary costs, taking every opportunity to ensure expenditure remains within agreed budgetary limits
- Re-tender the MAT catering contract to achieve value for money
- Obtaining ESFA Condition Improvement Funding to improve the Heating infrastructure at Henley in Arden School to reduce energy usage
- Utilising the ESFA Energy Efficient grant to improve the Boiler Management and add LED lighting to reduce energy usage

**The Purpose of the System of Internal Control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of 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 AMAT for the year ended 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)****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 year ended 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**

AMAT 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 and Personnel Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- Identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has appointed Academy Advisory as internal auditors. As part of the internal audit process they have undertaken the following:

- Review of safeguarding systems and controls across the MAT;
- Review of the provision and effectiveness of Health and Safety across the MAT;
- Review of the controls and operation of the Human Resources and Payroll function across the MAT;

On a twice yearly basis, the internal auditor reports to the Board of Trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees financial responsibilities. The internal auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned, and no material control issues were identified.

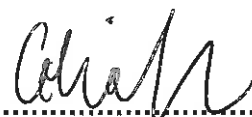
**Review of Effectiveness**

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

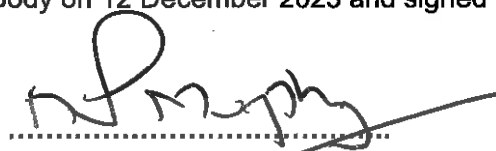
- The work of the internal auditor;
- The work of the external auditor;
- The school resource management self-assessment tool;
- The work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework;
- Correspondence from the ESFA

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

Approved by order of the members of the Governing Body on 12 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by



Dr C O'Donovan  
Chair of Trustees

  
M Murphy  
Accounting Officer

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

As accounting officer of Arden Multi 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 ESFA terms and conditions of funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between the academy trust and the Secretary of State. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 12 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'mas P Murphy', written over a dotted line. A long horizontal line is drawn below the signature.

**M Murphy**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Accounting Officer**

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

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

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the 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 judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards FRS102 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 academy will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 12 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
**Dr C O'Donovan**  
**Chair of Trustees**



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ARDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****Opinion**

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

**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 charitable company 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 Arden Multi Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

**Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the financial statements. 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ARDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)****Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the Strategic Report, and the Trustees Report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 24, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the Arden Multi 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 to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

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

Based on our understanding of the Arden Multi Academy Trust and the industry in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the acts by the Arden Multi Academy Trust, which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations including fraud, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, Charities SORP 2019 and Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to inflated revenue and the Arden Multi Academy Trust's net income for the year.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ARDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**

Audit procedures performed included: review of the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation, review of correspondence with and reports to the regulators, including correspondence with the Education and Skills Funding Agency review of correspondence with legal advisors, enquiries of management and review of internal audit reports in so far as they related to the financial statements, and testing of journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

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

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the academy trust's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the academy trust to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ARDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)****Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the Arden Multi Academy Trust's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Arden Multi Academy Trust'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 Arden Multi Academy Trustees and the Arden Multi Academy Trust's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**Malcolm Winston**  
**Senior Statutory Auditor**  
**UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP, Statutory Auditor**  
**9-11 Vittoria Street**  
**Birmingham**  
**B1 3ND**

**12 December 2023**

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ARDEN MULTI 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 5 July 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, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by the 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 Arden Multi Academy Trust and the ESFA in accordance with our engagement letter. Our review has been undertaken so that we might state to the governing body and the ESFA those matters we are required to state to it 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 the Arden Multi Academy Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

**Respective responsibilities of Arden Multi Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Arden Multi Academy Trust funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 April 2015, 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 and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

**Approach**

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the 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.

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ARDEN MULTI ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)****Approach (cont'd)**

Summary of the work undertaken was as follows:

- Analytical review of the academy trusts general activities are within the academy trusts framework of authorities;
- Consideration of the evidence supporting the accounting officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance;
- Review of the general control environment for the academy trust on financial statements and on regularity;
- Sample testing of expenditure transactions to ensure the activity is permissible within the academy trust's framework of authority;
- Confirmation that a sample of expenditure has been appropriately authorised in accordance with the academy trust's delegated authorities;
- Formal representations obtained from the board of trustees and the accounting officer acknowledging the responsibilities including disclosing all non compliance with laws and regulations specific to the authorising framework;
- Confirmation that any extra contractual payments such as severance and compensation payments have been appropriately authorised;
- Review of credit card expenditure for any indication of personal use by staff, principal or trustees;
- Review of specific terms of grant funding within the funding agreement;
- Review of related party transactions for connections with the principal/finance manager or trustees;
- Review of income received in accordance with the activities permitted within the academy trust's charitable objectives.

**Conclusion**

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

*UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP*

**Reporting Accountant  
UHY Hacker Young (Birmingham) LLP  
9-11 Vittoria Street  
Birmingham  
B1 3ND**

**12 December 2023**

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

(Including Income and Expenditure Account)

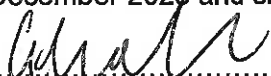
		Restricted				
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Fixed	Total	Total	
	Funds	General	Asset	2023	2022	
Note	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
<b>Income from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	23	-	1,456	1,479	1,239
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	4	-	33,379	-	33,379	30,886
Other trading activities	5	192	-	-	192	182
Investment income	6	12	-	-	12	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>227</b>	<b>33,379</b>	<b>1,456</b>	<b>35,062</b>	<b>32,308</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	7	88	-	-	88	191
Charitable activities:						
- Academy trust's educational operations	7	-	32,503	4,891	37,394	32,059
<b>Total</b>		<b>88</b>	<b>32,503</b>	<b>4,891</b>	<b>37,482</b>	<b>32,250</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>139</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>(3,435)</b>	<b>(2,420)</b>	<b>58</b>
Transfers between funds		-	(665)	665	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>						
Actuarial gain on defined benefit pension schemes	28	-	2,018	-	2,018	11,478
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>139</b>	<b>2,229</b>	<b>(2,770)</b>	<b>(402)</b>	<b>11,536</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	17	479	4,135	45,047	49,661	38,125
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	17	<b>618</b>	<b>6,364</b>	<b>42,277</b>	<b>49,259</b>	<b>49,661</b>

All of the academy trust's activities derive from acquisitions and continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	13	<u>42,134</u>	<u>45,269</u>
		<u>42,134</u>	<u>45,269</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	14	601	542
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>11,128</u>	<u>9,280</u>
		<u>11,729</u>	<u>9,822</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(4,093)</u>	<u>(3,956)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>7,636</u>	<u>5,866</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>49,770</b>	<b>51,135</b>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	16	(248)	(245)
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>		<u>49,522</u>	<u>50,890</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	28	(263)	(1,229)
<b>Total Net Assets</b>		<u><u>49,259</u></u>	<u><u>49,661</u></u>
<b>Funds of the Academy:</b>			
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
- Fixed asset fund	17	42,277	45,047
- Restricted income fund	17	6,627	5,364
- Pension reserve	17	<u>(263)</u>	<u>(1,229)</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>		<u>48,641</u>	<u>49,182</u>
<b>Unrestricted income fund</b>	17	<u>618</u>	<u>479</u>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>		<u>618</u>	<u>479</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u><u>49,259</u></u>	<u><u>49,661</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 31 to 54 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 12 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

.....  
  
 Dr C O'Donovan  
 Chair of Trustees



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

	Notes	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	21	2,129	2,952
Cash flows from investing activities	22	(288)	(878)
Cash flows from financing activities	23	7	(15)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>1,848</u>	<u>2,059</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		9,280	7,221
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	24	<u>11,128</u>	<u>9,280</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****1 Statement of Accounting Policies**

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

**Basis of Preparation**

The financial statements of the 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 accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Arden Multi Academy Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

**Going Concern**

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the 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.

**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 no unconditional entitlement to the income and its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income until the performance-related conditions are met. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

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

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

**• 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 receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

**• Donations**

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where there is certainty of receipt 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'.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)**

- **Donated goods, facilities and services (cont'd)**

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'.

Where the donated good is a fixed asset it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be 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.

- **Transfers of leasehold property**

Leasehold property transferred to the Academy from the local authority at little or no consideration will be revalued at fair value in accordance with FRS 102. This value will be recognised as incoming resources in the Statement of Financial Activities and will be included in the appropriate fixed assets category and depreciated over the life of the lease.

- **Transfers of existing academies into the academy trust**

Where assets and liabilities are received on the transfer of an existing academy into the academy trust, the transferred net 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 equal amount of income is recognised for the transfer of an existing academy into the academy trust within donations and capital grant income to the net assets acquired.

**Expenditure**

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

- **Expenditure on Raising Funds**

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

- **Charitable Activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

**Tangible Fixed Assets**

Assets costing **£1,000** or more (IT hardware **£100** or more) are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)****Tangible Fixed Assets**

Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis on the cost of tangible fixed assets, to write them down to their estimated residual values over their expected useful lives.

The principal annual rates used for other assets are:

Leasehold land and buildings	2%
Furniture	25%
Plant and equipment	10%
Computer equipment and software	33.33%
Motor vehicles	20%
Building Fittings	5%

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use.

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.

**Leased assets**

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

**Financial Instruments**

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

*Financial assets* - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 14. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

*Financial liabilities* - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. 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.

**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.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)****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.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in Note 28, the TPS is a multi employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently the TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

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

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

**Fund Accounting**

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the academy trust at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

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

**Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement**

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

**Critical accounting estimates and assumptions**

The 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 (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 28, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)*****Critical areas of judgement***

The critical judgements that the Trustees have made in the process of applying the Academy Trust's accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the statutory financial statements are discussed below:

The critical areas of judgement are accounting for government grants, accounting for the write down of assets through depreciation and accounting for the pension liability. Government grants are accounted for as restricted funds. The pension liability is assessed by an independent actuarial valuation. Depreciation rates are based on the expected life of the asset.

In assessing whether there have been any indicators of impairment assets, the Trustees have considered both external and internal sources of information such as market conditions, counterparty credit ratings and experience of recoverability. There have been no indicators of impairments identified during the current financial year.

**Agency Arrangements**

The academy trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from the ESFA. Payments received from the ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. In accordance with ESFA guidelines the trust is permitted to use up to 5% of the bursary funds allocation towards its own administration costs. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 30.

**2 GENERAL ANNUAL GRANT (GAG)**

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State the multi academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023 (see note 17).

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

3 DONATIONS AND CAPITAL	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Donations	23	-	23	25
Devolved formula capital grant	-	102	102	102
CIF Grant	-	1,161	1,161	1,103
Additional ESFA capital grant	-	193	193	-
Other capital grants	-	-	-	9
	<u>23</u>	<u>1,456</u>	<u>1,479</u>	<u>1,239</u>

The income from donations and capital grants was £1,479,000 (2022: £1,239,000) of which £23,000 (2022: £25,000) was unrestricted, £Nil (2022: £Nil) restricted and £1,456,000 (2022: £1,214,000) restricted fixed assets.

## 4 FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY'S TRUST'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>				
General annual grant (GAG) (note 2)	-	25,890	25,890	24,540
General annual grant (GAG) post 16	-	2,518	2,518	2,325
Pupil premium grant	-	1,021	1,021	968
<b>Other DfE/ESFA grants</b>				
Teachers pay grant	-	-	-	36
Teachers pension employer contribution grant	-	98	98	100
Rates relief	-	116	116	111
ESFA apprentice incentive grant	-	2	2	9
ESFA national tutoring programme	-	69	69	68
ESFA ECT time off	-	29	29	20
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	7	7	2
Conversion grant	-	24	24	-
ESFA mainstream additional grant	-	399	399	-
Supplementary grant	-	793	793	330
	<u>-</u>	<u>30,966</u>	<u>30,966</u>	<u>28,509</u>
<b>Other Government grants</b>				
SEN grant - local authority	-	374	374	374
Pupil Premium grant - local authority	-	55	55	49
Other government revenue grants	-	29	29	42
	<u>-</u>	<u>458</u>	<u>458</u>	<u>465</u>
<b>COVID-19 DfE/ESFA additional funding</b>				
Catch up premium	-	-	-	148
Recovery premium	-	362	362	206
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	-	-	75
	<u>-</u>	<u>362</u>	<u>362</u>	<u>429</u>
<b>Other income from the academy trust's educational operations</b>				
Catering income	-	1,580	1,580	1,483
Other income	-	13	13	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,593</u>	<u>1,593</u>	<u>1,483</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>33,379</u>	<u>33,379</u>	<u>30,886</u>

The income from the academy trusts's educational operations was restricted for both 2022 and 2023.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

5 OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Lettings income	150	-	150	140
Other	42	-	42	42
	<u>192</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>192</u>	<u>182</u>

The income from the academy trusts's other trading activities was unrestricted for both 2023 and 2022.

6 INVESTMENT INCOME	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Bank interest received	12	-	12	1
	<u>12</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1</u>

The income from the academy trusts's investment income was unrestricted for both 2023 and 2022.

7 EXPENDITURE	Staff Costs	Non Pay Expenditure		Total 2023	Total 2,022
		Premises	Other Costs		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Direct costs	-	-	-	-	-
Allocated support costs	86	-	2	88	191
Academy's educational operations:					
Direct costs	21,673	-	2,136	23,809	21,077
Allocated support costs	4,243	6,450	2,892	13,585	10,982
	<u>26,002</u>	<u>6,450</u>	<u>5,030</u>	<u>37,482</u>	<u>32,250</u>

The expenditure was £37,482,000 (2022: £32,250,000) of which £88,000 (2022: £191,000) was unrestricted, £32,503,000 (2022: £30,724,000) restricted and £4,891,000 (2022: £1,335,000) restricted fixed assets.

## Net (income)/expenditure for the year includes:

	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£'000	£'000
Operating lease rentals	75	68
PFI charges	517	469
Depreciation	1,321	1,335
Impairment charges (note 13)	3,570	-
Fees payable to auditor for:		
Audit	18	17
Other services	3	3

On 1 September 2022 an existing use valuation and useful asset life assessment was prepared by Montagu Evans, Chartered Surveyors in accordance with the requirements of the accounting standard FRS 102 for Henley-In-Arden and Lode Heath School which resulted in an impairment loss of £3,570,000.



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

<b>8 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Total 2023 £'000</b>	<b>Total 2022 £'000</b>
Direct costs - educational operations	23,809	21,077
Support costs - educational operations	13,585	10,982
	<u>37,394</u>	<u>32,059</u>
<b>Analysis of Support Costs*</b>		
Support staff costs	4,243	5,403
Depreciation	1,321	1,335
Impairment charges	3,570	-
Technology costs	303	363
Premises costs	1,559	1,618
Legal costs	45	20
Legal costs - conversion	18	-
Other support costs	2,319	1,930
Governance	207	313
	<u>13,585</u>	<u>10,982</u>

\*Comparative figures for the year ended 31 August 2022 are not necessarily analysed on the same basis as those in the current year, as a result of the Trust transitioning to the ESFA chart of accounts.

**9 STAFF**

<b>a Staff costs</b>	<b>2023 £'000</b>	<b>2022 £'000</b>
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	18,332	16,966
Social security costs	1,945	1,813
Pension costs	5,156	5,422
	<u>25,433</u>	<u>24,201</u>
Agency staff costs	547	648
Staff restructuring costs	22	11
	<u>26,002</u>	<u>24,860</u>
<b>Staff restructuring costs comprise:</b>		
Severance payments	6	11
Other restructuring costs	16	-
	<u>22</u>	<u>11</u>

**b Staff severance contractual and non contractual payments**

The academy trust paid £21,753 (2022: £11,061) severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
0 - £25,000	1	1
£25,001 - £50,000	-	-
£50,001 - £100,000	-	-
£100,001 - £150,000	-	-
£150,000+	-	-

**c Special staff severance non contractual payments**

Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £5,500 (2022 : £11,061). Individually, the payments were £5,500 (2022: £11,061).

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

**9 STAFF (cont'd)****d Staff numbers**

The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the academy during the year ended 31 August 2023 expressed as whole persons was as follows:

	2023	2022
<i>Charitable Activities</i>	No	No
Teachers	284	287
Administration and support - including Teaching Assistants	229	239
Management	32	31
	<u>545</u>	<u>557</u>

**e 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
	No	No
£60,001 - £70,000	13	10
£70,001 - £80,000	8	6
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-
£90,001 - £100,000	1	3
£100,001 - £110,000	2	-
£120,001 - £130,000	-	1
£130,001 - £140,000	1	-
£140,001 - £150,000	1	1
	<u>27</u>	<u>21</u>

**f Key management personnel**

The key management of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on pages 3, 4 and 5. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £3,263,066 (2022: £2,768,195).

**10 CENTRAL SERVICES**

Arden Multi Academy Trust has provided the following central services to Arden Academy, Park Hall Academy, Lode Heath School and Henley in Arden School:

- Chief Executive Officer;
- Executive Headteacher;
- Human resources;
- IT;
- Financial services;
- Legal services;
- Educational support services; and
- Accounting services.

Arden Multi Academy Trust charges for these services a management fee based on expected costs which are proportioned between each academy based on pupil numbers.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Arden Academy	771	683
Park Hall Academy	556	486
Lode Heath School	491	438
Henley in Arden School	288	248
	<u>2,106</u>	<u>1,855</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

**11 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS - TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES****Interests in transactions**

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The Chief Executive Officer and other staff trustees receive remuneration in respect of their contracts of employment as principal and staff and not in respect of their services as trustees. Other trustees did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the Academy Trust in respect of their role as trustees. The value of trustee's remuneration and other remuneration was as follows:

M Murphy (Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer)	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Remuneration	£140,001 - £150,000	£140,001 - £150,000
Employers pension contributions	£25,000 - £35,000	£25,000 - £35,000

During the year ended 31 August 2023, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £2,058 (2022 : £352) were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 trustee.

Other related party transactions including trustees are set out in note 30.

**12 TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE**

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The academy has joined the ESFA's Risk Protection Arrangement. The arrangement provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2023 is included within the total insurance cost.

**13 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	<b>Leasehold</b>					<b>Assets</b>	
	<b>Land &amp; Buildings</b>	<b>Furniture &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>Plant &amp; Machinery</b>	<b>Computer Equipment</b>	<b>Motor Vehicles</b>	<b>Under Construction</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cost</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
At 1 September 2022	49,410	508	270	1,722	30	1,946	53,886
Additions	283	130	28	307	-	1,008	1,756
Reclassification	1,871	-	-	-	-	(1,871)	-
Impairment charges	(5,139)	-	-	-	-	-	(5,139)
Disposals	-	-	-	(317)	-	-	(317)
At 31 August 2023	46,425	638	298	1,712	30	1,083	50,186
<b>Depreciation</b>							
At 1 September 2022	6,720	344	86	1,437	30	-	8,617
Charged in year	1,032	38	25	226	-	-	1,321
Impairment charges	(1,569)	-	-	-	-	-	(1,569)
Disposals	-	-	-	(317)	-	-	(317)
At 31 August 2023	6,183	382	111	1,346	30	-	8,052
<b>Net book value</b>							
At 31 August 2023	40,242	256	187	366	-	1,083	42,134
At 31 August 2022	42,690	164	184	285	-	1,946	45,269

The leasehold land and buildings were donated to Arden Multi Academy Trust by the local authority. On 1 September 2022 an existing use valuation and useful asset life assessment was prepared by Montagu Evans, Chartered Surveyors in accordance with the requirements of the accounting standard FRS 102 for Henley-In-Arden and Lode Heath School which resulted in an impairment loss of £3,570,000 (note 7).

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
<b>14 DEBTORS</b>		
Trade debtors	57	37
VAT recoverable	171	94
Prepayments and accrued income	373	411
	<u>601</u>	<u>542</u>
<b>15 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>		
	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Trade creditors	1,044	1,104
Taxation and social security	471	449
Other creditors	857	862
Accruals	1,438	1,312
Salix loan	48	44
CIF loan	2	2
Deferred income	233	183
	<u>4,093</u>	<u>3,956</u>
	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
<b>Deferred Income</b>		
Deferred income at 1 September	183	324
Resources deferred in the year	233	183
Amounts released from previous years	(183)	(324)
Deferred income at 31 August	<u>233</u>	<u>183</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy was holding funds received in advance for 2023/24 for academy capital maintenance grant for the boiler £16,713 (2022: £16,713), teaching school grant and bursary £3,701 (2022: £3,701), Covid Catch Up £Nil (2022: £32,489), Recovery premium £Nil (2022: £64,326), non-government grants £21,062 (2022: £4,892), Duke of Edinburgh £1,765 (2022: £1,765), lettings income £2,385 (2022: £12,991), school led tutoring grants £94,424 (2022: £Nil), catering income £35,559 (2022: £Nil) and other miscellaneous receipts £31,775 (2022: £45,847).

Salix loans of £48,041 (2022: £43,995) provided interest free are repayable over 2 to 10 years from the date of the financial statements.

CIF loans of £1,879 (2022: £1,990) attracts interest of 2.29% and are repayable over 2 to 10 years from the date of the financial statements.

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
<b>16 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE IN GREATER THAN ONE YEAR</b>		
Salix loan	185	229
CIF loan	63	16
	<u>248</u>	<u>245</u>

The Salix loans of £184,431 (2022: £228,426) is provided interest free and is repayable over 2 to 10 years from the date of the financial statements.

CIF loans of £14,398 (2022: £15,922) attracts interest of 2.29% and is repayable over 2 to 10 years from the date of the financial statements.

CIF loans of £48,939 (2022: £Nil) attracts interest of 5.37% and is repayable over 2 to 10 years from the date of completion of the project.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

## 17 FUNDS

The income funds of the multi academy trust comprise the following balances of grants to be applied for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 September 2022	Incoming Resources £'000	Resources Expended £'000	Gains, Losses & Transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £'000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
General annual grant (GAG) (note i)	5,364	25,890	(23,962)	(665)	6,627
General annual grant (GAG) Post 16 (note i)	-	2,518	(2,518)	-	-
Teachers pension grant (note ii)	-	98	(98)	-	-
Rates relief grant (note ii)	-	116	(116)	-	-
Supplementary grant	-	793	(793)	-	-
Pupil premium grant (note iii)	-	1,076	(1,076)	-	-
ESFA national tutoring programme (note xiv)	-	69	(69)	-	-
COVID recovery premium (note viii)	-	362	(362)	-	-
ESFA mainstream additional grant (note xvii)	-	399	(399)	-	-
Apprentice incentive scheme (note ix)	-	2	(2)	-	-
SEN grant (note v)	-	374	(374)	-	-
School Direct (note vi)	-	29	(29)	-	-
Other restricted (note viii)	-	1,593	(1,593)	-	-
Other ESFA (note xv)	-	31	(31)	-	-
ESFA ECT time off (note xvi)	-	29	(29)	-	-
	<b>5,364</b>	<b>33,379</b>	<b>(31,451)</b>	<b>(665)</b>	<b>6,627</b>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
DfE capital grants (note x)	8,696	1,456	(1,213)	-	8,939
LA fixed assets donation (note x)	33,034	-	(3,409)	-	29,625
LA capital grants (note xi)	1,094	-	(29)	-	1,065
Capital expenditure from revenue funds (note xii)	1,825	-	(197)	665	2,293
Capital expenditure from LA prior years surplus b/fwd (note x)	349	-	(9)	-	340
Other capital grants	9	-	(5)	-	4
Donated assets	40	-	(29)	-	11
	<b>45,047</b>	<b>1,456</b>	<b>(4,891)</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>42,277</b>
<b>Restricted pension scheme liability</b>					
Pension reserve (note xiii)	(1,229)	-	(1,052)	2,018	(263)
	<b>(1,229)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,052)</b>	<b>2,018</b>	<b>(263)</b>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>49,182</b>	<b>34,835</b>	<b>(37,394)</b>	<b>2,018</b>	<b>48,641</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds	479	227	(88)	-	618
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>(88)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>618</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>49,661</b>	<b>35,062</b>	<b>(37,482)</b>	<b>2,018</b>	<b>49,259</b>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)****17 FUNDS (Cont'd)****Notes**

- i) General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the academy. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the multi academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it would carry forward at 31 August 2023 (see note 2).
- ii) Grants received from the ESFA used to support expansion of the academy trust and teaching pay increases.
- iii) Pupil premium grant has been used to support children placed at the Academy from the local authority areas and FSM pupils.
- iv) Government funding to support young people to catch up on missed learning caused by coronavirus.
- v) SEN grant has been used as a contribution towards salaries of the learning support department.
- vi) NCTL grant and income from Warwick University has been used to support trainee teachers.
- vii) Grants from ESFA/DfE to support Teaching School activities.
- viii) ESFA coronavirus grants have been used to fund mass testing and additional educational resource to support catch up.
- ix) Funding by National Government to support organisations that recruited Apprenticeships.
- x) Restricted fixed assets were funded by government grants, a transfer from the General Annual Grant and by SMBC and WCC prior years surplus brought forward.
- xi) SMBC capital grant has been used to build a new teaching block for the academy.
- xii) The gross transfer from the restricted general fund to the restricted fixed asset fund of £665,000 (2022: £590,000) represents the total capital expenditure from the General Annual Grant (GAG) during the year.
- xiii) The pension reserve represents the deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme (note 28).
- xiv) Government funding to help disadvantaged pupils catch up on missed learning during coronavirus.
- xv) Government funding to train Mental Health Leads in the schools.
- xvi) Government funding to enable newly qualified teachers additional time off timetable for training and development.
- xvii) Mainstream schools additional grant from the ESFA has been used to support general cost pressures.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

## 17 FUNDS (Cont'd)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £'000	Incoming Resources £'000	Resources Expended £'000	Gains, Losses & Transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £'000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General annual grant (GAG) (note i)	4,174	24,540	(22,760)	(590)	5,364
General annual grant (GAG) post 16 (note i)	-	2,325	(2,325)	-	-
Teachers pay grant (note ii)	-	36	(36)	-	-
Teachers pension grant (note ii)	-	100	(100)	-	-
Rates relief grant (note ii)	-	111	(111)	-	-
Supplementary grant	-	330	(330)	-	-
Pupil premium grant (note iii)	-	1,017	(1,017)	-	-
Tuition fund (note iv)	-	6	(6)	-	-
ESFA national tutoring programme (nc COVID catch up	-	62	(62)	-	-
COVID recovery	-	148	(148)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	206	(206)	-	-
Apprentice incentive scheme (note ix)	-	75	(75)	-	-
SEN grant (note v)	-	9	(9)	-	-
School Direct (note vi)	-	374	(374)	-	-
Other restricted (note viii)	-	42	(42)	-	-
Other ESFA (note xv)	-	1,483	(1,483)	-	-
ESFA NQT time off (note xvi)	-	2	(2)	-	-
	-	20	(20)	-	-
	<b>4,174</b>	<b>30,886</b>	<b>(29,106)</b>	<b>(590)</b>	<b>5,364</b>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
DfE capital grants (note x)	7,809	1,205	(319)	1	8,696
LA fixed assets donation (note x)	33,866	-	(832)	-	33,034
LA capital grants (note xi)	1,123	-	(29)	-	1,094
Capital expenditure from revenue funds	1,350	-	(114)	589	1,825
Capital expenditure from LA prior years	358	-	(9)	-	349
Other capital grants	-	9	-	-	9
Donated assets	72	-	(32)	-	40
	<b>44,578</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>(1,335)</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>45,047</b>
<b>Restricted pension scheme liability</b>					
Pension reserve (note xiii)	(11,089)	-	(1,618)	11,478	(1,229)
	<b>(11,089)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,618)</b>	<b>11,478</b>	<b>(1,229)</b>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>37,663</b>	<b>32,100</b>	<b>(32,059)</b>	<b>11,478</b>	<b>49,182</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds	462	208	(191)	-	479
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>(191)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>479</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>38,125</b>	<b>32,308</b>	<b>(32,250)</b>	<b>11,478</b>	<b>49,661</b>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

17 FUNDS (Cont'd)	2023	2022
<b>TOTAL FUNDS ANALYSIS BY ACADEMY</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:	£'000	£'000
Arden Academy Trust	2,333	1,917
Park Hall Academy	2,233	1,792
Lode Heath School	1,707	1,422
Henley in Arden School	644	502
Central Services	328	210
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	7,245	5,843
Restricted fixed assets fund	42,277	45,047
Pension reserve	(263)	(1,229)
	42,014	43,818
<b>Total</b>	<b>49,259</b>	<b>49,661</b>

**TOTAL COST ANALYSIS BY ACADEMY**

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

	Teaching & Educational Support Staff Costs	Other Support Staff Costs	Other Educational Supplies	Other Costs (excluding Dep'n)	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Arden Academy Trust	7,390	1,120	580	1,276	10,366	10,068
Park Hall Academy	5,570	1,269	666	1,687	9,192	8,138
Lode Heath School	4,844	654	481	4,255	10,234	6,264
Henley in Arden School	2,827	556	298	585	4,266	4,067
Central Services	1,042	730	111	220	2,103	2,378
<b>Academy Trust</b>	<b>21,673</b>	<b>4,329</b>	<b>2,136</b>	<b>8,023</b>	<b>36,161</b>	<b>30,915</b>

**18 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds	Pension Restricted Funds	General Restricted Funds	Fixed Assets Restricted Funds	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	42,134	42,134
Current assets	618	-	10,670	441	11,729
Current liabilities	-	-	(4,043)	(50)	(4,093)
Non current liabilities	-	-	-	(248)	(248)
Pension scheme liability	-	(263)	-	-	(263)
	<b>618</b>	<b>(263)</b>	<b>6,627</b>	<b>42,277</b>	<b>49,259</b>

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

Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds	Pension Restricted Funds	General Restricted Funds	Fixed Assets Restricted Funds	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	45,269	45,269
Current assets	479	-	9,327	16	9,822
Current liabilities	-	-	(3,963)	7	(3,956)
Non current liabilities	-	-	-	(245)	(245)
Pension scheme liability	-	(1,229)	-	-	(1,229)
	<b>479</b>	<b>(1,229)</b>	<b>5,364</b>	<b>45,047</b>	<b>49,661</b>



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

## 19 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	568	237
Authorised by trustees, but not yet contracted	1,697	1,001

£1,697,000 (2022 : £1,001,000) of the amount which is authorised by Trustees, but not yet contracted, is funded by ESFA capital grants.

## 20 LONG TERM COMMITMENTS INCLUDING OPERATING LEASES

a) *Operating leases*

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

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
• Within one year	67	68
• Between two to five years	18	41
• After five years	-	-
	<u>85</u>	<u>109</u>

b) *Private Finance Initiative (PFI)*

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

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
• Within one year	554	490
• Between two to five years	2,218	1,960
• After five years	3,881	3,920
	<u>6,653</u>	<u>6,370</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 facilities management, cleaning, and other ancillary services.

## 21 RECONCILIATION OF NET (DEFICIT)/INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Net (deficit)/income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(2,420)	58
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation (note 13)	1,321	1,335
Impairment charges (note 13)	3,570	-
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(1,456)	(1,214)
Interest receivable (note 6)	(12)	(1)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 28)	1,015	1,422
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 28)	37	196
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(59)	23
Increase in creditors	133	1,133
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<u>2,129</u>	<u>2,952</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

<b>22 CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	
Interest received	12	1	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,756)	(2,093)	
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	1,456	1,214	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(288)</b>	<b>(878)</b>	
<b>23 CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	
Repayments of borrowing	(42)	(80)	
Cash inflows from new borrowing	49	65	
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>(15)</b>	
<b>24 ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>At 31 Aug</b>	<b>At 31 Aug</b>	
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	
Cash in hand and at bank	11,128	9,280	
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>11,128</b>	<b>9,280</b>	
<b>25 ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT</b>	<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>At 31 Aug</b>
	<b>2022</b>	<b>Flows</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Cash at bank	9,280	1,848	11,128
	<u>9,280</u>	<u>1,848</u>	<u>11,128</u>
Loans within one year	(46)	(4)	(50)
Loans within more than one year	(245)	(3)	(248)
	<u>8,989</u>	<u>1,841</u>	<u>10,830</u>

**26 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

During the period of the Funding Agreement, in the event of the sale or disposal by other means of any asset for which a Government capital grant was received, the Academy is required either to re-invest the proceeds or to repay to the Secretary of State for Education the same proportion of the proceeds of the sale or disposal as equates with the proportion of the original cost met by the Secretary of State.

Upon termination of the Funding Agreement, whether as a result of the Secretary of State or the Academy serving notice, the Academy shall repay to the Secretary of State sums determined by reference to:

- the value at that time of the Academy's site and premises and other assets held for the purpose of the Academy: and
- the extent to which expenditure incurred in providing those assets was met by payments by the Secretary of State under the Funding Agreement.

**27 MEMBERS' LIABILITY**

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)****28 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 West Midlands Pension Fund. Both are defined multi employer benefit schemes.

The total pension cost to the academy during the year ended 31 August 2023 was £5,156,000 (2022: £5,422,000) of which £3,060,000 (2022: £2,844,000) relates to the TPS and £2,096,000 (2022: £2,578,000) relates to LGPS.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS to the period ended 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £479,445 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022: £440,637) and are included within other creditors.

**Teachers' Pension Scheme****Introduction**

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

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

**Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 30 October 2023. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

The revised employer contribution rate, arising from the 2020 valuation, is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2027.

The employers costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £3,060,000 (2022: £2,844,000).

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 a multi-employer pension scheme. The trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

**28 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (cont'd)****Local Government Pension Scheme**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit scheme, with the assets held in a separate trustee administered funds. The total contributions made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £1,353,000 (2022: £1,235,000) of which employers contributions totalled £1,044,000 (2022: £960,000) and employees contributions totalled £309,000 (2022: £275,000). The agreed contributions for future years for employers are 22% (2022: 21.7%) for Arden Academy Trust, 22% (2022: 21.7%) for Park Hall Academy, 22% (2022: 21.7%) for Lode Heath School and 25.4% (2022:25.7%) for Henley in Arden School. The average rate of contributions for employees are 6.1% (2022: 6.1%) for Arden Academy Trust, 6.1% (2022: 6.1%) for Park Hall Academy, 6.1% (2022: 6.1%) for Lode Heath School and 6.1% (2022: 6.1%) for Henley in Arden School.

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 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.

**Principal Actuarial Assumptions**

The major assumptions used by the actuary were:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>% per</b>	<b>% per</b>
	<b>annum</b>	<b>annum</b>
Discount rate	<b>5.2%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>
Salary increases	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>
Pension increase	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>

Sensitivity analysis for the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities were as follows:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Discount rate increased by 0.1% per annum	<b>(385)</b>	<b>(393)</b>
Assumed pension increased by 0.1% per annum	<b>365</b>	<b>356</b>
Life expectancy at retirement increased by 1 year	<b>734</b>	<b>741</b>

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

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>years</b>	<b>years</b>
Longevity at age 65 retiring today		
- Men	<b>20.4</b>	<b>21.3</b>
- Women	<b>24.0</b>	<b>23.7</b>
Longevity at age 65 retiring in 20 years		
- Men	<b>21.4</b>	<b>22.9</b>
- Women	<b>25.5</b>	<b>25.5</b>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

## 28 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (cont'd)

## Local Government Pension Scheme (cont'd)

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

	Fair value at 31 August 2023 £'000	Fair value at 31 August 2022 £'000
Equity instruments	12,946	11,765
Debt instruments	4,155	3,854
Property	1,554	1,483
Cash	709	670
Other	-	-
	<u>19,364</u>	<u>17,772</u>
<b>Present value of scheme liabilities</b>		
- Funded	(19,364)	(17,772)
- Unfunded	(263)	(1,229)
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<u>(19,627)</u>	<u>(19,001)</u>
<b>Deficit in the scheme</b>	<u>(263)</u>	<u>(1,229)</u>

The actual return on the scheme assets in the year was a surplus of £601,000 (2022: £564,000 deficit).

## Amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Current service cost	2,059	2,382
Net interest cost	37	196
<b>Total amount recognised in the SoFA</b>	<u>2,096</u>	<u>2,578</u>

## Change in deficit during the year

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Balance at 1 September 2022	1,229	11,089
Movement in year:		
Employer service cost (net of employee contributions)	2,059	2,382
Expected return on scheme assets	(776)	(293)
Interest cost	813	489
Employer contributions	(1,044)	(960)
Actuarial gain	(2,018)	(11,478)
<b>Deficit in the scheme at 31 August 2023</b>	<u>263</u>	<u>1,229</u>

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

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Scheme liabilities at 1 September 2022	19,001	28,460
Current service cost	2,059	2,382
Past service cost	-	-
Interest cost	813	489
Contributions by scheme participants	309	275
Benefits paid	(362)	(270)
Actuarial gain	(2,193)	(12,335)
<b>Scheme liabilities at 31 August 2023</b>	<u>19,627</u>	<u>19,001</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (cont'd)

**28 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (cont'd)****Local Government Pension Scheme (cont'd)**

<b>Changes in the fair value of academy's share of scheme assets:</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Fair value of scheme assets at 1 September 2022	17,772	17,371
Expected return on scheme assets	776	293
Contributions by employer	1,044	960
Contributions by scheme participants	309	275
Benefits paid	(362)	(270)
Actuarial loss	(175)	(857)
<b>Fair value of scheme assets at 31 August 2023</b>	<b>19,364</b>	<b>17,772</b>

The estimated value of employer contributions for the year ended 31 August 2024 is £1,052,000 (2023: £962,000).

**29 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Owing to the nature of the academy's trust's operations and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the board of trustees may have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and 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.

Solihull Alternative Provision Multi Academy Trust (SAPMAT), a company in which Mr M Murphy (Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer) is a trustee. Arden Multi Academy Trust provided support services totalling £Nil (2022: £16,392) to SAPMAT during the year. £Nil (inclusive of VAT) (2022: £Nil) was due from SAPMAT at 31 August 2023 in respect of these support services. Arden Multi Academy Trust also procured alternative provision services totalling £255,000 (2022: £153,080) from SAPMAT during the year with £Nil (2022: £Nil) outstanding at 31 August 2023.

**30 AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS**

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2023 the trust received £32,625 (2022: £34,689) and disbursed or repaid £36,423 (2022: £16,590) from the fund. An amount of £65,476 (2022: £54,817) is included in other creditors relating to the undistributed funds that is repayable to the ESFA.

**31 EVENTS AFTER THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD**

On the 01 September 2023 Coppice Academy converted to Academy status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Arden Multi Academy Trust from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council for nil consideration.

On the 01 September 2023 Dorridge Primary School converted to Academy status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Arden Multi Academy Trust from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council for nil consideration.

There are no further material adjusting or non adjusting events arising after the balance sheet date.