

Company Registration No. 07695771 (England and Wales)

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

Dame D Ross-Wawrzynski
J Kelly
Y Patel

Trustees

Dr J W Stephens CBE (Accounting Officer)
D Rubin (Chair of the Board)
R Leggett (Chair of Remuneration Committee)
I Ashworth (Chair of Audit Committee)
M Whilby
K Clough
M Tonge
S Myers
A Gormally (Appointed 1 November 2023)
R E Moonan (Appointed 1 November 2023)

Senior management team

- Chief Executive Officer	Dr J W Stephens CBE
- Deputy Chief Executive	T E Vitalis FCCA (Resigned 31 December 2023)
- Chief Financial Officer	A Sharpley (Appointed 1 January 2024)
- Director of Education & Executive Principal	G Handforth (Resigned 31 January 2024)
- Director of People & Strategy	L Beckett
- Deputy Chief Executive Officer	L Fathers

Company secretary

A Sharpley

Company registration number

07695771 (England and Wales)

Registered office

The Hub
144 Irlam Road
Urmston
Manchester
M41 6NA

Academies operated

Professional Development Institute
Altrincham Grammar School for Girls
Cedar Mount Academy
Marton Primary Academy and Nursery
Melland High School
Rushbrook Primary Academy
South Shore Academy
Stanley Grove Primary Academy
Acre Hall Primary School
Barton Clough Primary School
Elmridge Primary School
Lime Tree Primary Academy
The Orchards

Location

Trafford
Trafford
Manchester
Blackpool
Manchester
Manchester
Blackpool
Manchester
Trafford
Trafford
Trafford
Trafford
Trafford

Principal/Head of School

J Carmichael
S Gill
K Hodgson
A Coyle
S Warner
M Carroll
N Kay (Interim)
A Footman
C Catherall
J Foster - Carr
R Bolton
C Larkin
H O'Brien

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent auditor

Cooper Parry Group Limited
St James Building
79 Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 6HT

Solicitors

Browne Jacobson LLP
Mowbray House
Castle Meadow Road
Nottingham
NG2 1BJ

Hill Dickinson LLP
50 Fountain Street
Manchester
M2 2AS

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The trustees present their annual report together with the accounts and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report for 2023-24. Included in the report are the accounts and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024. The annual report is also a directors' report under company law.

The academy trust operates twelve academies in the north-west of England. These comprise eight primary schools (including a specialist primary), two 11-16 secondary schools, one 11-18 grammar school and one 11-19 specialist school.

The academy trust operates academies for pupils aged 2 to 19 serving the catchment areas of East Manchester, South Manchester and Blackpool. Its academies have a combined pupil capacity of 6,043 and had a roll of 6,018 in the school census in May 2024.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

Bright Futures Educational Trust is a company limited by guarantee (No. 07695771) and an exempt charity in accordance with the Academies Act 2010. The charitable company was incorporated on 6 July 2011. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. The trustees of Bright Futures Educational Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as Bright Futures Educational Trust.

Details of the trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

The Trust has purchased insurance to cover trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business. Details of the costs can be found in note 12 of the accounts.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

The Members of the Trust are responsible for the appointment of Trust Directors (trustees). The number of trustees shall be a minimum of seven up to a maximum of ten with the number of Executive Directors not exceeding one third.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

Trustees are inducted with the Trustees Induction Pack that have been developed. Training requirements are discussed at trustees' board meetings.

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Organisational structure

The governance of the Trust is defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association together with the funding agreements with the Department for Education. In addition to the Trustees, Local Governing Bodies ('LGBs') have been appointed for each school within the Trust. These bodies report to the Board of Trustees through the Chief Executive Officer.

The Trust has three standing Board Committees: the Audit and Risk Committee, the Remuneration Committee and the Race Diversity and Inclusion Committee, who report directly to the Board of Trustees. Responsibility for the internal control environment, risk management and review of the annual statutory report and accounts has been delegated to the Audit and Risk Committee. Responsibility for the annual appraisal of the CEO, review and setting the remuneration of the Executive has been delegated to the Remuneration Committee and responsibility for the oversight of equality and inclusion has been delegated to the Race Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Local Governing Bodies have been delegated the responsibility to ensure that the Trust's vision, mission values, commitments and overall aims are made relevant and tangible in their academy and for the delivery of the Trust strategy locally.

Additionally we created a 'Getting to Good' Programme Board in 2022 in order to offer additional oversight and scrutiny of our work with two schools that were subject to termination warning notices. Whilst this was a committee of the Board it was independently chaired and membership was extended to include local governor chairs, school leaders, local authority officers and external educational experts.

The Executive Team consists of the Chief Executive Officer, Deputy Chief Executive, Director of People and Strategy and Chief Finance Officer. The Executive Team meets each month in term time during each academic year. For part of the year we also had a Director of Education. That post was deleted when the postholder moved on and the responsibilities were divided amongst other executives with some school improvement work commissioned from external colleagues or else taken up by the wider trust leader team.

The day to day running of the Trust is delegated by the trustees to the Chief Executive Officer, who is the Accounting Officer.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Setting the pay on appointment

- We use the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document as the benchmark and guide for school leadership posts
- For central Trust Leadership posts, we use external salary benchmarking as the guide to pay.

Annual Pay Reviews

All teaching, leadership, executive and associate staff have an appraisal once a year and a mid-year review. This process is the mechanism for monitoring performance. Where there are no performance concerns, pay is automatically progressed within the relevant pay-scale.

- For Principals and Heads of School, individual pay-scales and pay progression are reviewed by a small committee of Trust executives, chaired by the CEO.
- For the central operations leadership posts, the pay scales are approved by the Remuneration Committee and this committee moderates recommendations for the direct reports of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
- The CEO's pay is determined by the Remuneration Committee.

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	12
Full-time equivalent employee number	12.00

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	-
1%-50%	12
51%-99%	-
100%	-

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	18,529
Total pay bill	39,315,192
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	-

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	65%
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Engagement with employees

The Trust is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all who learn and work here. We respect and value positive differences in race, gender reassignment, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief and age.

The Trust welcomes and encourages all applications from disabled persons and considers them from a 'strength-based' perspective, bearing in mind the aptitudes of the individuals concerned. Where an existing employee becomes disabled, every effort is made to ensure that employment with the Trust continues and, along with others, they have opportunities to thrive.

The Trust works with employee trade unions and professional associations via the Joint Consultation and Negotiation Body (JCNB) and across all our academies. We engage in consultation, as required to ensure that all aspects of the Trust affecting its employees are in accordance with our recognition and procedure agreement.

Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the academy trust

Throughout the year Trustees have taken account of the need to develop strong business relationships with suppliers, customers and others. This has been particularly important as we start to address the challenges presented by the global economic crisis to ensure financial stability for everyone, maintain well-being and ensure quality provision of services is maintained.

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Although there are a number of professional links to other schools and third-party organisations, the Trust is an independent company. Through our Teaching School Hubs we are officially partnered with Teach First as the Lead Provider.

As well as our 12 schools we have a large Professional Development Institute (PDI) centrally. In 2021 we were designated with two Teaching School Hubs: 'Bright Futures Teaching School Hubs'. These look after the professional development of Early Career Teachers and leaders in Salford, Trafford, Manchester and Stockport and of course our own trust too. We are also a Maths Hub designated by the DFE and in 2022 we were successfully reaccredited as a SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training). As well as these grant funded organisations we also run a commercial CPD and School Improvement service. We were designated as an Early Years Stronger Practice Hub and these entities combined form our PDI. In total we work with over 1,000 schools. Despite increased demand in a relatively new system, the PDI offers consistently high quality and is well regarded locally and nationally and is a highly trusted provider within the sector.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The objective of Bright Futures is to advance education, for the public benefit, by managing and developing academies, promoting co-operation between academies, promoting school improvement in respect of academies and ensuring the distinctive ethos of any academy which it manages or develops is upheld. This is captured in our vision: 'the best *for* everyone, the best *from* everyone'.

Through our mission, our family of school's places young people, families and communities at the heart of everything we do. We are a true community with shared responsibility and common core values which create a culture of collaboration, opportunity, respect and innovation. We inspire excellence and believe in nurturing the abilities of all within our schools and communities. We empower our young people to build purposeful lives and have the courage and confidence to make a positive contribution to society. Through excellence in education all our young people will have a bright future.

Our core values are:

- Community — we work together for a common purpose acknowledging our diversity as strength
- Integrity — we do the right things for the right reasons
- Passion — we take responsibility, work hard and have high aspirations

Our commitments are to foster collaborative and strong relationships; to promote professional learning; to be supportive, challenging and fair; to communicate effectively; to create strong governance and accountability; to achieve value for money; to be united behind decisions and to be an organisation where ensuring equality, diversity and inclusion is celebrated.

Objectives, strategies and activities

Our Strategic Aims are:

- Good progress, participation and achievement for all pupils equitably via a rich and diverse curriculum. All schools to be improving at an ambitious pace, appropriate to their context and have the capacity for sustainable continuous improvement in all aspects of the curriculum and wider offers.
- Sustained financial viability enables flexible investment in school improvement. - Achievement of long-term sustainable viability, managed within a robust governance environment with clear and effective financial controls that yield opportunities to support improvements by targeted investment.
- Our staff advocate Bright Futures as an excellent and equal opportunities employer, - All staff are positively engaged, enjoy equitable treatment, are held to account, supported and challenged, People's wellbeing and development are evident through compassionate behaviours, strategies and decision making.
- Through growth, influence, collaboration and partnerships, the Trust's vision and mission are embedded in everything we do. Any growth adds value to the rest of the Trust, the school system and our communities. Governance and organisational systems are sufficiently strong and flexible to deliver and exceed our vision and mission.

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Public benefit

The Trustees of Bright Futures Educational Trust are committed to ensuring that the Trust's activities are for the public benefit and have complied with their statutory duties.

In particular, Trustees have been provided with the Public Benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission and public benefit is properly taken into account in exercising their powers and duties.

In the coming year we will be reviewing our strategic aims, values, vision and commitments to see how we can meet our fundamental purpose in new and better ways.

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

The Trust achieved a £1.1m surplus before capitalisation of fixed assets, depreciation and movements in the pension liability.

As we have moved on from the immediate impacts of pandemic lockdowns we continue to face challenges of an increased prevalence of mental ill health, greater numbers of children presenting with special educational needs and, in some cases, lower levels of student attendance with more cases of persistent absence. These issues are reflected nationally but have greater impact in areas of multiple socio-economic disadvantage.

We had five school graded inspections in the year, one monitoring visit and two inspections within areas of the Professional Development Institute.

Elmridge Primary Academy was inspected for the first time in many years as it had been exempt from inspection under previous rules that were changed more recently. The school was graded 'Good' in every area.

Melland was inspected and retained its 'Outstanding' grading. This is a significant achievement and particularly so given that the school underwent a programme of growth including a major extension to the building.

Barton Clough which was previously 'Requires Improvement' from the inspection in 2022, was inspected and was graded 'Good' in all areas.

Acre Hall was inspected and was graded 'Requires Improvement' overall, but 'Good' sub judgements in 3 areas. Quality of Education and Leadership were graded 'requires improvement'. This was not entirely unexpected and had been noted on strategic risk registers. The school's trend of outcomes at Key Stage 2 meant that it was difficult to argue that the curriculum was sufficiently well developed to be judged 'good' given that there was little evidence of impact on outcomes.

Rushbrook which was previously 'Requires Improvement' from the inspection in 2022, moved to 'Good' in all areas,

South Shore had a monitoring visit during the year. It remained as 'Inadequate', but there are clear green shoots appearing as the school gains momentum from the school improvement support and a change in leadership. During the year we have been working with the DfE voluntarily to transfer South Shore to another trust located in the Blackpool area. This will enable very close management of the school and the mobilisation of local resources. The work to transfer South Shore from the Trust commenced in 2024 and we successfully transferred the Academy to Cidari Multi Academy Trust on 1 October 2024. The positive impact of working in partnership with a local trust was evident immediately.

With the Professional Development Institute, our lead provider of teacher training 'Teach First' was inspected and was graded as Outstanding and our SCITT was also inspected in the year and was graded as 'Good' for all phases.

The commissioned work to add substantial additional support in both Cedar Mount and South Shore continued from the prior year.

Having considered the current level of risks with some of our schools we have continued with the enhanced support and challenge this year. Trust School Reviews have been strengthened again by adding further expertise to the review teams. Each review has at least two colleagues with inspection experience in the relevant age/phase. Review teams have been directed to look at both the previous Ofsted areas for improvement and the last review recommendations so that we can ensure that they are being appropriately addressed at the correct pace. The benefit of this approach has been seen with stronger results and positive Ofsted reports.

Our schools continue to participate in quality assurance 'kite mark' schemes and look for opportunities to endorse their work through local, regional and national awards.

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

We have strengthened the rigour and have made more systematic our work to improve provision for children with special educational needs in mainstream schools. Using the expertise of our specialist schools, our mainstream schools with specialist provisions and our educational psychologists we have worked with other sector experts to build knowledge and capacity.

All schools in the trust work hard to keep children safe. This remains a priority. Designated Safeguarding Leads are proactive in supporting children, families and colleagues and we have many good examples of effective multi-agency working to keep children safe. Ever increasing workload is making significant demands on the resources of statutory agencies. There is a risk that our schools will have to pick up some safeguarding and child protection work that would previously have been handled by statutory agencies. We are committed to the principles described in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2023) and 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2023). Training has been provided aimed at all those involved in governance, at school level and for central teams. Our designated safeguarding leads receive a weekly update so that their practice remains current and they are able to promote professional curiosity amongst colleagues.

Key performance indicators

Financial:

- income (percentage of general funds income derived from the GAG) —66.0% (2023: 66.3%)
- staff costs as a percentage of general funds income —71.9% (2023: 74.2%)
- cash balance - £6,779,000 (2023: £6,209,000)

Non-financial (mainstream school outcomes):

Primary: National KS2 outcomes

61% expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined (+1 to previous year)

74% expected standard in reading (+1 on previous year)

72% expected standard in writing (+1 on previous year)

73% expected standard in maths (= on previous year)

Bright Futures Primary Year 6 Reading, Writing and Maths (RWM) combined measure

Acre Hall: 59% (including the specialist small classes) (+27 on 2023)

Barton Clough: 55% (including the specialist small classes) (+21 on 2023)

Elmridge: 75% (+11 on 2023)

Lime Tree: 68% (+2 on 2023)

Marton: 79% (+11 on 2023)

Rushbrook: 61% (-4 on 2023)

Stanley Grove: 64% (+8 on 2023)

All schools have analysed their results and have considered in granular detail where there have been gaps on weaknesses in curriculums that have led to weaker performance.

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Secondary and Sixth Form (provisional)

Nationally

Overall GCSE results are similar to the previous year with a widening gap between those facing more socio-economic disadvantage.

2024 Results (provisional and unvalidated)

GCSEs

AGGS

4+Eng and Ma: 100% (=2023)

5+Eng and Ma: 99.4% (-0.1 on 2023)

7+Eng and Ma: 90.4% (-0.8 on 2023)

Cedar Mount

4+Eng and Ma: 39.7% (+2 on 2023)

5+Eng and Ma: 23.6% (+0.2 on 2023)

7+Eng and Ma: 6.4% (+5.2 on 2023)

South Shore

4+Eng and Ma: 22% (-1.2 on 2023)

5+ Eng and Ma: 9% (-1 on 2023)

7+Eng and Ma: 2% (+2 on 2023)

A Levels

The outcomes at AGGS this academic year returned to the exceptional levels that we have seen in previous years. Over two thirds of the grades were A* or A.

A*-A grades: 67.9% (+8.3 on 2023)

A*-B grades: 88.9% (+3.6 on 2023)

Outcomes in special schools

The way in which outcomes are judged for children with complex learning difficulties and/or disabilities is different from mainstream. Progress and attainment are measured against children's previous levels and against their education, health and care plans.

Melland High School and The Orchards have highly developed systems of assessment that capture the progress of individual children in ways that are meaningful to the child and to their parents and carers. These inform the students' next steps and, therefore, are appropriately ambitious. Outcomes are used to inform annual reviews of Education, Health and Care Plans.

School attendance

Attendance at school is a national priority. Post-pandemic levels of attendance have decreased dramatically. We have responded by spotlighting attendance and engaging with experts from the sector to support our schools to understand the underlying causes behind rates of attendance and to take appropriately targeted action to bring about improvement.

The headline figures are sometimes skewed by the long-term absence of a small cohort of children with, for example, serious illness. Our specialist schools recorded very high attendance in comparison to similar settings across the country. Lime Tree had exceptionally high attendance at 96.32% along with Altrincham Grammar School for Girls at 95.33%. With the exception of South Shore, no mainstream school fell below 92%. Most importantly, schools are doing everything that they can to secure good attendance and their efforts yielded improvements. Where there was persistent absence good strategies were implemented (including multi-agency working) in order to address barriers to attendance.

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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 charitable company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the accounts.

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis which assumes that the charitable company will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The validity of this assumption depends on the continued provision of adequate funding. The financial statements do not include any adjustments that would result if the funds were not made available.

The charitable company finances its operations with cash funds held at Lloyds Bank and borrowings from the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). At the balance sheet date, amounts due to the ESFA total £1.6m. The trustees have agreed a repayment plan with the ESFA for these liabilities and for ongoing support to enable the charitable company to continue trading for the foreseeable future.

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and accounts. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

Protecting the success of the academy trust

The Trustees have acted in accordance with their duties codified in law, which include their duty to act in the way in which they consider, in good faith, would be most likely to promote the success of the company for the benefit of its members, stakeholders and the matters set out in section 172(1) of the Companies Act 2006. The Charities Commission has issued guidance which explains that charitable companies should take "promoting the success of the company" to mean "promoting the success of the charity to achieve its charitable purposes."

The Trust is governed by its charitable objects. These charitable objects set out the purpose of the charity. The consequences of all decisions and activities of the charity are assessed by how they drive us towards achieving that long-term purpose, including by reference to the charity's strategy, vision and values. As an educational charity, we are accountable not only to our funders and direct beneficiaries (our pupils) but also our parents and wider community. These stakeholders support us, engage with us, and challenge us. They ensure that the decisions we make as a charity, from the ground level through to the Board, are for their benefit. We are a values driven organisation and our values mean that we are informed, shaped and powered by our determination to uphold our vision and values. Well-established involvement and consultation mechanisms, both direct (through parent and staff surveys) and indirect ensure that decisions made by the Trustees are informed by the needs of the organisation's stakeholders.

a. Long-term consequences of any decision

Trustees consider the consequences of any strategic decision in the long-term as part of their assessment. We aim to ensure that as an organisation we balance our income and expenditure to ensure that our organisation remains sustainable in the long term. This is balanced against the needs of our pupils, staff and other stakeholders, and the community, to ensure we are spending the funding we receive from the government in the most effective way to support our aims, and with integrity.

b) The interests of the company's employees

Details of how the Trustees give consideration to the interests of the organisation's employees can be found in the section Engagement with employees within this report.

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

- c) The need to foster the company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others
Details of how the Trustees give consideration to the interests of the organisation's other stakeholders can be found in the section Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the Trust.
- d) The impact of the company's operations on the community and the environment
Details of how the Trustees give consideration to the impact on the community can be found in the section Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the Trust. Further information is also given in the section on Public Benefit. An example of how the Trust has considered its impact on the local community has been during the COVID-19 crisis, where a decision was made to supply supermarket vouchers to families normally in receipt of free school meals, ahead of the government introducing a national scheme.
- e) The desirability of the company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct
The Trust aims to conduct all its relationships with integrity and courtesy, and to honor all business agreements. The Trustees have approved a number of policies that help to ensure we maintain high standards of business conduct.
- f) The need to act fairly as between members of the company
All members of the Trust are treated fairly and equally, with the same access to information, the ability to directly contact trustees, the Chief Executive Officer or any member of the senior leadership teams.

All matters reserved for decision by the Trustees are presented at Board or Committee meetings as appropriate. Trustees are briefed on any identified potential impacts and risks for our stakeholders and how they are to be managed. The Trustees take these factors into account before making a final decision which together they believe is in the best interests of the Trust and its stakeholders.

Financial review

For the financial period ended 31 August 2024, financial performance has been analysed across the operating divisions of the Trust which are largely responsible for managing delegated budgets. These are: Acre Hall Primary School (AH), Altrincham Grammar School for Girls (AGGS), Barton Clough Primary School (BC), Cedar Mount Academy (CMA), Elmridge Primary School (EL), Lime Tree Primary Academy (LT), Marton Primary Academy and Nursery (MAR), Melland High School (MHS), The Orchards School (OR), Rushbrook Primary Academy (RPA), Stanley Grove Primary Academy (SGPA), South Shore Academy (SSA) and Head Office.

The main source of income for the Trust is revenue grant funding for individual academies. Funding is based largely on pupil numbers, and the key risk moving forward is a reduction in the number of pupils at some schools within the Trust. AGGS, MHS, and ORC are currently oversubscribed. The pupil numbers at RPA continue to reduce, as the school naturally moves from a 3FE to a 2FE school. At CMA and SSA student numbers continue to decline, with CMA being impacted by a new school in very close proximity. In Trafford, Lime Tree Primary remains at PAN with Elmridge, Barton Clough and Acre Hall primary continuing to remain below PAN.

Expenditure across the Trust is typical for the education sector with the main area of expenditure being staff costs.

During the year the Trust received revenues from general funds of £59,489,000 (2023: £54,301,000). Expenditure for the year, excluding pension and fixed asset costs, was £58,428,000 (2023: £54,177,000). The operational surplus was £1,061,000 (2023: £124,000).

The trustees' policy on reserves is to strike a balance between financial prudence and achieving the Trust's educational objectives. It is acknowledged both that available assets should remain at a financially secure level and that current year government funding is to meet the educational needs of current year pupils.

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Reserves policy

The level of net assets held at 31 August 2024 totals £4,026,000 (2023: £2,054,000). This excludes the fixed asset and pension liability reserves.

There is a £Nil deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme (2023: £130,000). This does not mean that an immediate liability crystallises. The deficit results in a cash flow effect for the Academy Trust in the form of possible future increases in pension contributions, which, if required, will be met from the budgeted annual income. There is therefore considered to be no material impact on free reserves of the Academy Trust because of recognising the deficit.

Investment policy

The aim of the Treasury Management Policy is to ensure funds that the Trust does not immediately need to cover anticipated expenditure are invested in such a way as to maximise the Trust's income but with minimal risk. The policy permits cash deposits to be made on terms of up to 6 months to UK incorporated institutions with a Fitch Ratings Short Term Rating of F1 or F1+.

At 31 August 2024, £4m was held on short term deposits.

Principal risks and uncertainties

Principal risks and uncertainties

Risks across the Trust are managed via a Trust Strategic Risk Register reviewed at each Audit and Risk Committee and individual School Risk Registers, which are reviewed regularly by their Local Governing Bodies. A Trust wide Risk Management Strategy is in place alongside an Academy Risk Management Strategy. These were substantially reviewed in the year and new systems will be implemented in the coming year.

During the year, the Trust managed a range of health and safety risks.

We commission expert advice on health and safety from appropriately qualified people in Trafford Borough Council (for Manchester and Trafford schools and central teams) and from Blackpool Council for the two schools in that Borough.

The Trust continued to manage the risk presented to the health and safety of children and staff by ensuring that each school and central teams had planned and dynamic risk assessments. The process of assessing risk involves colleagues and consultation with trade unions. Specific training in risk assessment and the management of crises and incidents was provided to all Trust leaders.

The Trust's employees are members of two defined benefit pension schemes, the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The Trust has recognised its share of the LGPS assets and liabilities in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 section 28. No deficit has been recognised at 31 August 2024. The TPS has been accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. Further details of the accounting policy adopted for each scheme are included in note 1 to the financial statements.

Due to the nature of the two pension schemes there is an underlying risk to the Trust which relates primarily to the uncertainty of the future funding requirements of each scheme, the results of which impact on the contribution rates for future employer contributions to each scheme.

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

Fundraising

The trust's approach to fundraising is not to actively participate but to seek out and apply for other bids and grants that may become available throughout the year.

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	2024	2023
<i>Energy consumption</i>	kWh	kWh
Aggregate of energy consumption in the year	7,211,621	7,409,531
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	2024	2023
<i>Emissions of CO2 equivalent</i>	metric tonnes	metric tonnes
Scope 1 - direct emissions		
- Gas combustion	845.31	877.11
- Fuel consumed for owned transport	11.67	12.41
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	856.98	889.52
Scope 2 - indirect emissions		
- Electricity purchased	516.97	522.79
Scope 3 - other indirect emissions		
- Fuel consumed for transport not owned by the academy trust	10.12	9.24
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total gross emissions	1,384.07	1,421.55
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<i>Intensity ratio</i>		
Tonnes CO2e per pupil	0.23	0.23
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Quantification and reporting methodology

We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2024 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

Intensity measurement

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

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

The Trust has continued to develop its climate strategy during 2023/24. The Trust participated in Greater Manchester Combined Authority's (GMCA's) Powering Our Schools' Project collective procurement for solar PV in our schools and we are working with GMCA to finalise the options available to our school via the winning contractor. We awarded a new planned preventative maintenance contract across the majority of our schools which has provided us with better visibility of all our mechanical and electrical assets and will allow us to take a more targeted approach to improving energy efficiency across our estate. Finally, we have been exploring the potential of integrating many of our disparate systems into a single platform to allow our school site staff to access and interpret data relating to energy usage and consumption and ultimately operate their buildings in a more energy efficient manner.

Plans for future periods

The Trust continues to look for opportunities to fulfil its mission by supporting improvements both within the organisation and sector wide. We remain committed to ensuring that all children and young people have the best opportunities to thrive, to achieve and to belong. We will continue the work with partners to identify opportunities for growth and development. Part of this is the overhaul of our strategy, vision and values that will be conducted in the next period with a five-year strategy co-created with colleagues and partners.

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Whilst we have begun to make headway with our digital strategy there is more to do in terms of our being able to capitalise on the opportunities presented by creative use of technologies. The building of a strong, robust infrastructure will enable us to capitalise on digital opportunities.

We are active participants and leaders in a number of national and regional organisations. Executives are well represented in the work of other schools and trusts, in sector bodies and across Greater Manchester and Blackpool strategic bodies. This enables us to learn and influence to the benefit of Bright futures.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

No funds are held on behalf of other organisations.

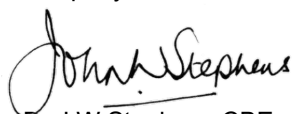
Auditor

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 audit business of UHY Hacker Young Manchester LLP was acquired by Cooper Parry Group Limited on 30 September 2024. UHY Hacker Young Manchester LLP has resigned as auditor and Cooper Parry Group Limited has been appointed in its place. The auditor, Cooper Parry Group Limited, is deemed to be reappointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 16 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Dr J W Stephens CBE
Accounting Officer



D Rubin
Chair of the Board

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Scope of responsibility

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

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

Governance

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

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Dr J W Stephens CBE (Accounting Officer)	4	4
D Rubin (Chair of the Board)	3	4
R Leggett (Chair of Remuneration Committee)	3	4
I Ashworth (Chair of Audit Committee)	4	4
M Whilby	1	4
K Clough	2	4
M Tonge	4	4
S Myers	1	4
A Gormally (Appointed 1 November 2023)	1	3
R E Moonan (Appointed 1 November 2023)	1	3

The Audit and Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to advise the board on all strategic risk-related issues, in particular financial risk. There were four meetings during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
R Leggett (Chair of Remuneration Committee)	3	4
I Ashworth (Chair of Audit Committee)	4	4

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Remuneration Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to review executive pay, conduct the appraisal of the CEO review any recommendations for pay that sit outside of the national agreements for School Teachers (School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document) and Associate staff (National Joint Council).

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
R Leggett (Chair of Remuneration Committee)	2	2
M Whilby	2	2
K Clough	2	2

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the Chief Executive Officer 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 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:

- Continuing to maintain the Trust in a long term financially sustainable position.
- Generating surplus funds in 8 out of 12 academies.
- Continuing to deliver value for money through the professional procurements function in the Trust, led by a public procurements specialist.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Bright Futures Educational Trust for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

Capacity to handle risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

Conflicts of interest

The trust maintains an up-to-date and complete register of interests. Conflict of interests is a standing item on all full board meeting and committee meeting agendas in order to give trustees the opportunity to declare any interests in general, and specifically in relation to the agenda itself. This is formally minuted. Should any interests be declared, the relevant trustee would abstain from any discussion or decision making for that agenda item.

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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 Audit and Risk Committee who report to the full governing body;
- regular reviews by the Audit and Risk Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset and general expenditure purchase) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

Areas of weakness have been identified within the framework of internal financial controls and the Trust is committed to improving controls and systems in line with audit recommendations.

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has appointed TIAA as internal auditor.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial systems. On a termly basis, the internal auditor reports to the board of trustees, through the audit and risk committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities.

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

- Key Financial Controls – Creditor Payments
- Data Protection Arrangements
- Estates – Property Compliance
- Business Planning and Stress Testing
- Cyber Security Maturity Assessment

On a quarterly basis, the auditor reports to the board of trustees, through the audit and risk committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities and annually 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 works.

Review of effectiveness

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

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

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

Based on the advice of the audit and risk committee and the accounting officer, the board of trustees is of the opinion that the academy trust has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 16 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Dr J W Stephens CBE
Accounting Officer



D Rubin
Chair of the Board

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

As accounting officer of Bright Futures Educational Trust 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 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's board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2023.

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.



Dr J W Stephens CBE
Accounting Officer

16 December 2024

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The trustees (who are also the directors of Bright Futures Educational Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

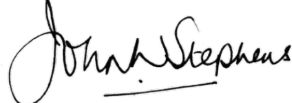
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 16 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Dr J W Stephens CBE
Accounting Officer



D Rubin
Chair of the Board

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Bright Futures Educational Trust for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the accounts, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024.

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 accounts' 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 accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts 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 accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the accounts, the trustees are responsible for assessing the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts 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 accounts.

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

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

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

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, we considered the following:

- The nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance.
- Any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- Identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- The internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- The matters discussed among the audit engagement team and involving relevant internal specialists, including tax, and industry specialists regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: recognition of income and misappropriation of funds. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks the academy operates in, focussing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act and Academies Accounts Direction.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the academy's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- Reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- Enquiring of management and those charged with governance concerning actual and potential litigation claims;
- In addressing the risk of fraud through inappropriate recording of income, we review the existence and completeness of ESFA income and reconcile all other material income streams to third party evidence;
- We carry out a detailed review of deferred income, including a review of amounts released to income in the year.
- We review a sample of expenditure to ensure it has been appropriately authorised and that tender process have been followed where applicable;
- We carry out a review of the register of interests and minutes to ensure that all related parties have been disclosed adequately;
- In assessing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and assessing whether judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of potential bias.

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

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

Use of our report

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

L Grayson

for and on behalf of Cooper Parry Group Limited

16 December 2024

Statutory Auditor

St James Building
79 Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 6HT

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter and further to the requirements of the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Bright Futures Educational Trust during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 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 Bright Futures Educational Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Bright Futures Educational Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Bright Futures Educational Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Bright Futures Educational Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Bright Futures Educational Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, 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 2023 to 2024. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 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.

In line with the Framework and guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts issued April 2023, we have not performed any additional procedures regarding the academy trust's compliance with safeguarding, health and safety and estates management.

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Conclusion

In the course of our work nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Cooper Parry Group Limited

Reporting Accountant

Cooper Parry Group Limited
St James Building
79 Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 6HT

Dated: 16 December 2024

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £000's	Restricted funds: General £000's	Fixed asset £000's	Total 2024 £000's	Total 2023 £000's
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	1,038	2,156	3,194	6,308
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	51,795	-	51,795	48,507
- Teaching schools		-	5,401	-	5,401	3,457
Other trading activities	5	400	686	-	1,086	1,241
Investments	6	-	169	-	169	101
Total		400	59,089	2,156	61,645	59,614
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	-	-	-	-	2
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	9	400	52,436	1,879	54,715	52,520
- Teaching schools		-	4,981	-	4,981	3,735
Total	7	400	57,417	1,879	59,696	56,257
Net income		-	1,672	277	1,949	3,357
Transfers between funds	18	-	911	(911)	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	-	1,776	-	1,776	5,305
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	20	-	(2,258)	-	(2,258)	(3,652)
Net movement in funds		-	2,101	(634)	1,467	5,010
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		-	1,924	62,497	64,421	59,411
Total funds carried forward		-	4,025	61,863	65,888	64,421

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2023	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
		funds £000's	General £000's	Fixed asset £000's	2023 £000's
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	-	995	5,313	6,308
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	48,507	-	48,507
- Teaching schools		-	3,457	-	3,457
Other trading activities	5	426	815	-	1,241
Investments	6	-	101	-	101
Total		426	53,875	5,313	59,614
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	-	2	-	2
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	9	426	50,400	1,694	52,520
- Teaching schools		-	3,735	-	3,735
Total	7	426	54,137	1,694	56,257
Net income/(expenditure)		-	(262)	3,619	3,357
Transfers between funds	18	-	(963)	963	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	-	5,305	-	5,305
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	20	-	(3,652)	-	(3,652)
Net movement in funds		-	428	4,582	5,010
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		-	1,496	57,915	59,411
Total funds carried forward		-	1,924	62,497	64,421

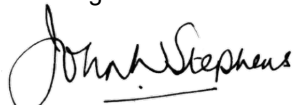
BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

		2024	2023
	Notes	£000's	£000's
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	61,863	62,497
Current assets			
Debtors	14	3,305	2,745
Cash at bank and in hand		6,779	6,209
		<u>10,084</u>	<u>8,954</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(5,094)	(4,957)
Net current assets		<u>4,990</u>	<u>3,997</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		66,853	66,494
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16	(965)	(1,943)
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>65,888</u>	<u>64,551</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	20	-	(130)
Total net assets		<u>65,888</u>	<u>64,421</u>
Funds of the academy trust:			
Restricted funds	18		
- Fixed asset funds		61,863	62,497
- Restricted income funds		4,025	2,054
- Pension reserve		-	(130)
Total restricted funds		<u>65,888</u>	<u>64,421</u>
Unrestricted income funds	18	-	-
Total funds		<u>65,888</u>	<u>64,421</u>

The accounts on pages 28 to 54 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 16 December 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:



Dr J W Stephens CBE
Accounting Officer



D Rubin
Chair of the Board

Company registration number 07695771 (England and Wales)

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash used in operating activities	21	(510)	(2,477)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		169	101
Capital grants from DfE Group		1,599	1,964
Capital funding received from sponsors and others		557	3,349
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,245)	(6,276)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		1,080	(862)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayment of long term bank loan		-	(2)
Net cash used in financing activities		-	(2)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		570	(3,341)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		6,209	9,550
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year		6,779	6,209

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the period for which it is receivable, and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

Sponsorship income

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

Donations

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

Other income

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

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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 accounts until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'.

Donated fixed assets

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

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets acquired since the trust was established are stated at historical costs less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

In the case of fixed assets transferred from predecessor schools these are treated as acquired at fair value, calculated by reference to either:

- net book value at date of transfer: or
- in the absence of reliable net book value data, an estimate of fair value calculated by reference to an assumed value of fixed assets as compared to the pupil roll.

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

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

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

Land and buildings	50 years straight line
Plant and machinery	10 years straight line
Computer equipment	3 years straight line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	10 years straight line
Motor vehicles	4 years 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 land and buildings.

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

1.6 Liabilities

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

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.7 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.

1.8 Leased assets

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

1.9 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

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

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

Financial liabilities

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

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

1.10 Taxation

The academy trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the academy trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

1.11 Pensions benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the academy trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust.

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

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

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

1.12 Fund accounting

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

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

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

1.13 Agency Arrangements

The academy trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The trust can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. The funds received and paid and any balance held are disclosed in note 28.

1.14 PFI agreement

The Academy occupies buildings which are owned by Blackpool Council and utilised by the Academy under a PFI agreement. The Academy pays revenue contributions in respect of the facilities management and buildings use. The contract will expire in the year 2042. The Academy does not have any rights or obligations of ownership in respect of these assets and therefore they are not included on the Academy's balance sheet. The revenue payment is recognised in the SOFA. Where the Academy procures and pays for additional furniture or equipment or changes to the building, the costs are capitalised and depreciated in accordance with the tangible fixed assets policy.

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

(Continued)

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 20, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. 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.

The ultimate responsibility for setting the assumptions is that of the Academy Trust, as the employer, however each year the LGPS actuary proposes a standard set of assumptions as part of the valuation exercise, using their expert opinion, and which comply with the accounting requirements. The Academy Trust has, in practice with most employers, adopted the recommended actuarial assumptions following further consultation with its auditors to ensure these assumptions are reasonable and in line with those adopted by other academy trusts.

The key assumption is the discount rate, which is the estimated rate of long-term investment returns. This year the discount rate of 5.0% is slightly lower than the rate of 5.3% used in 2023. Since a higher discount rate means assets will grow more rapidly in the future, this results in lower current liabilities.

As the trust cannot draw down on surplus funds and does not "control" the asset, the actuarial gain in OCI has been restricted in order to recognise a £nil asset/deficit where such schemes are showing a surplus.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £000's	Restricted funds £000's	Total 2024 £000's	Total 2023 £000's
Private sponsorship	-	1,038	1,038	995
Capital grants	-	2,156	2,156	5,313
	=====	=====	=====	=====
	-	3,194	3,194	6,308
	=====	=====	=====	=====

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £000's	Restricted funds £000's	Total 2024 £000's	Total 2023 £000's
DfE / ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	39,019	39,019	35,983
Other DfE / ESFA grants:				
Pupil premium	-	2,741	2,741	2,621
Others	-	2,983	2,983	3,489
	<u>-</u>	<u>44,743</u>	<u>44,743</u>	<u>42,093</u>
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	7,052	7,052	6,408
Special educational projects	-	-	-	6
	<u>-</u>	<u>7,052</u>	<u>7,052</u>	<u>6,414</u>
Teaching schools income	-	5,401	5,401	3,457
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,401</u>	<u>5,401</u>	<u>3,457</u>
Total funding	<u>-</u>	<u>57,196</u>	<u>57,196</u>	<u>51,964</u>

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £000's	Restricted funds £000's	Total 2024 £000's	Total 2023 £000's
Hire of facilities	84	-	84	92
Catering income	-	335	335	278
Other income	316	351	667	871
	<u>400</u>	<u>686</u>	<u>1,086</u>	<u>1,241</u>

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £000's	Restricted funds £000's	Total 2024 £000's	Total 2023 £000's
Short term deposits	-	169	169	101
	<u>-</u>	<u>169</u>	<u>169</u>	<u>101</u>

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £000's	Non-pay expenditure Premises £000's	Other £000's	Total 2024 £000's	Total 2023 £000's
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	-	-	-	-	2
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	33,463	-	3,559	37,022	34,730
- Allocated support costs	7,009	7,174	3,510	17,693	17,790
Teaching schools					
- Direct costs	760	-	3,239	3,999	2,872
- Allocated support costs	751	20	211	982	863
	<u>41,983</u>	<u>7,194</u>	<u>10,519</u>	<u>59,696</u>	<u>56,257</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Operating lease rentals	21	21
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,879	1,694
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	41	41
- Other services	10	10
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(204)	70
	<u></u>	<u></u>

8 Central services

The academy trust has provided the following central services to its academies during the year:

- human resources co-ordination and casework
- financial services via hub managers
- IT Services
- Facilities and estates via hub managers

The academy trust charges for these services on a flat 4% of GAG income.

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

8 Central services (Continued)

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Professional Development Institute	86	96
Altrincham Grammar School for Girls	329	301
Cedar Mount Academy	305	286
Marion Primary Academy and Nursery	71	63
Melland High School	100	72
Rushbrook Primary Academy	116	116
South Shore Academy	245	228
Stanley Grove Primary Academy	145	138
Acre Hall Primary School	69	65
Barton Clough Primary School	44	39
Elmridge Primary School	41	37
Lime Tree Primary Academy	84	81
The Orchards	60	43
	<u>1,695</u>	<u>1,565</u>

9 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £000's	Restricted funds £000's	Total 2024 £000's	Total 2023 £000's
Direct costs				
Educational operations	400	36,622	37,022	34,730
Teaching schools	-	3,999	3,999	2,872
Support costs				
Educational operations	-	17,693	17,693	17,790
Teaching schools	-	982	982	863
	<u>400</u>	<u>59,296</u>	<u>59,696</u>	<u>56,255</u>
	Teaching schools £000's	Educational operations £000's	Total 2024 £000's	Total 2023 £000's
Analysis of support costs				
Support staff costs	751	7,212	7,963	7,838
Depreciation	-	1,879	1,879	1,694
Technology costs	40	619	659	651
Premises costs	20	5,295	5,315	5,704
Legal costs	2	65	67	54
Other support costs	158	2,553	2,711	2,643
Governance costs	11	70	81	69
	<u>982</u>	<u>17,693</u>	<u>18,675</u>	<u>18,653</u>

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

10 Staff

Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were:

	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Wages and salaries	29,951	28,685
Social security costs	3,014	2,844
Pension costs	6,439	6,516
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Staff costs - employees	39,404	38,045
Agency staff costs	2,495	1,664
Staff restructuring costs	84	146
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Staff development and other staff costs	41,983	39,855
	490	460
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total staff expenditure	42,473	40,315
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy payments	50	113
Severance payments	34	33
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	84	146
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Severance payments

The academy trust paid 4 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

£0 - £25,000	4
--------------	---

Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £34,063 (2023: £33,088). Individually, the payments were: £9,062, £9,021, £8,700 and £7,280.

Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the academy trust during the year was as follows:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Teachers	307	320
Administration and support	402	397
Management	71	68
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	780	785
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

10 Staff

(Continued)

Higher paid staff

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

	2024 Number	2023 Number
£60,001 to £70,000	15	8
£70,001 to £80,000	9	15
£80,001 to £90,000	8	4
£90,001 to £100,000	1	3
£100,001 to £110,000	1	1
£110,001 to £120,000	1	2
£120,001 to £130,000	1	2
£130,001 to £140,000	2	-
£140,001 to £150,000	1	-
£150,001 to £160,000	-	1
£160,001 to £170,000	1	-

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £749,068 (2023: £897,182).

11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more of the trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The 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 services as trustees.

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

Dr J W Stephens CBE (CEO and trustee) £160,001 - £165,000 (2023: £155,001 - £160,000)

The value of trustees' employers pension contributions was as follows:

Dr J W Stephens CBE (CEO and trustee) £30,001 - £35,000 (2023: £20,001 - £25,000)

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

12 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £2,000,000 on any one claim. The cost for the year ended 31 August 2024 was included within the combined insurance policy and has not been specified separately.

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Cost				
At 1 September 2023	70,316	3,030	4,124	77,470
Additions	531	518	196	1,245
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
At 31 August 2024	70,847	3,548	4,320	78,715
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2023	10,434	2,482	2,057	14,973
Charge for the year	1,248	286	345	1,879
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
At 31 August 2024	11,682	2,768	2,402	16,852
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net book value				
At 31 August 2024	59,165	780	1,918	61,863
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
At 31 August 2023	59,882	548	2,067	62,497
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Included in land and buildings additions for the year are SEN classroom remodelling costs and creative play area of £422k and £73k respectively.

14 Debtors

	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Trade debtors	166	222
Other debtors	703	347
Prepayments and accrued income	2,436	2,176
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	3,305	2,745
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Trade creditors	984	651
ESFA creditors	609	752
Other creditors	129	213
Accruals and deferred income	3,372	3,341
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	5,094	4,957
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The ESFA creditor is being repaid over an 8 year period from 1 April 2019.

The ESFA agreed to partially write off a loan of £368,900 during the financial year. This decision was based on South Shore Academy leaving the Trust on 1 October 2024. The write-off has been accounted for in accordance with the relevant accounting standards and guidance provided by the ESFA.

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

16	Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	2024	2023
		£000's	£000's
	ESFA Creditor over 1 year	965	1,943
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	The ESFA creditor is being repaid over an 8 year period from 1 April 2019.		
17	Deferred income	2024	2023
		£000's	£000's
	Deferred income is included within:		
	Creditors due within one year	1,287	1,830
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Deferred income at 1 September 2023	1,830	2,442
	Released from previous years	(1,830)	(2,442)
	Resources deferred in the year	1,287	1,830
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Deferred income at 31 August 2024	1,287	1,830
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Included within deferred income at the balance sheet date are funds received in advance for School Capital Funding of £401,000, £40,000 in relation to the Teaching School and Maths Hub, £170,000 in relation to UIFSM, £117,000 in relation to trips and £559,000 in relation to various other income sources.

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £000's	Income £000's	Expenditure £000's	Gains, losses and transfers £000's	Balance at 31 August 2024 £000's
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,764	39,019	(38,379)	911	3,315
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	5,724	(5,724)	-	-
Other government grants	-	7,052	(7,052)	-	-
Teaching schools	290	5,401	(4,981)	-	710
Other restricted funds	-	1,893	(1,893)	-	-
Pension reserve	(130)	-	612	(482)	-
	<u>1,924</u>	<u>59,089</u>	<u>(57,417)</u>	<u>429</u>	<u>4,025</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	62,497	2,156	(1,879)	(911)	61,863
	<u>62,497</u>	<u>2,156</u>	<u>(1,879)</u>	<u>(911)</u>	<u>61,863</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>64,421</u>	<u>61,245</u>	<u>(59,296)</u>	<u>(482)</u>	<u>65,888</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	-	400	(400)	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>(400)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>64,421</u>	<u>61,645</u>	<u>(59,696)</u>	<u>(482)</u>	<u>65,888</u>

There has been a reallocation of funds of £911,000 from fixed assets to the General Administrative and General (GAG) account. This transfer is attributed to capital expenditures incurred for revenue-generating activities.

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

- (i) General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running costs of the academy.
- (ii) The other DfE/ESFA grants fund is used to track grants provided by local and central government departments.
- (iii) The other restricted funds tracks grants, donations and other income arising from sources other than grants provided by central and local government departments.
- (iv) The pensions reserve is a restricted fund to account for the liability arising under the Local Government Pension Scheme.
- (v) The restricted fixed asset funds are carried forward to meet the specific costs of fixed asset projects and to cover the depreciation charges that will be required on these projects going forward as well as the current fixed assets held.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2024.

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £000's	Income £000's	Expenditure £000's	Gains, losses and transfers £000's	Balance at 31 August 2023 £000's
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	2,325	35,983	(35,581)	(963)	1,764
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	6,110	(6,110)	-	-
Other government grants	-	6,414	(6,414)	-	-
Teaching schools	568	3,457	(3,735)	-	290
Other restricted funds	-	1,911	(1,911)	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,397)	-	(386)	1,653	(130)
	<u>1,496</u>	<u>53,875</u>	<u>(54,137)</u>	<u>690</u>	<u>1,924</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	57,915	5,313	(1,694)	963	62,497
	<u>59,411</u>	<u>59,188</u>	<u>(55,831)</u>	<u>1,653</u>	<u>64,421</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>59,411</u>	<u>59,188</u>	<u>(55,831)</u>	<u>1,653</u>	<u>64,421</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	-	426	(426)	-	-
	<u>59,411</u>	<u>59,614</u>	<u>(56,257)</u>	<u>1,653</u>	<u>64,421</u>
Total funds	<u>59,411</u>	<u>59,614</u>	<u>(56,257)</u>	<u>1,653</u>	<u>64,421</u>

Total funds analysis by academy

	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 were allocated as follows:		
Trust consolidated reserve	9,238	7,267
Historical deficit reserves	(5,213)	(5,213)
Total before fixed asset fund and pension reserve	<u>4,025</u>	<u>2,054</u>
Restricted fixed asset fund	61,863	62,497
Pension reserve	-	(130)
Total funds	<u>65,888</u>	<u>64,421</u>

The academy trust now operates by pooling its reserves and managing them at trust level. Accordingly, no analysis of expenditure by individual academy would be meaningful to present here.

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £000's	Restricted funds: General £000's	Fixed asset £000's	Total Funds £000's
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	61,863	61,863
Current assets	-	10,084	-	10,084
Current liabilities	-	(5,094)	-	(5,094)
Non-current liabilities	-	(965)	-	(965)
Total net assets	-	4,025	61,863	65,888

	Unrestricted Funds £000's	Restricted funds: General £000's	Fixed asset £000's	Total Funds £000's
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	62,497	62,497
Current assets	-	8,954	-	8,954
Current liabilities	-	(4,957)	-	(4,957)
Non-current liabilities	-	(1,943)	-	(1,943)
Pension scheme liability	-	(130)	-	(130)
Total net assets	-	1,924	62,497	64,421

20 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 the Lancashire County Pension Fund and the Greater Manchester Pension Fund. The actuary for the Lancashire County Pension Fund is Mercer and the Greater Manchester Pension Fund is Hymans Robertson. Both schemes are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020, and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £47,916 (2023: £46,440) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer administration charge). This is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control result is such that no change in member benefits is needed.
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million
- the SCAPE discount rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 1.7% above the rate of CPI and is based on the Office for Budget Responsibility's forecast for long-term GDP growth.

The revised employer contribution rate, arising from the 2020 valuation, is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2028.

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £4,677,000 (2023: £4,127,000).

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 is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan. Accordingly, the academy trust has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The academy trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds.

The Trust currently has 2 schemes in operation, one with Greater Manchester Pension Fund, covering the following schools; Altrincham Girls Grammar School, Melland High School, Stanley Grove Primary Academy, Cedar Mount Academy, Rushbrook Primary Academy, Acre Hall Primary School, Barton Clough Primary School, Elmridge Primary School, Lime Tree Primary Academy and The Orchards. The second scheme is with Lancashire County Pension Fund and includes South Shore Academy, Marton Primary Academy and Nursery and Bright Futures Educational Trust.

The total contributions are as noted below. The contributions per Fund are as follows:

Greater Manchester Pension Fund - employer's contributions £1,884,000 (2023: £1,511,000), employee's contributions £579,000 (2023: £440,000).

Lancashire County Pension Fund - employer's contributions £550,000 (2023: £448,000), employee's contributions £138,000 (2023: £107,000).

The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.1 to 22.3%% for employers and 5.5 to 12.5%% for employees.

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

Total contributions made	2024	2023
	£000's	£000's
Employer's contributions	2,434	1,959
Employees' contributions	717	547
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total contributions	3,151	2,506
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Principal actuarial assumptions	2024	2023
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.5 - 4.1	3.8 - 4.3
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.7	2.9 - 3.0
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.0	5.3
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.6	2.8
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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

	2024	2023
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
- Males	19.8 - 21.0	20 - 21
- Females	23.1 - 23.5	20 - 23.4
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	21.0 - 22.2	20 - 22.2
- Females	24.5 - 25.3	20 - 25.2
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Sensitivity analysis

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

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Discount rate - 0.1%	185	167
Mortality assumption + 1 year	252	221
CPI rate + 0.1%	183	162
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

20 Pension and similar obligations	(Continued)	
Defined benefit pension scheme net asset/(liability)	2024	2023
	£000's	£000's
Scheme assets	46,443	40,381
Scheme obligations	(40,533)	(36,859)
Net asset/(liability)	5,910	3,522
Restriction of pension scheme surplus	(5,910)	(3,652)
Net liability recognised	-	(130)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2024	2023
	Fair value	Fair value
	£000's	£000's
Equities	30,725	27,129
Bonds	6,043	4,937
Cash	3,306	2,841
Other bonds	6	-
Property	3,746	3,310
Other assets	2,617	2,164
Total market value of assets	46,443	40,381
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<p>The actual return on scheme assets was £3,768,000 (2023: £1,730,000).</p>		
Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2024	2023
	£000's	£000's
Current service cost	2,026	2,275
Interest income	(2,164)	(1,594)
Interest cost	1,960	1,664
Total operating charge	1,822	2,345
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

20 Pension and similar obligations		(Continued)	
		2024	2023
		£000's	£000's
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations			
At 1 September 2023		36,859	38,212
Current service cost		2,012	2,275
Interest cost		1,960	1,664
Employee contributions		717	547
Actuarial gain		(158)	(5,169)
Benefits paid		(857)	(670)
		<u>40,533</u>	<u>36,859</u>
Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets			
		2024	2023
		£000's	£000's
At 1 September 2023		40,381	36,815
Interest income		2,150	1,594
Actuarial gain		1,618	136
Employer contributions		2,434	1,959
Employee contributions		717	547
Benefits paid		(857)	(670)
		<u>46,443</u>	<u>40,381</u>
21 Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities			
	Notes	2024	2023
		£000's	£000's
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		1,949	3,357
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(2,156)	(5,313)
Investment income receivable	6	(169)	(101)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	20	(408)	316
Defined benefit pension scheme finance (income)/cost	20	(204)	70
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		1,879	1,694
(Increase) in debtors		(560)	(520)
(Decrease) in creditors		(841)	(1,980)
		<u>(510)</u>	<u>(2,477)</u>

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

22 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2023 £000's	Cash flows £000's	31 August 2024 £000's
Cash	6,209	570	6,779

23 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

At 31 August 2024 the total of the academy trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Amounts due within one year	46	149
Amounts due in two and five years	102	483
Amounts due after five years	-	1,329
	<u>148</u>	<u>1,961</u>

The Academy has a commitment to make a unitary payment to Blackpool Council under a PFI contract which commenced on 1 September 2017. The academy trust has a commitment under PFI contracts at the year-end of £10k, due to South Shore leaving the trust on 30 September 2024. The PFI commitment will cease on 1 October 2024.

24 Capital commitments

	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	-	669

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

25 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 academy trust has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures. The following related party transaction took place in the accounting period.

Challenge Partners - a Trustee of the company is also a Bright Futures Executive

- The Trust purchased educational resources totalling £nil (2023: £7,848) and had income totalling £nil (2023: £1,716) for room hire and courses provided by the North West hub. There is a balance of £nil (2023: £nil) owed to the trust at year end.

ESSA Academy - a Member of the company is also a Member at ESSA Academy

- The Trust issued a £321 credit note against 2023 income (2023: £3,973) for the provision of courses and had purchases totalling £nil (2023: £6,253). There is a balance of £702 (2023: £1,663) owed to the trust at year end.

Great Schools Trust - an Executive of the company is also a Trustee at Great Schools Trust

- The Trust had income totalling £nil (2023: £3,225) for the provision of appropriate body. There is a balance of £nil (2023: £1,925) owed to the trust at year end.

Prosper Learning Trust – a Trustee of the company is also a Trustee at Prosper Learning Trust

- The Trust purchased educational resources totalling £22,429 (2023: £22,775) and had income totalling £11,155 (2023: £14,676) for appropriate body services. There is a balance of £7,950 (2023: £nil) owed to the trust at year end.

St John Ambulance – a Trustee of the company is also a volunteer at St John Ambulance

- The Trust purchased training courses totalling £948 (2023: £1,230). There is a balance of £nil (2023: £nil) owed to the trust at year end.

Well Schools – an Executive of the company is also a member of the board at Well Schools (Youth Sport Trust)

- The trust purchased educational resources totalling £317 (2023: £nil). There is a balance of £nil (2023: £nil) owed to the trust at year end.

Golborne High School – a Trustee of the company is also a Governor at Golborne High School

- The Trust had income totalling £1,500 (2023: £nil) for appropriate body services. There is a balance of £nil (2023: £nil) owed to the trust at year end.

Prestolee Multi Academy Trust – a Trustee of the company is also an executive member at Prestolee Multi Academy Trust

- The Trust had income totalling £1,228 (2023: £nil) for appropriate body services and £95 for conference attendance. There is a balance of £878 (2023: £nil) owed to the trust at year end.

26 Post balance sheet events

On 1 October 2024, South Shore Academy officially departed from the trust. This event, occurring after the balance sheet date of 31 August 2024, is classified as a non-adjusting event in accordance with FRS 102 Section 32. The Trust has ensured a smooth transition by transferring all necessary records and responsibilities to the new governing body.

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

27 Members' liability

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

28 Agency arrangements

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2024 the trust received £14k (2023: £11k) and disbursed £22k (2023: £11k) from the fund, with the balance carried forward totalling £8k (2023: £nil).