

Belthorn Academy Primary School
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

Belthorn Academy Primary School
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31st August 2023

Contents	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	2
Trustees' Report	3
Governance Statement	16
Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance	21
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	22
Independent Auditor's Report to the Members	23
Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity	26
Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income & Expenditure Account	28
Balance Sheet	29
Statement of Cash Flows	30
Notes to the Financial Statements	31

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Reference and Administrative Details

Year Ended 31st August 2023

Members	S Lowe Y Brown D Merrick
Trustees	E Nolan (Chair of Trustees) J Dawson (Vice Chair) Y Brown K Mcnamara (Appointed 27 th September 2022) C M Holden (Resigned 9 th November 2023) C Noon E O'Brien (Appointed 27 th September 2022) S Rostron (Resigned 9 th November 2023) S Carr (Resigned 9 th November 2022) A Mughal M Furness (Accounting Officer)
Secretary	A Berry (Resigned 31 st August 2023) L Nuttall (Appointed 1 st September 2023)
Senior Leadership Team	
- Headteacher	M Furness (Headteacher)
- School Business Manager	A Berry (Resigned 31 st August 2023)
- Deputy Head Teacher	K Drugan
- Assessment Co-ordinator	M Furness
- SENCO	S Carr
Principal and Registered Office	Belthorn Road Belthorn Blackburn BB1 2NY
Company Registration Number	07756219
Independent Auditor	CWR Chartered Accountants 20 Mannin Way Lancaster Business Park Caton Road Lancaster LA1 3SW
Solicitors	Browne Jacobson LLP Victoria Square House Victoria Square Birmingham B2 4BU

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2023

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

The trust operates an academy for pupils aged 2-11 serving a catchment area in the Village of Belthorn and the outlying areas of Guide and Lower Darwen. It has a pupil capacity of 236 and had a roll of 224 (Includes pre-school pupils) in the school census on 1st October 2022.

Little Bells Pre-School (Rising 3's), opened on 9 May 2016 (Deed of Variation dated 29th April, 2016 Sealed by Secretary of State). The accounts for this unit are amalgamated within the results of the academy for the purpose of this report. 35 children attended Little Bells pre-school during the accounting period.

Structure, Governance and Management

1.1 Constitution

Belthorn Primary School converted to Belthorn Academy Primary School ("the academy") on 1 October 2011 and commenced its activities on transfer from the Local Authority on that date. The academy is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy.

The Trustees are the trustees of Belthorn Academy Primary School and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the Trustees who served during the year are included in the reference and administrative details on page 2. The charitable company is known as Belthorn Academy Primary School.

1.2 Members' Liability

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

1.3 Trustees' Indemnities

The academy trust has opted into the Department for Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000.

1.4 Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The Trustees are appointed by the following:

Parent Trustees:	Elected by parents of the students of the academy
Staff Trustees:	Elected by staff of the academy
Other Trustees:	Elected by existing Trustees of the academy

1.5 Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees.

All Trustees are provided with a copy of the 'Duties and responsibilities of academy Trustees' on appointment. On-going training is provided through Lancashire County Council.

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2023

1.6 Organisational Structure

The academy is governed by its Governing Body, whose members are directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and trustees for the purposes of charity legislation. The organisational structure of the academy consists of 3 levels: The Governing Body, the Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team.

The Governing Body is responsible for setting general policies, adopting a school development plan and budget, monitoring the school's performance, making major policy decisions, appointing senior staff, election of link Trustees and reporting to both the Government and Companies House. Certain elements of these responsibilities are delegated to the following sub committees who make recommendations to the full Governing Body:

- . Audit, Risk And Staffing Sub-Committee
- . Pay Committee (meetings held as required to determine pay in-line with schools' pay policy (adopted from LCC))
- . Head Teacher Appraisal Committee

The Headteacher is also the Accounting Officer and has responsibility for:

- . Ensuring regularity and propriety
- . Efficient and effective use of resources - avoiding waste and extravagance
- . Prudent and economical administration
- . Day to day organisation, management and staffing pertaining to the academy

The Senior Leadership Team comprises:

- . Mrs. M Furness - Headteacher
- . Miss A Berry - School Business Manager (RESIGNED 07/23)
- . Mrs. K Drugan - Deputy Headteacher
- . Mr S Carr - SENCo

1.7 Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The remuneration and employment terms and conditions of the management team (Headteacher and SLT members) are in accordance with Lancashire County Councils guidance / Burgundy and Green Book and are reviewed annually at appraisal meetings.

1.8 Related Parties and Other Connected Charities and Organisations

Trustees, along with any entities controlled by the Trustees, are considered to be related parties of the academy. Any related party transactions with these people/organisations are disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2023

Objectives and Activities

2.1 Objects and Aims

The main objects of the academy as set out in its governing document are:

- To advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a school, offering a broad and balanced curriculum.
- To promote for the benefit of individuals living in Belthorn and the surrounding area who have by reason of their age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time activities in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said individuals.

The academy aims to maintain, carry on and develop the academy at Belthorn Road, Belthorn, Blackburn, Lancashire BB1 2NY.

2.2 Objectives, Strategies and Activities

Our key priorities are contained in our School Improvement Plan. Our improvement foci identified for the year (2022/23) include:

Quality of Education

1A- The curriculum is broad and balanced and remains so all the way through Key Stage 2. The school is proud of the pupils' high academic achievement at the end of Key Stage 2 but believe they have achieved these standards by ensuring that pupils' reading and writing is developed through the broader curriculum. There is a high expectation that pupils in each age group meet national expectations.

1B- Standards are exceptionally high despite the school ensuring that the curriculum is broad and takes account of all subjects. The school puts a great deal of emphasis on pupils acquiring key knowledge for each subject which they build on successfully as they move through the school. Pupils are exceptionally confident when talking about their learning.

1C- The quality of education provided for disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND is excellent. This enables them to fulfil their potential and achieve very highly. Leaders are determined that all pupils will receive an outstanding quality of education, including great teaching, and strive to this end. Pupil premium grant funding is used exceptionally well to support disadvantaged pupils and its impact is measurable and extremely positive. The leaders have researched to find examples of best practice in relation to pupil premium grant funding's impact.

2. Behaviour & Attitude

Pupils move around the school in an orderly manner and show that they respect the school's environment as a whole. Lunchtimes are well organised occasions with activities available for pupils to participate in. The dining area is a calm and orderly place where pupils are able to learn important social skills. The pupils with more challenging behaviour are dealt with effectively and their behaviour is improving. Pupils, parents and staff all agree that the behaviour policy is fair and applied well by all adults at the school.

3. Personal Development

3A- The school does much beyond the taught curriculum to prepare pupils for life. It provides excellent support for their talents and interests and encourages them beyond the school. The pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is excellent with the school being very proactive in helping pupils to know right from wrong. They are also helped to appreciate the commonalities and differences within cultures and religions represented in our country.

3B- The school is exceptionally proactive in helping to develop pupils' characters. There is a character education curriculum in place with specific focus on pupils' resilience, confidence and independence. There is an excellent ethos

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2023

in place, with pupils expected to solve problems using their own initiative. Pupils are encouraged to look after themselves by the promotion of the school's excellent physical and mental health programme

4. Leadership & Management

4A- Leaders ensure that highly effective and meaningful engagement takes place with staff at all levels and that issues are identified. When issues are identified – in particular about workload – they are consistently dealt with effectively and quickly. Staff consistently report high levels of support for well-being issues. Leaders have been proactive in engaging staff to consider areas where there is an unnecessary burden on their work. Consideration has already been given to planning, marking and assessment issues.

4B- Pupils' achievement has been exceptionally good for some time; with the progress they make being outstanding. This is as a result of leaders focusing on the quality of education provided. They do not tolerate anything other than excellent teaching and learning where staff are committed to providing the very best for the pupils. Teachers show levels of commitment that go beyond what is expected and there is a strong sense of pride about belonging to a great school.

4C- The school has an excellent relationship with its parents and is very highly thought of in the local community. Leaders are committed to this positive relationship and seek to involve parents fully in the school's work. As a result, pupils' quality of education is greatly enhanced. Leaders' efforts to protect pupils from radicalisation and extremism is exemplary. High quality training develops staff's vigilance, confidence and competency to challenge pupils' views and encourage debate.

2.3 Public Benefit

The Trustees are aware of the Charity Commission Guidance on providing public benefit and have had due regard to this in exercising their duties during the year. The Trustees believe that the Academy's educational objective and aims of educating local primary school children are demonstrably to the public benefit.

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2023

Strategic report

3. Achievements and Performance

KS1 & 2 Results:

2022/2023 KS1 External Results						
	Belthorn At least Expected	LA Average	National Average	Belthorn Greater Depth %	LA Greater Depth %	National Greater Depth %
Reading	70.0%	66.6%	68.3%	23.3%	16.6%	18.8%
Writing	66.6%	59.5%	60.1%	13.3%	7.6%	8.2%
Maths	76.7%	69.6%	70.4%	16.7%	14.5%	16.3%
RWM Combined	56.7%	54.9%	56.0%	10.0%	5.2%	6.2%
2022/2023 KS2 External Results						
	Belthorn At least Expected	LA Average	National Average	Belthorn Greater Depth %	LA Greater Depth %	National Greater Depth %
Reading	81.3%	71.5%	73.0%	34.4%	26.7%	29.0%
Writing	78.1%	70.8%	71.0%	18.8%	13.6%	13.0%
Maths	87.5%	73.1%	73.0%	18.8%	21.4%	24.0%
SPAG	90.6%	72.0%	72.0%	40.6%	27.3%	30.0%
RWM Combined	75.0%	58.1%	59.0%	9.4%	7.5%	8.0%
2021/2022 KS1 External Results						
	Belthorn At least Expected	LA Average	National Average	Belthorn Greater Depth %	LA Greater Depth %	National Greater Depth %
Reading	70.0%	66.6%	68.3%	23.3%	16.6%	18.8%
Writing	66.6%	59.5%	60.1%	13.3%	7.6%	8.2%
Maths	76.7%	69.6%	70.4%	16.7%	14.5%	16.3%
RWM Combined	56.7%	54.9%	56.0%	10.0%	5.2%	6.2%

Our KS1 & 2 results reflect the high quality teaching and learning and monitoring that has taken place. This is our second year of external results since Covid-19. We can see from the results we are returning if not surpassing our previous 2019 external attainment results.

Progress measures in KS2 this year were as follows:

- Writing KS2 progress = 2.2 (Significantly above national 84th percentile)
- Reading KS2 progress = 2.1 (81st percentile)
- Math's KS2 progress = 1.9 (78th percentile)

Congratulations to our pupils and staff for all their hard work this year. Another year of fantastic results.

Year 1 phonics			
Year	Belthorn	LA	National
2018/19	90.5%	81.0%	82.0%
2020/21			
2021/22	80.0%	74.0%	75.0%
2022/23	96.0%	77.2%	78.9%

Out of 25 pupils, 24 pupils met the expected standard. These results were significantly above national data, in the 95th percentile. In addition to quality first teaching of phonics, this year we introduced a new phonics scheme 'Little Wandle'. Through excellent subject leadership of this scheme, all staff have had first class training and were equipped to provide phonics based on the latest research.

3 out of 6 pupils in year 2 have now passed their phonics screening. The 3 remaining children will continue to receive catch-up intervention through KS2.

Key findings in attainment:

- Results – especially those at the end of KS2 were very positive and compare well to local and national averages, with Belthorn performing above these. Our focus remains on raising the attainment of all and ensuring those working at a higher standard achieve GDS particularly in Mathematics, as well as providing for those within the lowest 20% so that they can have the best start in secondary school.
- Results at the end of the year show that our reading for pleasure target, which was set from the previous year, has had a positive impact at the end of KS1 & 2 results for pupils meeting expected and Greater depth.
- Phonics results show that our children make good progress and achieve well at the end of the year. Phonics is taught consistently and with fidelity.
- The attainment data for SEND and disadvantaged children shows that this group of pupils has been impacted the most from missing large periods of time out of school. The budgeting for full time TA's in every class made a huge difference with teaching staff being able to deliver interventions in the afternoons as a result of this. However, there is still much work to be done in order for us to close that gap.
- Year multiplication results have seen an improvement from an average score of 15 the previous year followed by 18 in this academic year. However, this is still below the national average of 20 and does not reflect the results we are seeing in the external data. Next year we will work on stamina in years 2-6 in order for our pupils to better succeed in the assessment.

Monitoring

As in the previous year, there has been a rigorous monitoring schedule in 2022/23. Our monitoring lead worked closely with Subject Leaders across the whole curriculum. Book trawls, pop ins, pupil voice, environment walks and deep dives were timetabled into the year and this consistency has enabled support to be put in place to address concerns in a timely fashion. Subject leaders have been given extra time during release time and staff meeting time to carry out their monitoring tasks which continues to help with wellbeing and workload.

Learning Intentions continue to be monitored which gives the SLT and Subject Leaders an overview of any gaps in coverage. Analysis at the end of the year can be used to inform this year's curriculum. Our curriculum remains broad and balanced with staff working harder than ever to ensure all subjects are delivered and there is a growing focus on cross curricular themes.

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2023

Behaviour

Behaviour in school remains good with Behaviour for Learning (BFL) judged as outstanding in most classrooms. The staggered breaks and lunch time continues to work well and both pupil and staff voice has revealed that this is a positive change. Our strong, experience behaviour lead has continued to work with groups of pupils who sometimes struggle during non-directed time. This year the behaviour lead ran a lunch time club for some of our pupils who struggling to regulate themselves during this time. Pupils learnt about appropriate dinner table etiquette and a vast difference in behaviour was seen.

The tribal system in school continues to be a success and our Behaviour Lead monitors how this is used in line with the school Dojo reward system and our school value words. The new incentive for reaching a 100 dojos was a huge success this year. Pupils worked incredibly hard working their way through the milestones.

Wellbeing

Pupils

The Jenby's programme, which was introduced as part of our constant strive to improve mental health in our pupils, has continued to be well received. All pupils in year 2 & year 5 received the 6 weeks block course of emotions or anxiety programme.

Accrington Stanley have continued their involvement with school and the whole school has taken part in up and active programmes, and half termly sessions with Accrington Stanley. This again has had a positive impact on wellbeing.

Staff wellbeing

Staff wellbeing continues to be at the forefront of Leaderships decision making, staff questionnaires and termly supervisions have reflected this. Having a full team has also had a positive impact on staff who were previously carrying the extra workload.

Parents

Parent liaison has continued to be a strength of the school this year, particularly with the continuation of Parent hub, A forum for parents to express their opinions. We have continued to evolve our communication with parents and now more often use online parental questionnaires to aid I our decision making on topics which affect the pupils & parents.

Parent support at our fundraising events continues to be high. Helping school to raise over £11,000 in this year alone. All funds paid for the vast amount of trips and workshops school was able to provide without haven't to ask for parent contributions.

Community

Belthorn Academy has once again been involved in village events and spread the word that we are approachable and can be of great use to the village.

We have taken part in several community events including providing the food for the bonfire night & Christmas meals on wheels. Our children have been involved in carol singing, Halloween and Easter village treasure hunts and supporting the hospital through a fundraising event in school. Our new stage has also been used to host a performance of Funny Bones which the community were invited to.

We continue to work with the villagers with parking issues during pickup & drop-off times and have created many opportunities to help alleviate these issues.

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2023

3.1 Key Performance Indicators

Pupil Numbers

In July 2023 there were 196 pupils on roll (Reception-Year 6), which was an increase on the previous year and as a result of a dedicated marketing programme of events. Year group numbers average 28 children per year group:

Current Learner Characteristics by year group (2023/24)									
	Total	Boys	Girls	FSM (Ever6)	FSM	CLA	send (EHCP)	send Other	EAL
Reception	28	13	16	0	7	0	3		0
Year 1	30	19	11	0	4	1	30	2	0
Year 2	25	12	13	1	1	0	0	3	0
Year 3	30	17	13	0	4	2	0	5	0
Year4	22	12	10	1	1	0	0	0	0
Year5	30	11	19	0	4	0	0	4	0
Year 6	22	18	4	0	1	0	0	3	1

Ofsted Inspection Report

Following a Section 8 Monitoring visit by Ofsted on the 9th May 2018 Belthorn has continued to be deemed Good. This builds upon the outcomes of the Ofsted Inspection on the 13th May whereby the Academy was first judged 'Good' in all areas. We continue to work on the area for improvement arising from the inspection

Feedback from the School Advisor indicates that we continue to be good and outstanding behaviour was noted. The SLT feels that we are making steps towards a judgement of outstanding with consistent Quality First Teaching (QFT) and strong Subject Leadership being an important feature. Intervention within lessons as well as challenge is evidenced in all classes. Continued focus on raising standards and QFT in all year groups is in place. The use of teaching staff to deliver interventions has proved to have an impact on raising standards. Staff have valued time to spend with colleagues engaged in medium term planning and collaborative working. They have also found staff meeting times to conduct Subject Leader roles and tasks very useful.

Deep Dives in several curricular areas took place during 2022/23 conducted by advisory teachers, the Headteacher and Deputy Head. This has provided Subject Leaders with the opportunity to prepare for such an event during an Ofsted inspection. Feedback from these has been largely positive and any areas for improvement will be addressed during the Autumn term 2023. In addition to this, audits in English, EYFS & Geography from the LCC advisory team worked closely with Subject Leaders to study our curriculum and provide useful next steps.

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2023

Premises improvements were completed in the year as follows:

- Staff refurbished with new seating
- 2 chairs in the reception area re-covered
- New three-layer stage
- Brakes fitted to EYFS outside shutters
- Little Bells & Reception re-painted
- New lighting in EYFS area
- Lighting changed in all corridor areas
- More whiteboards added to all classrooms
- Lockers for EYFS
- Floodlights fitted to Little Bells & Year 1 outside areas
- Extractor fans fitted in school kitchen for added ventilation
- Velux window fittings replaced
- New sign-in system added to the front reception area
- Conference room created- Screen, blinds, flooring, furniture, sockets fitted, mag-locks to external door.
- Rubber Flooring added to EYFS & grassed over
- Mag locks fitted to Little Bells/Reception doors
- Water heater fitted in EYFS area
- New lighting in year 6
- Hall door fixed
- 2 new camera's fitted in Hall & Playground
- Trim-trail added to playground
- Carpet cleaning once per term
- Flooring in EYFS vinyl and carpeted
- EYFS full furniture refurbishment
- Replacement of bulkhead lighting in locker corridor
- Asbestos survey and report

ICT

ICT improvements were completed in the year as follows:

- The school purchased another class set of iPads to provide year 4 with individual devices to make use of educational software for improved curriculum access and identification of interventions required by class teachers. This software improves engagement with lower ability learners as they can ask for help in a more discreet manner.
- X2 monitors & x2 towers purchased for the office area
- X2 projector screens
- iPad for sign in software
- Wi-Fi booster for conference room
- Replacement monitor for reception area

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2023

Attendance

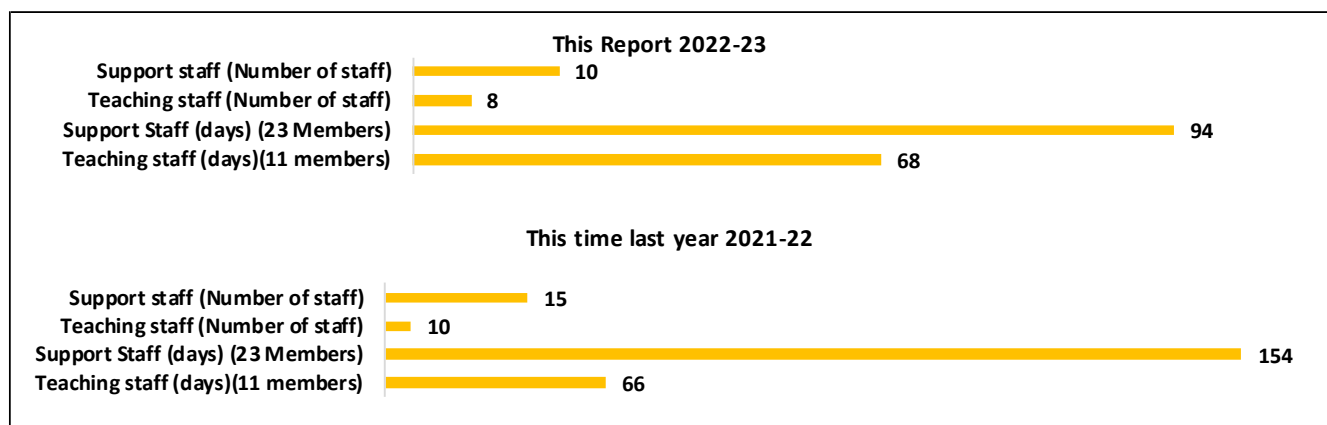
Pupil & Staff

Attendance figures for pupils for the period 1.9.22 to 21.7.23 are below:

Attendance by Year group and learner characteristics						
	Overall	Boys	Girls	Pupil Premium PP	Persistent Ab (All)	Persistent Ab (PP)
Reception	95.3%	95.0%	95.8%	95.8%	14.4%	0.0%
Year 1	95.3%	95.5%	95.1%	90.1%	14.7%	14.9%
Year 2	95.2%	95.2%	94.9%	95.6%	1.7%	0.0%
Year 3	95.5%	94.7%	95.8%	98.7%	11.7%	0.0%
Year 4	94.9%	94.6%	95.1%	90.6%	17.6%	22.5%
Year 5	94.4%	94.0%	93.5%	86.9%	13.0%	13.0%
Year 6	93.1%	94.9%	94.7%	83.6%	20.3%	20.3%

In 2022/23 academic year we have seen an overall improvement in the number of absences from our pupils. With an overall attendance rate of 94.8% for 2022/23 compared with the previous years 93.9%. Persistent absence has also shown a great improvement with 13.3% persistent absence for 2022/23, down from 16.74 the previous year.

Absence figures for staff for the period 1.9.22 to 21.7.23 compared with previous year are below:



In the 2022/23 academic year there has been an improvement in our absence rates for staff overall. With number of days lost due to illness down by 58 days.

3.2 Health & Safety

There have been no incidents or accidents that have necessitated reporting other than through the school's internal recording procedures.

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2023

Fire Drills continued to take place on a least a termly basis with findings reported to the GB.

Health and Safety walk rounds and maintenance checks continued to be made by Mr Griffiths and Ms Nuttall on a regular basis accompanied by Mr O'Brien as link Trustee.

3.3 Going Concern

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

4. Financial Review

4.1 Operating and Financial Review

The academy's total incoming resources during the year were £1,312,000. The majority of the academy's income derives from central government funding via the Education and Skills Funding Agency, in the form of current grants. Total funding received for the academy's educational operations in the year was £1,133,000.

Total outgoing resources for the year were £1,439,000, the majority of which related to the direct provision of educational operations. Excluding movements on the capital funds and Local Government Pension Scheme valuation, overall an in year deficit of £76,000 has been recorded.

At 31 August 2023 the academy held total reserves of £1,552,000, comprising unrestricted funds of £181,000 and restricted funds of £1,371,000. Restricted funds include fixed assets of £937,000, unspent DFC monies reserved for the solar panel installation of £21,000 and the LGPS pension scheme surplus of £393,000. The remaining balance represents the restricted general fund which amounted to £20,000 and related to the surplus on GAG funding from the ESFA.

At 31 August 2023 all assets shown in the accounts were used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to students of the school and nursery.

On conversion in 2011 the School inherited a deficit of £169,000 in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme, which many of the non-teaching staff belong to. This became a surplus of £393,000 by 31 August 2023, mainly due to changes in actuarial assumptions regarding future returns on investments and the present value of future liabilities. Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding local government pension scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013 and on 21 July 2022 the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment with a parliamentary notice.

The academy's financial management policies are as follows:

- The constant scrutiny of all finances at Belthorn Academy Primary School. Trustees are aware that the monitoring of fluctuations in pupil numbers is of major importance as this determines the school's income levels.
- To monitor all budgets - planning and use to set objectives, agree actions and allocated resources.
- To monitor and evaluate best value in all areas - purchases, services and staff.
- To prevent any wastage.
- To maximise the value of the school's assets and obtain the best rate of return.
- To invest in a well thought out three-year plan improving management and future financial stability.
- To utilise Trustee specialist professional knowledge.
- To implement the schools risk and investment policies.
- For Trustees to review management accounts on a monthly basis.

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2023

4.2 Reserves Policy

At 31 August 2023 the school held the following reserves:

	2023	2022
Total reserves	1,552,000	1,241,000
(Less)/Add back pension reserve	(393,000)	42,000
Less reserves attributable to Fixed Assets	(958,000)	(1,006,000)
Unrestricted and general restricted funds	201,000	277,000

Total restricted GAG funds, other restricted funds and unrestricted funds amounted to £201,000 at 31 August 2023. These funds will be used to provide working capital to cover delays between the spending and receipt of grants and also as a cushion against any variance in pupil numbers.

The reserves policy is to retain a minimum level of general restricted and unrestricted funds of £60,000 and a maximum of 12% of GAG, which would be equal to £102,000. Current reserves are higher than this but there is an expectation that these will be reduced in the short term by reduced funding due to fluctuating pupil numbers.

A discussion has been held with the ESFA financial link to review the use of reserves and the reasons for this as part of 3 year financial planning.

4.3 Investment Policy

All investments are agreed by the Governing Body, which has regard to the Charity Commission guidance in relation to charity investment policy. The school does not currently hold any investments other than cash, which is held for its normal operations. The Governing Body has adopted a low risk strategy to its cash holdings. Surplus cash is held in a current account to ensure that there is always access to sufficient cash to meet short and medium term requirements.

4.4 Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the academy is exposed, in particular those relating to teaching, health and safety, school trips, child protection, and finances. These risks are reviewed on an annual basis by the Teaching & Learning, Resources and Audit and Risk Committees.

The internal scrutiny role is held by Shard Business Services, headed by a former school business professional. A new calendar of scrutiny had been set for 2022/23 to provide timely information to Trustees. Topics scrutinised included budget setting, data protection, cyber security and overall risk management including risk register use.

The Trustees have undertaken a risk review and completed a risk register. The risk register has been reviewed on a termly basis. A risk policy has been developed to mitigate the risks identified.

The principal risks are deemed to be:

- Variation in pupil numbers
- Disaster recovery

4.5 Fundraising

The school takes a community approach to fundraising with an active PTFA to raise funds to support school trips and enrichment activities.

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2023

The school does not work with any professional fundraisers or commercial partners, but does gratefully accept donations from commercial organisations such as raffle prizes to support school events.

No members of the school community, or others, are pressured to donate to any fundraising events, these are willingly supported. The school would accept any complaints with regards to fundraising under its Complaints Policy.

Funds raised are monitored by the Trustees of the school and audited annually.

5. Plans for Future Periods

The academy intends to action fully the areas for development as detailed in the academy's School Improvement Plan.

6. Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, onand signed on the board's behalf by:

.....
Mrs E Nolan
Chair of Trustees

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Governance Statement

Year Ended 31st August 2023

7.1 Scope of Responsibility

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

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 Head Teacher, 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 Belthorn Academy Primary School and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

7.2 Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The governing body has formally met 13 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the governing body was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings Attended	Meetings Absent
Mrs E Nolan (Chair of Trustees)	12	1
Mr J Dawson (Vice Chair of Trustees)	12	0
Mrs Y Brown	13	0
Mrs K McNamara	11	0
Mr S Carr	1	0
Mrs M Furness (Accounting Officer)	13	0
Mrs C Holden	6	3
Mrs C Noon	7	2
Mr Edward O'Brien	9	2
Mr Ashiq Mughal	0	1
Mr Stephen Lowe (Member)	1	0
Mr David Merrick (Member)	1	0

The board maintains a skills audit, and all governors are appointed based on the skills, knowledge, and experience they can bring to the board. Vacancies are filled through processes which either use an election process for parent governors or via national organisations that specialise in governor recruitment or local advertising. Our staff governor, Stuart Carr, left the board in November 2022. Due to the governments best practice advice not to have staff governors on governing boards, we decided not to replace this role and that it would be reviewed annually.

We appointed Katharine McNamara, Edward O'Brien and Ashiq Mughal. Our new governors bring a range of experience that we know will strengthen the board and help us address some of the ongoing educational challenges we face.

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Governance Statement

Year Ended 31st August 2023

Following an external review of governance by the National Governance Association (NGA), a Trustee Development Plan has been created. Annual Skills Audits for individual Trustees were done during the summer term, along with a 360 degree review of the Chair's performance. Succession planning remains as a key tool for us to identify skill gap areas and recruit for the board where relevant.

During the 2022/23 school year, the Governing Board undertook the following:

- Health and Safety monitoring, including accident reports and fire drills
- Monitoring of academy accounts and audit reports to ensure effective financial management and compliance with legal requirements
- Agreed the arrangements for internal scrutiny in order to ensure effective financial monitoring, and compliance with the Academies Financial Handbook
- Regular review of the risk register
- Review of data protection policy and discussions regarding GDPR to ensure that the school was compliant with regulatory requirements
- External review of governance
- Review and update of Critical Incident Plan
- Review and sign-off of risk assessments
- Financial Management, budget-setting and monitoring including use of Pupil Premium grant
- Staff performance and pay reviews in line with adopted Pay Policy
- Review all relevant policies
- Meeting the requirements for the Schools Resource Management Self-Assessment (SRMSA), and the Academies Financial Handbook
- Reviewing the school to ensure it maintains as a going concern
- Review of the PE and Sports premium, ensuring that this was used in line with the school's priorities
- Regular review of benchmarking information to aid effective use of resources
- Strategic priorities for marketing the school which align to the areas identified on the SWOT analysis
- Reviewing the 5 year strategic plan and adjusting accordingly to reflect the current climate.
- Building developments/improvements
- Signing off additional projects such as the Solar Panels and the changes to the EYFS environment.
- Ensuring compliance with relevant statutory requirements
- Review of Service Level Agreements (SLAs) to ensure value for money
- Data analysis – attainment and pupil progress
- Monitoring Special Educational Needs provision

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Governance Statement

Year Ended 31st August 2023

- Monitoring pupil attendance
- Monitoring pupil behaviour and safety
- Monitoring child protection, safeguarding and pupil welfare
- Monitoring the Concept Curriculum, and extra-curricular activities
- Ensuring compliance with relevant statutory requirements
- Introduction of the new Head Teachers report which is KPI driven
- Monitoring of well-being of staff, including 1-2-1 discussions with Chair of Trustees
- Monitoring of School Improvement Plan (SIP)
- Monitoring of School Self-Evaluation Form (SEF)
- Governing Board development plan, including succession planning and new Trustee recruitment
- Trustee training on: Prevent and Safeguarding
 - Financial and Data Benchmarking
 - Curriculum Effectiveness
 - Operational vs Strategic frameworks
 - Environmental Sustainability
 - Risk Management
 - Ofsted preparation
 - Self Evaluation & Board Development
 - Health & Safety
 - Online Safety
 - Visions, Values and Strategy
 - Effective School Visits and Questioning
 - Income Funding and Generation
 - Pupil Premium
 - ECHPs
 - SEND
- Review of impact of decisions made at Governing Board meetings

7.3 Review of Value for Money

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

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

- Deploying staff to best promote high quality teaching and learning based on their skills, aptitude and experience.
- Ensuring best value-for-money when purchasing resources to ensure the maximum number of children possible benefit.
- Using the training available through Lancashire County Council and other providers to ensure that all Trustees are well-trained in their role, and that any gaps in skills are addressed.

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Governance Statement

Year Ended 31st August 2023

7.4 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 the Academy Trust's 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 Belthorn Academy Primary School for the year ended 31st August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

7.5 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 on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year ended 31st 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.

7.6 The Risk and Control Framework

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

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

The Board of Trustees has decided to buy-in an internal audit service from Shard Business Services.

The reviewer's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial and other systems.

On a termly basis, the reviewer 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 and prepares an annual summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

7.7 Review of Effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process or 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.

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Governance Statement

Year Ended 31st August 2023

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

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

.....
Mrs E Nolan
Chair of Trustees

.....
Mrs M Furness
Accounting Officer

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

Year Ended 31st August 2023

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

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

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

.....
Mrs M Furness
Accounting Officer

Date:

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Year Ended 31st August 2023

The trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (including the Strategic Report and Directors' Report) and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction published by the Education & 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 the incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

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 to the requirements both of propriety and good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring that grants received from the Education & Skills Funding Agency and Department for Education 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 onand signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mrs E Nolan
Chair of Trustees

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Belthorn Academy Primary School

Year Ended 31st August 2023

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

(Continued)

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Belthorn Academy Primary School

Year Ended 31st August 2023

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report which includes the strategic report and the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within the trustees report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' 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 22, the trustees (who are also the directors of the Academy Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

(Continued)

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Belthorn Academy Primary School

Year Ended 31st August 2023

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.

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

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

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

.....
Mr Robert Mitchell FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of CWR Chartered Accountants
20 Mannin Way
Lancaster Business Park
Caton Road
Lancaster
LA1 3SW

Date:

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Belthorn Academy Primary School and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

Year Ended 31st August 2023

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 31st August 2023 and further to the requirements of the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Belthorn Academy Primary School during the year from the 1st September 2022 to the 31st 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 Belthorn Academy Primary School and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Belthorn Academy Primary School and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Belthorn Academy Primary School and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Belthorn Academy Primary School's Accounting Officer and the reporting accountant

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

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusions includes:

- Obtaining evidence including those tests relevant to the circumstances of the Academy Trust as prescribed in Section 4 of the Guide For External Auditors section of the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the ESFA; and
- Planning and performing any additional tests we deemed necessary to express an opinion on regularity.

(Continued)

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Belthorn Academy Primary School and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

Year Ended 31st August 2023

Conclusion

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

.....
Mr Robert Mitchell FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of CWR Chartered Accountants
20 Mannin Way
Lancaster Business Park
Caton Road
Lancaster
LA1 3SW

Date:

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income & Expenditure Account

Year Ended 31st August 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	-	12	21	33	23
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations	3	-	1,133	-	1,133	1,022
Other trading activities	4	146	-	-	146	142
Investments	5	-	-	-	-	-
Total		146	1,145	21	1,312	1,187
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
Academy trust's educational operations	6,7	146	1,187	106	1,439	1,337
Total		146	1,187	106	1,439	1,337
Net expenditure		-	(42)	(85)	(127)	(150)
Transfers between funds	14	(50)	13	37	-	-
Other recognised gains						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	14, 25	-	438	-	438	1,017
Net movement in funds		(50)	409	(48)	311	867
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	14	231	4	1,006	1,241	374
Total funds carried forward	14	181	413	958	1,552	1,241

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Balance Sheet

Year Ended 31st August 2023

	Notes	2023 £000	2023 £000	2022 £000	2022 £000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		937		1,006
Current assets					
Debtors	12	33		27	
Cash at bank and in hand		282		351	
		315		378	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(93)		(101)	
Net current assets			222		277
Total assets less current liabilities			1,159		1,283
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			-		-
Net assets excluding pension liability			1,159		1,283
Defined benefit pension scheme surplus/(liability)	25		393		(42)
Net assets including pension liability			1,552		1,241
Funds of the Academy Trust:					
Restricted funds					
Fixed asset fund	14	958		1,006	
Restricted income fund	14	20		46	
Pension reserve	14	393		(42)	
Total restricted funds			1,371		1,010
Unrestricted income funds	14		181		231
Total funds			1,552		1,241

The financial statements on pages 28 to 52 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on the and are signed on their behalf by:

.....
Mrs E Nolan
Chair of Trustees

Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number: 07756219

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended 31st August 2023

	Notes	2023 £000	2022 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	18	(53)	11
Cash flows from investing activities	20	(16)	(15)
Cash flows from financing activities	19	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<hr/> (69) <hr/>	<hr/> (4) <hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1st September 2022		351	355
Cash and cash equivalents at 31st August 2023	21/22	<hr/> 282 <hr/>	<hr/> 351 <hr/>

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

1 Accounting policies

General information and basis of preparation

Belthorn Academy Primary School is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England. The address of the registered office is given in the Reference and Administrative Details given on page 2 of these financial statements and the principal place of business is Belthorn Road, Belthorn, Blackburn, BB1 2NY. The nature of the Academy Trusts operations and principal activities are set out in the Trustees' Report on page 3.

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) 2019), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

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

Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Academy Trust to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of 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 receivable**

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

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

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

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Income (continued)

- **Donations**

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

- **Other income**

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

- **Donated goods, facilities and services**

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

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.

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Expenditure (continued)

- **Expenditure on raising funds**

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

- **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Tangible fixed assets

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

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight line basis over its expected useful lives, as follows:

Freehold buildings	2% - 10% straight line
Furniture and equipment	20% straight line
Computer equipment	33% straight line

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

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

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Liabilities

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

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Academy Trust has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event which it is probable will result in the transfer of economic benefits and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

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 12. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments (continued)

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

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

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Academy Trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to net operating income/(expenditure) are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability 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.

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Fund Accounting

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

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

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

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 25, 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 31st March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31st August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement

The academy's freehold land and buildings are wholly used in the course of the academy's business. At the date of transition to FRS 102, the freehold land and buildings were measured at their fair value at 1st September 2014, which upon transition, was interpreted as deemed cost. Subsequent purchases of land and buildings are initially measure at cost.

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Capital grants	-	21	21	5
Trip income	-	12	12	18
	<u>-</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>23</u>

Income from donations and capital grants was £33,000 (2022 - £23,000) of which £nil (2022 - £nil) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £12,000 (2022 - £18,000) was attributable to restricted general funds and £21,000 (2022 - £5,000) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

£21,000 (2022 - £5,000) of government grants were received for capital and maintenance works.

3 Funding for Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	854	854	791
Other DfE Group grants:				
Pupil Premium	-	37	37	36
UIFSM grant	-	33	33	31
PE and Sport Premium grant	-	18	18	18
Supplementary grant	-	25	25	10
Mainstream Schools Additional Grant	-	13	13	-
Rates grant	-	3	3	3
Other grants	-	12	12	13
	<u>-</u>	<u>995</u>	<u>995</u>	<u>902</u>
Other Government grants				
Local Authority grants	-	131	131	123
	<u>-</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>123</u>
Exceptional Government funding				
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grant	-	-	-	(3)
Other DfE/ESFA Covid-19 funding	-	7	7	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>(3)</u>
Total	<u>-</u>	<u>1,133</u>	<u>1,133</u>	<u>1,022</u>

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

3 Funding for Academy Trust's educational operations (continued)

Funding for Academy Trust's educational operations was £1,133,000 (2022 - £1,022,000) of which £nil (2022 - £nil) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £1,133,000 (2022 - £1,022,000) was attributable to restricted general funds and £nil (2022 - £nil) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

£1,133,000 (2022 - £1,022,000) of government grants were received for the purposes of the day to day running costs of the Academy and its charitable objectives.

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Hire of facilities	2	-	2	-
Catering income	22	-	22	22
Other income	122	-	122	120
	<u>146</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>146</u>	<u>142</u>

Income from other trading activities was £146,000 (2022 - £142,000) of which £146,000 (2022 - £142,000) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £nil (2022 - £nil) was attributable to restricted general funds and £nil (2022 - £nil) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Short term deposits	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Investment income was £nil (2022 - £nil) of which £nil (2022 - £nil) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £nil (2022 - £nil) was attributable to restricted general funds and £nil (2022 - £nil) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

6 Expenditure

	Non Pay Expenditure				
	Staff		Other	Total	Total
	Costs	Premises	Costs	2023	2022
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Academy Trust's educational operations					
Direct costs	848	21	86	955	797
Allocated support costs	181	175	128	484	540
	<u>1,029</u>	<u>196</u>	<u>214</u>	<u>1,439</u>	<u>1,337</u>

£146,000 (2022 - £43,000) of the above expenditure on the Academy Trust's educational operations was attributable to unrestricted funds, £1,187,000 (2022 - £1,197,000) was attributable to restricted general funds and £106,000 (2022 - £97,000) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

Net income/expenditure for the year includes:

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Operating lease rentals	-	-
Depreciation	106	97
(Gain)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	-
Fees payable to the auditor for:		
Audit	8	8
Other services	3	4
	<u>117</u>	<u>109</u>

No additional transactions have taken place under Section 5.2 of the 2022 Academies Financial Handbook which require additional disclosure.

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

7 Charitable activities

	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Direct costs – educational operations	955	797
Support costs – educational operations	484	540
	<u>1,439</u>	<u>1,337</u>

Analysis of direct costs

	Educational operations £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Direct staff costs	848	848	700
Learning resources	36	36	23
School trips and visits	24	24	17
Other direct costs	47	47	57
Total direct costs	<u>955</u>	<u>955</u>	<u>797</u>

Analysis of support costs

	Educational operations £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Support staff costs	181	181	297
Depreciation	86	86	79
Premises costs	89	89	65
Legal costs – other	-	-	1
Other support costs	112	112	81
Governance costs	16	16	17
Total support costs	<u>484</u>	<u>484</u>	<u>540</u>

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

8 Staff

(a) Staff costs

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Staff costs during the period were:		
Wages and salaries	815	716
Social security costs	70	61
Pension costs	120	221
	<u>1,005</u>	<u>998</u>
Agency staff costs	24	10
Staff restructuring costs	-	10
	<u>1,029</u>	<u>1,018</u>
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Redundancy payments	-	-
Severance payments	-	10
Other restructuring costs	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>10</u>

(b) Severance payments

The Academy Trust paid no severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

	No.
£0 - £25,000	-
£25,001 - £50,000	-
£50,001 - £100,000	-
	<u>-</u>

(c) Special severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £nil (2022: £10,000). Individually, the payments were £nil (2022: £10,000).

(d) Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the Academy Trust during the year, and the full-time equivalents, was as follows:

	2023 Number	2023 Full-time equivalent	2022 Number	2022 Full-time equivalent
Teachers	11	9	7	5
Administration and support	20	15	26	13
Management	3	3	5	5
	<u>34</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>23</u>

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

8 Staff (continued)

(e) Higher paid staff

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	-	-
£70,001 - £80,000	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-

(f) Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the trustees and the senior leadership team as listed on page 2. 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 £250,000 (2022: £180,000).

9 Related party transactions - Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more trustees have been paid remuneration or have received other benefits from employment with the Academy Trust. The Principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Principal and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their role as trustees. The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

M Furness (Principal and trustee):

Remuneration	£55,000 - £60,000. (2022: £50,000 - £55,000)
Employers' pension contributions	£nil - £5,000. (2022: £nil - £5,000)

S Carr (staff trustee) (resigned 9th November 2022):

Remuneration	£5,000 - £10,000. (2022: £40,000 - £45,000)
Employers' pension contributions	£nil - £5,000. (2022: £5,000 - £10,000)

During the year ended 31st August 2023, no travel and subsistence expenses were reimbursed or paid directly to trustees (2022: £nil to trustees).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 26.

10 Trustees' and officers' insurance

The Academy Trust has opted into the Department for Education's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the trustees and officers' indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Land and Buildings £000	Furniture and Fixtures £000	Computer Equipment £000	Total £000
Cost				
At 1 st September 2022	1,504	66	140	1,710
Additions	-	23	14	37
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 st August 2023	1,504	89	154	1747
Depreciation				
At 1 st September 2022	540	55	109	704
Charged in period	74	12	20	106
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 st August 2023	614	67	129	810
Net book values				
At 31 st August 2022	964	11	31	1,006
At 31 st August 2023	890	22	25	937

12 Debtors

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Trade debtors	3	-
VAT recoverable	2	5
Other debtors	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	28	22
	33	27

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Trade creditors	26	26
Other taxation and social security	18	17
Other creditors	16	17
Accruals and deferred income	33	41
	93	101
Deferred income		
	2023 £000	2022 £000
Deferred income at start of year	18	18
Released from previous years	(18)	(18)
Resources deferred in the year	22	18
Deferred income at end of year	22	18

At the balance sheet date, the academy trust was holding funds in advance for the Universal Infant Free School Meals programme.

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

14 Funds

	Balance at 1 st September 2022 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains, Losses and Transfers £000	Balance at 31 st August 2023 £000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	854	(847)	13	20
Pupil premium grant	-	37	(37)	-	-
UIFSM grant	-	33	(33)	-	-
PE and Sport Premium grant	-	18	(18)	-	-
Supplementary grant	-	25	(25)	-	-
Mainstream Schools Additional Grant	-	13	(13)	-	-
Rates grant	-	3	(3)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	34	19	(53)	-	-
Local Authority grants	-	131	(131)	-	-
Other restricted funds	12	12	(24)	-	-
Pension reserve	(42)	-	(3)	438	393
	4	1,145	(1,187)	451	413
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	752	-	(15)	-	737
DfE/ESFA capital grants	-	21	-	-	21
Other capitalised assets	254	-	(91)	37	200
	1,006	21	(106)	37	958
Total restricted funds	1,010	1,166	(1,293)	488	1,371
Total unrestricted funds	231	146	(146)	(50)	181
Total funds	1,241	1,312	(1,439)	438	1,552

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

The General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31st August 2023. At the period end the carry forward of GAG funding was £20,000.

Other DfE/ESFA grants include monies received outside of GAG funding, for example, National Tutoring Programme, Recovery Premium, Supplementary grant and Mainstream School Additional Grant. These funds have been spent in full by the 31st August 2023.

Local Authority grants represent amounts payable to the Academy predominantly from Lancashire County Council. A large percentage of these funds relate specifically to Special Educational Needs (SEN). As at the 31st August 2023 these funds had been spent in full.

DfE/ESFA capital grants represent capital monies received during the period from the ESFA. As at the 31st August 2023 the carry forward on the capital grants funding towards the solar panels installed in 2023/24 was £21,000.

Capitalised assets represent the value of assets purchased since conversion to academy status. These will be depreciated in line with the accounting policies set out in note 1.

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

14 Funds (continued)

Transfer on conversion represents the transfer of freehold land and building assets, valued at £919,000 per the valuation carried out in 2011, into the Academy on conversion to academy status, with the buildings being depreciated over a 50 year period.

Unrestricted funds represent funds generated via activities such as from lettings, catering income, school clubs, the nursery and bank interest receivable. The surplus on this fund at the period end was £181,000 and these funds can be used at the discretion of the Governors to meet the charitable objectives of the Academy.

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

	Balance at 1 st September 2021 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains, Losses and Transfers £000	Balance at 31 st August 2022 £000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	791	(862)	71	-
Pupil premium grant	-	36	(36)	-	-
UIFSM grant	-	31	(31)	-	-
PE and Sport Premium grant	-	18	(18)	-	-
Supplementary grant	-	10	(10)	-	-
Rates grant	-	-	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	4	17	(21)	-	-
Local Authority grants	34	120	(120)	-	34
Other restricted funds	-	23	(11)	-	12
Pension reserve	(970)	-	(89)	1,017	(42)
	(932)	1,046	(1,198)	1,088	4
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	767	-	(15)	-	752
DfE/ESFA capital grants	15	5	-	(20)	-
Other capitalised assets	316	-	(81)	19	254
ESFA building valuation	-	-	-	-	-
	1,098	5	(96)	(1)	1,006
Total restricted funds	166	1,051	(1,294)	1,087	1,010
Total unrestricted funds	208	136	(43)	(70)	231
Total funds	374	1,187	(1,337)	1,017	1,241

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31st August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total Funds £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	937	937
Current assets	181	113	21	315
Current liabilities	-	(93)	-	(93)
Pension scheme surplus	-	393	-	393
Total net assets	181	413	958	1,552

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

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total Funds £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	1,006	1,006
Current assets	231	147	-	378
Current liabilities	-	(101)	-	(101)
Pension scheme liability	-	(42)	-	(42)
Total net assets	231	4	1,006	1,241

16 Capital commitments

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	-	-

17 Commitments under operating leases

Operating leases

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

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Amounts due within one year	-	-
Amounts due between one and five years	-	-
Amounts due after five years	-	-
	-	-

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

18 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash inflow from operating activities

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Net (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(127)	(150)
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation (note 11)	106	97
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(21)	(5)
Interest receivable (note 5)	-	-
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 25)	1	72
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 25)	1	17
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(6)	33
(Decrease) in creditors	(7)	(53)
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	(53)	11

19 Cash flows from financing activities

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Repayments of borrowing	-	-
Cash inflows from borrowing	-	-
Net cash provided by financing activities	-	-

20 Cash flows from investing activities

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Interest receivable	-	-
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets	-	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(37)	(20)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	21	5
Capital funding received from others	-	-
Net cash used in investing activities	(16)	(15)

21 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	282	351
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	-	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	282	351

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

22 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 st September 2022	Cash flows	Acquisition / disposal of subsidiaries	Finance leases	Other non-cash changes	At 31 st August 2023
Cash	351	(69)	-	-	-	282
Cash equivalents	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overdraft facilities repayable on demand	-	-	-	-	-	-
	351	(69)	-	-	-	282
Loans falling due within one year	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loans falling due after more than one year	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finance lease obligations	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	351	(69)	-	-	-	282

23 Contingent Liabilities

During the period of the funding agreement, in the event of the sale or disposal by other means of any capital asset for which a Government Capital grant was received, the School is required to either re-invest the proceeds or to repay 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, as the Secretary of State may require.

24 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.

25 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 Lancashire County Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined-benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was 31st March 2016 and of the LGPS 31st March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £12,000 (2022: £8,000) were payable to the schemes at 31st August 2023 and are included within creditors.

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers in academies and, from 1st January 2007, automatic for teachers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract, although they are able to opt out.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions along with those made by employers 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 31st March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 5th March 2019. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

Employer's pensions costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £57,000 (2022: £61,000).

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

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31st August 2023 was £82,000 (2022: £90,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £65,000 (2022: £71,000), and employees' contributions totalled £17,000 (2022: £19,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 18.9% for employers and the rate for employees remains dependant on the earnings of the employee.

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

As described in note 1 the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Academy Trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the period. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Academy Trust at the balance sheet date.

Principal Actuarial Assumptions

	At 31 st August 2023	At 31 st August 2022
Rate of increase in salaries	5.3%	4.3%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.9%	2.9%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.3%	4.3%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.8%	2.8%

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

	At 31 st August 2023	At 31 st August 2022
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.0	22.3
Females	23.4	25.0
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.2	23.7
Females	25.2	26.8

Sensitivity analysis

		Sensitivity 1	Sensitivity 2	Sensitivity 3	Sensitivity 4
	Central £000	+0.1% pa discount rate £000	+0.1% pa inflation £000	+0.1% pa pay growth £000	1 year inc in life expectancy £000
Liabilities	1,479	1,349	1,548	1,494	1,510
Assets	(1,872)	(1,872)	(1,872)	(1,872)	(1,872)
Surplus	(393)	(523)	(324)	(378)	(362)
Projected service cost	46	39	49	46	47
Projected net interest	(22)	(32)	(18)	(21)	(20)

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

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

	Fair value at 31st August 2023	Fair value at 31st August 2022
Equities	907	660
Gilts	7	-
Corporate bonds	-	61
Property	178	152
Cash and other liquid assets	11	22
Other	769	502
Total market value of assets	1,872	1,397

The actual return on scheme assets was £32,000 (2022: £99,000).

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Current service cost (net of employer contributions)	(1)	70
Interest income	(61)	(22)
Interest expense	63	39
Admin expenses	2	2
Total operating charge	3	89

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

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

	2023 £000	2022 £000
At 1st September	1,439	2,308
Current service cost	64	141
Interest cost	63	39
Employee contributions	17	19
Actuarial gain	(78)	(940)
Benefits paid	(26)	(128)
At 31st August	<u>1,479</u>	<u>1,439</u>

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

	2023 £000	2022 £000
At 1st September	1,397	1,338
Interest income	61	22
Actuarial gain	360	77
Employer contributions	65	71
Employee contributions	17	19
Benefits paid	(26)	(128)
Admin expenses	(2)	(2)
At 31st August	<u>1,872</u>	<u>1,397</u>

26 Related Party Transactions

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

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 9.