

Company Registration Number: 09751294 (England & Wales)

**RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**



**RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

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<b>Members</b>	Royston Seaward Jamie Parffrey Laurence Frewin Will Foulds
<b>Trustees</b>	Jamie Parffrey, Chair Stewart Biddles, CEO and Accounting Officer <sup>1,2,3</sup> Matthew Redwood, Chair of Audit and Finance Committee <sup>1</sup> Paul Garside <sup>3</sup> Philipa Bennett <sup>2</sup> Suzannah Teagle <sup>2</sup> Josie Medforth (resigned 29 September 2024) <sup>1,3</sup> Alice Bessell (appointed 7 December 2023) <sup>1</sup>  <sup>1</sup> Finance, Audit and Risk Committee <sup>2</sup> Standards Committee <sup>3</sup> Pay Committee
<b>Company registered number</b>	09751294
<b>Company name</b>	Riviera Education Trust
<b>Principal and registered office</b>	C/O Oldway Primary School Higher Polsham Road Paignton Devon TQ3 2SY
<b>Company secretary</b>	Faye Steele
<b>Accounting Officer</b>	Stewart Biddles
<b>Senior management team</b>	Stewart Biddles, CEO Lee Vallance, Chief Finance Officer Debbie Weible, Director of Education
<b>Independent auditors</b>	Bishop Fleming LLP Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors 2nd Floor Stratus House Emperor Way Exeter Business Park Exeter EX1 3QS

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<b>Bankers</b>	Lloyds Bank 2 Palace Avenue Paignton TQ3 3ER
<b>Solicitors</b>	PHP Law 6 Atlantic Building Queen Anne's Battery Plymouth PL4 0LP

**RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the Charitable Company for the year ended 31 August 2024. The annual report serves the purpose of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

The Trust operates 3 primary academies in Torbay. Its academies have a combined pupil capacity of 1,473 and had a roll of 1,397 in the school census of 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Constitution**

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The Trustees of Riviera Education Trust are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company operates as Riviera Education Trust (RET)

Details of the Trustees who served throughout the year, and to the date the accounts are approved, are included in the Reference and Administration Details.

**Trustees' Liability**

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

**Trustees' Indemnities**

Trustees benefit from indemnity insurance purchased at the Academy Trust's expense to cover the liability of the Trustees which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default or breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Academy Trust, provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Trustees knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty or which was committed by the Trustees in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not and provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Trustees in their capacity as Directors of the Academy Trust. The limit of this indemnity is £10.

The Trust from 1 September 2018 is insured through the Department for Education, Risk Protection arrangement offering unlimited professional indemnity.

**Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees**

The number of Trustees shall not be less than three but shall not be subject to any maximum.

The Academy Trust shall have the following Trustees as set out in its Articles of Association and funding agreement:

- No fewer than 3 Trustees appointed under article 50: appointed by the Members by ordinary resolution, for their skills, knowledge and experience.
- Up to 3 Trustees appointed under article 58: co-opted by Trustees (who themselves have not been co-opted) based on their skills, knowledge and experience.

Trustees are appointed for a four year period. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be re-appointed or re-elected.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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When appointing new Trustees, the Board will give consideration to the skills and experience mix of existing Trustees in order to ensure that the Board has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the Academy Trust's development.

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

The Academy Trust has developed a Trustee Recruitment, Induction and Training process.

Recruitment is matched with skills analysis to identify the skills that will be beneficial to the Academy Trust.

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend upon their existing experience but would always include a tour of the schools and a chance to meet staff and pupils. All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees and further induction is tailored specifically to the individual.

A Trustees' strategy day is organised each year which includes training sessions to ensure the Trustees are updated on relevant developments impacting on their roles and responsibilities and also to facilitate engagement in a Trust self assessment / self evaluation process.

**Organisational Structure**

The Board of Trustees normally meets once each term with additional meetings as required to discuss standards and the annual accounts. The Board establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Academy and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of Committees and the Local Standards Boards (LSB) as laid down in the Scheme of Delegation. It receives reports including policies from its Committees for ratification. It monitors the activities of the Committees through the minutes of their meetings.

The Board may from time to time establish working groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

There are 3 Trustees committees as follows;

- Finance, Audit and Risk Committee - this meets at least three times a year and is responsible for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing policy and performance in relation to financial management, compliance with reporting and regulatory requirements and reporting, receiving reports from the Responsible Officer/internal audit and drafting the annual budget including setting staffing levels. It also incorporates the role of an audit committee.
- Standards Committee – this meets at least three times a year and is responsible for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing education standards within the Academy Trust, and ensuring the regular and special needs of all children are met to deliver the Academy Trust's aims for every child.
- Pay Committee - this meets at least once a year and is responsible for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing the pay policy and making initial decisions on staff pay, dismissal, grievance or redundancy.

The Academy Trust also has a Nominations Committee, Admissions Committee and Appeals Committee that meet as required.

The following decisions are reserved to the Board of Trustees: to consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Academy Trust and its committee structure, to appoint or remove the Chair and/or Vice Chair, to appoint the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), to appoint Head of School, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Clerk to the Trustees, to approve the Annual Development Plans and budgets.

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, approving the statutory accounts, monitoring the Academy Trust by the use of budgets and other data, and making all major decisions about the direction of the Academy Trust, capital expenditure and staff appointments.

A Trust Senior Leadership Team meets regularly to ensure the CEO has up to date and accurate information. This group is comprised of the Heads of School, Inclusion Lead, Director of Education (this role ceases this

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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year 2023-24) and CFO of the Trust. The Trust Business team also meet weekly with the CEO. This team comprises: CFO, Operations Manager, HR Manager and Executive Support and Communications Lead.

The Head of School is responsible for the appointment of staff with the exception of Deputy Head positions

The Academy Trust comprises three primary schools – Oldway, Roselands and Shiphay. Each school has its own Local Governing Body responsible for day to day operations and standards, these are known as Local Standards Boards.

The CEO is the Accounting Officer.

The Trustees are responsible for the appointment of the Accounting Officer, the Chief Financial Officer, Heads of School and Deputy Heads.

**Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel**

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the senior management team to comprise the key management personnel of the Academy in charge of directing, controlling, running and operating the Trust on a day to day basis. All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year in respect of their role as a Trustee.

Details of any Trustees' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

A process has been established specifically for the setting of CEO pay and this relates directly to STPCD guidance on the setting of headteacher pay by groups size, in this the MAT is seen as a cumulative entity and the group size is based upon total number of pupils. Increments are related to performance. The CFO, Director of Education and Heads of School pay is set in line with NJC evaluation or STPCD, whichever is relevant to their role.

Confederation of Schools Trusts benchmarking of executive pay (October 21) demonstrates that the Chief Executives' pay falls between the lowest decile and lowest quartile.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
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**Trade union facility time**

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
1	1

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0.0%	
1%-50%	1
51%-99%	
100%	

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Provide the total cost of facility time	916
Provide the total pay bill	7,452,579
Provide the percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (total cost of facility time / total pay bill) x 100	0.01%

Paid trade union activities – 0%

**Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations**

There are no related parties which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of Riviera Education Trust.

The CEO of the Trust holds a director position at Leading Schools South West, a not for profit education company, providing National Professional Qualifications for teachers (regulated by DfE).

The CEO of the Trust is a Trustee at Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust. Any transactions with Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust during the year are undertaken at arm's length and are disclosed within these financial statements.

Oldway School Fundraisers (OSF), Friends of Shiphay School (FOSS) and Roselands Parents and Staff Association (PSA) are made up of parents and staff who fundraise separately and donate funds towards assets and school trips. Their funds are held independently and separate from the Academies assets.

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Objects, Aims and Activities**

The principal object and activity of the Academy Trust is to provide education for the public benefit.

**Vision:**

"Inspiring the individuals of today for a better society tomorrow."

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
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Our Vision is to provide educational excellence and strengthen provision across all schools so that every pupil has the best possible learning experience and is prepared for future life.

As a multi-academy trust, our aim is for all children to reach their full potential; to move into secondary education free to make future choices about their education pathway; to move on from education to become happy, respectful and responsible citizens, contributing positively both to the economy and the society in which they live.

We will achieve this through delivering on our trust values of Aspiration, Belonging and Collaboration. We will strive for excellence in all that we do and have a clear focus on school improvement to ensure children in our trust achieve the best possible outcomes.

We aim to influence the wider educational landscape through our Training School, reaching more children and school communities through outward facing collaborations.

All schools within our academy trust will work collaboratively to achieve the best outcomes for all the children in our care.



Education Trust

## Trust Development Plan 2022-25

Leadership and Governance		Secure the vision of the trust in all schools	Develop quality assurance systems	Engage in Peer Review at Board level	Develop framework for governance	Develop cross-trust teams, including non-educational
Outcomes for Pupils		Attainment and progress above national	Embed inclusive practice across all schools	Pupil well-being and pride evident in all schools	Pupils contribute to wider community	Zero exclusions across our schools
Finance and Resources		Asset Management Plan utilised effectively	5% reserve secured across the trust finances	IT systems support the development of the trust	GAG Pooling in place and reviewed	Green Strategy in place to promote sustainability
Trust Growth		Review and reframe MAT growth strategy	Be recognised for expertise in SEND provision	Ensure data meets criteria for strong trusts	Develop partnerships with Trusts beyond Torbay	Engage more fully with RSC office

Outcomes for our children are positive. In the Early Years children's outcomes are beyond the national averages and this is also true in early reading, the foundation block for a good education. By the time pupils leave our schools, in two thirds of our schools they are beyond or significantly beyond their counterparts nationwide. Where one school is slightly behind this trend, a very recent Ofsted has shown the school is Good and plans are in place to raise outcomes rapidly over the coming year.

The Trust has maintained its focus on supporting the disadvantaged, and this work continues through the development of the Riviera 70, a suite of activities that broaden experiences for all of our pupils.

The Trust is proud of its commitment to social responsibility and as such continues to provide support for families through in-house family support workers who can signpost parents to a wide range of multi-agency support. In addition the Trust works with a wide range of external agencies and is developing its reputation as a civic partner. An example of this is the Torbay Children's Parliament, created by the Trust, working with Torbay Council and the Member of Parliament for Torbay, partly using grant funding accessed by the Trust.

All schools have continued to develop their curriculum offer and a high-quality offer is now embedded in all trust schools and is being further reviewed and developed in the coming year.

There have been two Ofsted inspections in the Trust, one in the past academic year and one in the current academic year. Oldway Primary School received a Good rating in all areas and 'Good' as its single word

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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judgement. Shiphay Learning Academy received a rating of Good in all areas (this was undertaken after the removal of the single word judgement). External school reviews undertaken by another local MAT continue to highlight the improvements being made in all our schools.

The Trust has continued its collaboration with other trusts, the CEO sits on the board of a local MAT and is in cohort one of the DfE approved National Institute of Teaching CEO programme.

**Public Benefit**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commissioner's general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Academy's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

Our Academy Trust is based on a collaborative, self-improving school system. We have a duty to support all schools within our Academy Trust but also to support those more vulnerable schools across Torbay. We achieve this support and collaboration through the work of our Training School which aims to advance for the public benefit, education in Torbay and the surrounding area and through our partnership with the South West Institute for Teaching where the Trust plays a significant role in training Early Career Teachers for the benefit of schools across the South West in Devon and Cornwall.

## STRATEGIC REPORT

### ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

#### Key Performance Indicators

RAG rating key:

Red – not yet achieving, requires further action  
Amber – not yet achieving, doesn't require urgent action  
Green – fully achieving

No.	Key performance indicator (KPI)	RAG rating	Explanation for the rating
1	All schools to maintain or be on track to receive Good OfSTED rating	Green	All schools now 'Good' and continuing to improve.
2	Budgets set with 5% reserve	Amber	Reserves in line with policy however increased risk in coming year that the balance may be below reserve target at end of 24/25
3	EYFS results above national in all schools	Green	Currently on track in all schools
4	Phonics results to be at or above 90% in Year 1 across all schools	Amber	Above national in all schools
5	KS1 and 2 results above national in all subjects in all schools including disadvantaged groups	Amber	On track in Shiphay and Roselands.
6	Risk register and Asset Management Plan in place to support spending decisions	Green	These documents are in place and are constantly evolving

- All schools continue to improve.
- Budgets will be set in line with reserves policy, however, there are risk areas around supply cover budgets and around unknown factors including pay increases which may mean that the year end (2024-2025) is in a deficit position. Trustees will be regularly updated and additional Finance, Audit and Risk (FAR) meetings have been agreed to take place as required.
- Investment and focus on EYFS continues to support our pupils, especially those labelled disadvantaged. Some staff movement between schools will support the continued improvements in the next academic year.
- The investment in phonics and decision to bring in external reviewers continues to prove beneficial. All schools demonstrate high quality teaching in phonics and this is expected to be reflected in outcomes in the June phonics screening check.
- Results at Shiphay and Roselands are strong, whilst Oldway's combined outcomes remain a concern, due to lag in improvements from previous leadership. Results are improving elsewhere in the school and there is considerable confidence that outcomes next year will be significantly improved.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**Financial**

The main financial performance indicator is the level of reserves held at the Balance Sheet date. In particular, the management of spending against General Annual Grant (GAG) requires special attention. In period under review, reserves of £362,311 were carried forward.

As the majority of the funding is based on pupil numbers this is also a key performance indicator. Pupil numbers fell slightly between 22/23 and 23/24 (3% reduction).

Other key performance indicators include:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Pupil numbers	1,429	1,473
Total income per pupil excluding conversion	£6,100	£5,771
Total GAG income per pupil	£4,323	£4,062
GAG income ratio of total income excluding conversion	70.9%	70.4%
Total expenditure per pupil excluding depreciation and pension deficit adjustments	£6,207	£5,549
Staff costs per pupil excluding pension deficit adjustments	£5,279	£4,669
Staff costs as a % of GAG income	122.1%	114.9%
Staff costs as a % of total costs	85.0%	84.1%
Pupil teacher ratio (FTE head count)	22.5	23.8
Available reserves	£311,934	£637,034
Available reserves per pupil	£218	£432

**Going Concern**

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

The defined benefit pension scheme reserve has a negative balance. The effect of the deficit position of the pension scheme is that the Academy Trust is paying higher employers' pension contributions over a period of years. The higher employers' pension contributions will be met from the Academy Trust's budgeted annual income. Whilst the deficit will not be immediately eliminated, there should be no actual cash flow deficit on the fund, nor any direct impact on the free reserves of the Academy Trust.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**Financial review**

Most of the Academy Trust's income is obtained from the DfE via the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2024 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Academy Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the DfE which are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the Fixed Asset Fund. The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the useful life of the assets concerned, as defined in the Academy Trust's accounting policies.

**RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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During the year ended 31 August 2024, the Academy Trust received total income of £8,717,614 and incurred total expenditure of £9,166,851. The excess of expenditure over total income for the year was £449,237. After excluding capital income and expenditure, pension movements, and factoring in revenue transfers to capital, the Trust had a revenue deficit in the year of £274,723.

Whilst the Trust has incurred a significant deficit in the year, a significant portion of this deficit was planned in year. Having initially set a balanced budget for the year ended 31 August 2024, Trustees agreed a revised budget in October 2023 setting an in year budgeted deficit of £185k, using brought forward reserves towards furthering the school improvement and estate of the Trust. During the year further spend was required and agreed to assist with covering staff absences, additional spend on educational needs and towards capital and maintenance work.

At 31 August 2024 the net book value of fixed assets was £13,413,113 of which land and buildings is the significant proportion. Movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 16 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Academy Trust.

The land, buildings and other assets were transferred to the Academy Trust upon conversion. The valuation of the land and buildings assets in the previous year's accounts were based upon a desktop valuation completed by DfE contractors (Montagu Evans) dated 18 November 2020.

The Academy has taken on the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme in respect of its non-teaching staff transferred on conversion. The deficit is incorporated within the Statement of Financial Activity with details in Note 26 to the financial statements.

Key financial policies adopted or reviewed during the year include the Finance Policy which lays out the framework for financial management, including financial responsibilities of the Board, Heads of School, managers, budget holders and other staff, as well as delegated authority for spending. Other policies reviewed and updated included Charges and Lettings, Asset Management and Insurance.

**Reserves Policy**

The Trustees will review the reserve levels of the Academy Trust annually. This review will encompass the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Trustees take into consideration the future plans of the Academy Trust, the uncertainty over future income streams and other key risks identified during the risk review including 3-year budgets, projecting funding, income and expenditure. The Trustee Board have identified the need to plan to meet the future funding available and for capital investment and the Trust set budgets for 2024-25 well within the funding available.

The Trustees have agreed a reserve level target of 5% of GAG funding, to enable it to manage any unforeseen changes that may arise. Reserves above this target level are only held where prudent to do so, to save for specific projects and where by doing so does not impact on the education of the incumbent cohort.

The Trustees have reviewed the future plans of the Academy and have set designated reserves as follows:

- £45,000 towards improving early years outcomes within the three schools

As at 31 August 2024, The Trust held the following reserve levels (excluding pension and fixed assets):

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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	<b>23-24</b>	<b>22-23</b>
GAG	£Nil	£Nil
Designated	£45,000	£175,000
Unrestricted	£311,434	£462,034
Restricted	£5,877	£Nil

In accounting for the Local Government Pension Scheme, the Trust recognises that there is a pension fund deficit which is included in unrestricted funds. This could in theory result in a deficit in unrestricted funds, however it must be stated that an immediate liability for this amount is not crystallised. The pension deficit will be dealt with by an increase in the employers' pension contribution over a period of years and the Three Year Financial Plan and annual budgets must take into account these additional contributions. Therefore, whilst the deficit might not be eliminated, there should be no actual cashflow deficit on the fund, or direct impact on the uncommitted reserves of the Trust because of recognising the deficit.

**Investment Policy**

Due to the timing of receipt of funding and the reserves held as contingency and/or for significant project funding the Trust will hold cash balances in excess of short-term demands. The Trust aims to maintain its cash balances to provide for the day-to-day working capital requirements whilst protecting the real long term balances of any reserves against inflation. These reserve balances may only be invested inline with the Trust policy which is approved by the Directors and currently only allows for short term bank investment accounts to take advantage of any higher interest rates.

Trustees are committed to ensuring that all funds under their control are managed in such a way as to maximise return whilst minimising risk. Any cash not required for operating expenses is placed on deposit at the most favourable rate available from providers covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Day to day management of the surplus funds is delegated to the Headteacher and Chief Finance Officer within strict guidelines approved by the Board of Trustees.

**PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES**

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the risks and uncertainties together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. This forms part of our risk planning process and evaluation.

Those principal risks and uncertainties, looking forward, facing the Academy are

**Financial** - the Academy Trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA. In the last year 93% of the Academy Trust's incoming resources were ultimately Government funded and whilst this level is expected to continue, there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms.

**Failures in governance and/or management** - the risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the Academy Trust's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns, etc. The Trustees continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**Reputational** - the continuing success of the Academy Trust is dependent on continuing to attract applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk Trustees ensure that student success and achievement are closely monitored and reviewed.

**Safeguarding and child protection** - the Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety and discipline. Schools have all received training and safeguarding audits show our processes to be robust.

**Staffing** - the success of the Academy Trust is reliant upon the quality of its staff and so the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning.

**Fraud and mismanagement of funds** - The Academy has appointed Internal audit – Thompson Jenner - to carry out checks on financial systems and records as required by the Academy Trust Handbook (ATH). All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and develop their skills in this area.

**Premises and Estates** - the risk arises that the school premises and estate is not maintained sufficiently to operate a safe school environment, and that it does not comply with all of the relevant regulations. Trustees monitor the Trust asset management plan and compliance tracker at least termly, and are provided with an annual report regarding health and safety.

The Academy Trust has continued to strengthen its risk management process throughout the year by improving the process and ensuring staff awareness. A risk register is maintained, reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The Academy Trust has agreed a Risk Management Strategy, a Risk Register and a Risk Management Plan. These have been discussed by Trustees and include the financial risks to the Academy Trust. The register and plan are being regularly reviewed in light of any new information and formally reviewed annually.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed, in particular those relating to its finances, teaching, facilities and other operational areas. The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess and minimise those risks, including internal controls described elsewhere. Where significant financial risk still remain, they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover.

Whilst the Academy Trust has been historically over-subscribed, risks to revenue funding from a falling roll are small. However, in the locale the size of primary age cohort is reducing and this is reflected in applications across the Trust which will present a financial and organisational challenge to the trust over the next 5 years. The freeze on the Government's overall education budget, changes in funding arrangements for High Needs and increasing employment and premises costs mean that budgets will be increasingly tight in coming years.

The Trustees examine the financial health formally every term. They review performance against budgets and overall expenditure by means of regular update reports at all Board and Finance and Audit Committee meetings. The Trustees also regularly review cash flow forecasts and ensure sufficient funds are held to cover all known and anticipated commitments.

At the year end, the Academy had no significant liabilities arising from trade creditors or debtors that would have a significant effect on liquidity.

The Board of Trustees recognises that the defined benefit pension scheme deficit (Local Government Pension Scheme), represents a significant potential liability. However as the Trustees consider that the Academy Trust is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, this risk from this liability is minimised

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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## FUNDRAISING

Each trust academy has its own parent fundraising body. These are registered charities in their own right, and operate independently of the trust. The trust ensures that these organisations work within the frameworks provided and that any funds raised are directed towards the activities for which they were intended.

## PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Our strategic plan for the next three-year period can be found on our website and the key objectives from the plan are listed below. We believe these objectives will support our children, their families and our wider community, enabling us to deliver our mission to inspire the individuals of today, for a better society tomorrow.

### Objective 1: Successful schools, aspirational outcomes for children

We will raise the outcomes for our pupils, staff and the communities that our schools serve, through ensuring high quality leadership at all levels and precise and clear support that will enable and empower our learners.

We will build high quality leadership at all levels by:

1. Strong governance with support and challenge for our Local Standards Boards
2. A gold standard model for Continued Professional Development, for staff at all levels
3. Growing leaders from within and recruiting where there are specific, identified skills shortages

We will provide precise and clear support for our schools by:

- Providing a coach to every teacher to continually improve our practice
- Appointing our best teachers as trust leads to support in all our schools
- Ensuring staff at all levels are aware of the data available to us and our key priorities

We will ensure our learners are enabled and empowered in our schools by:

- Timely intervention in schools causing concern
- Developing pupil voice across the whole of the trust
- Engaging in research led developments and being leaders in research

### Objective 2: Providing for the community beyond the school gates

Our work will be at the heart of the communities we serve providing support for families before and after their contact with our schools.

We will support our **parents** through:

- Adult learning and careers advice supported by South Devon College
- Increased wrap-around care for all ages including holidays
- Wider access to extra-curricular activities
- Increased use of school buildings outside of school hours
- Maintaining family support services and a hardship fund accessible to all those who need it

We will support our **neighbourhood** by:

- Working with ward councillors to support neighbourhood projects
- Providing a location for community groups and services to meet
- Engaging with local charities to support their work through actions as well as funding

We will support our local **economy** through:

- A procurement strategy that considers locality and carbon footprint
- Providing careers guidance for our pupils that highlights opportunities in a range of careers within the locality
- Developing a curriculum which prepares our pupils for life beyond school and in jobs that don't yet exist

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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**Objective 3: Financial sustainability**

Without financial sustainability we cannot meet our aims. We will manage our finances appropriately, ensuring funding is spent on meeting our aims, improving outcomes for our children and our communities. We will ensure financial stability for all of our schools by:

- Utilising Integrated Curriculum Financial Planning tools to ensure our staffing structures are appropriate
- Utilising economies of scale and sharing resource
- Making best use of government grants and procurement services
- Supporting our schools to develop and grow their income streams

We will be prepared by:

- Producing a three-year budget based upon the most reliable and up to date information
- Taking opportunities to develop the business aspects of our trust - training school, SLEs, tuition services
- Following clear and defined due diligence processes
- Managing clear and agreed risk and asset registers

**FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS**

The Academy and its Trustees do not act as the Custodian Trustees of any other Charity. No funds are held that the Trust does not have control over.

**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 auditors, Bishop Fleming LLP, are willing to continue in office and a resolution to appoint them will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on ... 06/12/24 ... and signed on its behalf by:



**Jamie Parffrey**  
Chair of Trustees

**RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY**

As Trustees we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Riviera Education 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 agreement between Riviera Education Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

**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 6 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a possible</b>
Stewart Biddles (CEO)	5	6
Jamie Parffrey	5	6
Matthew Redwood	6	6
Josie Medforth	6	6
Paul Garside	6	6
Pippa Bennett	4	6
Suzannah Teagle	5	6
Alice Bessell	5	5

The aim of the Trust, to provide excellence for all our children, has been the driving force behind all decisions made and all schools within the Trust have achieved well both academically and in terms of staff, parent and pupil morale.

The Board of Directors (Trustees, referred to hereafter) is appointed by the Members and is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Trust and is directly accountable for the educational standards and financial management of the Trust and its Academies.

In particular:

- Defining and communicating a Vision for the Trust and its Academies/Settings
- Setting and monitoring of standards for achievement of the Vision of the Trust
- Financial management in accordance with the Master Funding Agreement through the setting of a budget for each academy and monitoring its financial performance
- Ensuring the effective safeguarding of all those involved with the Trust.
- Management of the centralised services provided by the Trust.

In the most recent year, the Trust has reviewed its governance structures and going forward has plans to utilise the MAT Assurance Framework to ensure that it meets the most stringent requirements.

Joint CPD and sharing of good practice across the schools within assessment, teaching and learning and the curriculum has been effective and has led to benefits for both staff and pupils across the Trust. Relationships have developed and trust has grown leading to effective partnerships across all three schools. The CEO has supported trustees, guiding the process of governance restructure.

The Trust operate a separate Finance, Audit and Risk Committee as a sub-committee of the main board of Trustees.

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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The purpose of the is to:

- To oversee the annual budget setting.
- To propose the annual budget to the Trustees.
- To ensure that Management Accounts incorporating budgeting and forecast reports are prepared and presented to the Board of Trustees in line with the requirements of the current Academies Financial Handbook.
- To ensure that the Management accounts are prepared and shared with the Chair of Trustees every month and Trustees, six times a year.
- To ensure a strategic financial view of income, staffing, other expenditure and capital projects. This will include monitoring income and expenditure against budget including reporting of any significant budget amendments.
- To have a strategic view regarding forward planning of school finances through longer term financial plans and projections, including capital funding both for maintenance of existing facilities and for school improvement projects.
- To review and monitor all policies under the scope of the Finance and Audit Committee, as delegated by the Scheme of Delegation.
- To ensure compliance with the Finance Policy and Competitive Tendering Policy (consultation on awards of contracts over £50,000), Best Value Statement and Academies Financial Handbook and ensure that academy financial control systems are robust.
- To ensure the Annual Report and Accounts are produced in accordance with the Academies Financial Handbook.
- To review the annual report and accounts and recommend for approval to the Trustees
- To approve; opening and operation of academy bank accounts; authorised signatories; the process of transfers between accounts (via investment policy); operation of credit cards; payment system controls including BACS.
- To ensure that the schools asset management plan is regularly updated and to monitor the progress of all facilities works, including ACMF projects.
- To review and approve bought in service provision in line with levels of delegation as set out in the finance policy.
- To monitor the Trust arrangements to secure value for money in line with the Competitive Tendering Policy.
- To take approved reports to Trustees and report to the Board on any other matters of significance.
- To monitor the Trust arrangements to secure value for money in line with the Competitive Tendering Policy.
- Internal scrutiny - to have in place a process for checking financial systems, controls, transactions and risks, and agreeing, who will perform the work
- To direct a programme of internal scrutiny which delivers objective and independent assurance and is compliant with the requirements of the current Academies Financial Handbook
- To provide assurance to Trustees and Governors that risks are being adequately identified and managed by reviewing the risks to internal financial control at the Academy
- To inform the governance statement that accompanies the annual accounts and, so far as is possible, provide assurance to the external auditors
- ensure that information submitted to DfE and ESFA that affects funding, including pupil number returns and funding claims completed by the trust and (in the case of a multi-academy trust) by constituent academies, is accurate and in compliance with funding criteria.
- oversight of the financial controls and risks at constituent academies

In detail this is achieved through:-

The audit committee manages this programme of risk review and checking of financial controls in the way that they deem most appropriate to their circumstances. Options include: internal audit, additional work by the external auditor, the work of a 'responsible officer' and/or work by 'peer review'.

The adequacy of arrangements will be established as part of the process leading to the accounting officer's annual statement and, where appropriate, through the self-assessment review of financial management and governance, FMGS.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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**Effectiveness of financial control**

- To review the effectiveness of financial and other control systems at all levels of the Trust, including constituent academies.
- To ensure capture of all business and pecuniary interests of members, trustees and senior employees
- To ensure that information submitted to DfE and ESFA that affects funding, including pupil number returns and funding claims completed by the trust and (in the case of a multi-academy trust) by constituent academies, is accurate and in compliance with funding criteria.

**Audit**

- To guide the internal auditor on the nature and scope of the audit as necessary taking into account previous Audit feedback, ensuring that risks and financial controls at constituent academies are also reviewed as part of the scope.
- To consider and advise the Trustees on external audit reports and management letters.
- To advise the Members and Trustees on appointment of Internal and External Audit
- Assess effectiveness of Audit provision and take action where necessary.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Matthew Redwood (Chair)	5	5
Josie Medforth	5	5
Alice Bessell	3	3

The Pay Committee is also a sub-committee of the main board of Trustees. Its purpose is to:

- Undertake the annual salary review and determine the individual salary of all staff by considering and ratifying the Head of School recommendations for the pay of all staff, ensuring the performance management policy and pay policy has been consistently and robustly applied.
- Decide the school's approach towards the exercising of pay discretions.
- Comply with all statutory and contractual obligations.
- Ensure the pay policy is up-to-date and under review.
- Ensure that pay decisions of each member of staff in the school are communicated to them in writing.
- Recommend to the Board of Directors and ensure a review of policy and procedures for performance management in school is completed.
- Approve the appraisals and pay recommendations for the Leadership Team.
- Report to the Board of Directors all decisions taken within the powers delegated to the Committee.
- Review and recommend appropriate training and development activities in respect of the above.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Josie Medforth	1	1
Paul Garside (Chair)	1	1

As Accounting Officer the Chief Executive 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 appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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- Effective management of the budgets of each school
- Deploying staff effectively.
- Robust financial governance and budget management.
- Value for money purchasing.
- Reviewing quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching.
- Reviewing quality of children's learning to enable children to achieve nationally expected attainment.

**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, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

- Robust financial governance and budget management.
- Value for money purchasing.
- Reviewing controls and managing risk.
- Considering use of resources.
- Not allocating time/resources to areas where few improvements can be achieved.
- Making comparisons with similar Academies using data provided by the ESFA and the Government.
- Challenging proposals and examining their effectiveness and efficiency.
- Deploying staff effectively.
- Reviewing quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching.
- Reviewing quality of children's learning to enable children to achieve nationally expected progress.
- Outlining procedures for accepting best value quotes, noting that this is not necessarily the cheapest quote.
- Ensuring sufficient resources have been allocated to the Trust's estate to ensure it is well maintained and compliant with relevant regulations.

**THE PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks 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 Riviera Education Trust for the period from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**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 have been in place for the period from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

**THE RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK**

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

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

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint Thompson Jenner 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. In particular the checks carried out in the current period included testing of the following areas:

- Core financial control systems
- Payroll and HR
- Procurement processes
- Governance processes around business interests
- Management accounts and budgeting process

On an annual basis the auditor reports to the Board of Trustees, through the Finance and Audit Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities. On an annual basis the auditor prepares a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

**REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS**

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

- on discharge of the Board of Trustees financial decisions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress
- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditors;
- 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.

**RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

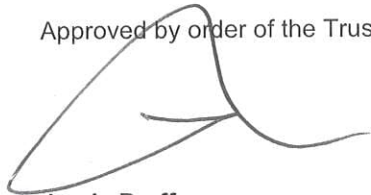
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The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the audit committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

**Conclusion**

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 Trustees of the Board of Trustees on 6/12/24 and signed on its behalf by:



**Jamie Parffrey**  
Chair of Trustees



**Stewart Biddles**  
Accounting Officer

**RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

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As Accounting Officer of Riviera Education Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Board of Trustees and the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with ESFA terms and conditions of funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

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



**Stewart Biddles**  
Accounting Officer

Date: 6/12/24

**RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Jamie Paffrey**  
Chair of Trustees

Date: 6/12/24

**RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF RIVIERA  
EDUCATION TRUST**

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**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Riviera Education Trust (the 'academy trust') for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities incorporating income and expenditure account, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Academy Trust's affairs as at 31 August 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; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the ESFA.

**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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Academy Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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.

**RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF RIVIERA  
EDUCATION TRUST (CONTINUED)**

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**Other information**

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Opinion 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 for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

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

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

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

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

**Responsibilities of trustees**

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

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

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST (CONTINUED)**

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**Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

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

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the Academy sector, control environment and the Academy Trust's performance;
- results of our enquiries of management and the Trustee board, including the committees charged with governance over the Academy Trust's finance and control, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Academy Trust'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;
- how the Academy Trust ensured it met its obligations arising from it being financed by the ESFA and other funders, and as such material compliance with these obligations is required to ensure the Academy Trust will continue to receive its public funding and be authorised to operate, including around ensuring there is no material unauthorised use of funds and expenditure;
- how the Academy Trust ensured it met its obligations to its principal regulator, the Secretary of State for Education; and
- these matters were discussed among the audit engagement team who also considered 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, which included incorrect recognition of revenue, management override of controls using manual journal entries, procurement and payroll. We identified the greatest potential for fraud as incorrect recognition of revenue and management override using manual journal entries.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Academy Trust operates in, focusing 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 Academies Accounts Direction, Academy Trust Handbook, UK Companies Act, tax legislation, Charity SORP 2019 and FRS102.

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 Trust's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included safeguarding regulations, data protection regulations, occupational health and safety regulations, education and inspections legislation, building legislation and employment legislation.

**RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF RIVIERA  
EDUCATION TRUST (CONTINUED)**

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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;
- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess the recognition of revenue;
- enquiring of Trustees and management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing procedures to confirm material compliance with the requirements of its regulators;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing internal control reports; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; and assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from an error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed 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.

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

**Use of our report**

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

*Bishop Fleming LLP*

**Mark Munro FCA (Senior statutory auditor)**

for and on behalf of

**Bishop Fleming LLP**

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditors

2nd Floor Stratus House

Emperor Way

Exeter Business Park

Exeter

EX1 3QS

Date: *12/12/2024*

**RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO RIVIERA  
EDUCATION TRUST AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY**

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 24 September 2021 and further to the requirements of the Education and 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 Riviera Education Trust during the year 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 Riviera Education Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Riviera Education 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 Riviera Education Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

**Respective responsibilities of Riviera Education Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Riviera Education Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 July 2012 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 year 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.

Our Work on regularity included a review of the internal controls policies and procedures that have been implemented and an assessment of their design and effectiveness to understand how the academy complied with the framework of authorities. We also reviewed the reports commissioned by the trustees to assess the internal controls throughout the year;

We performed detailed testing based on our assessment of the risk of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance. This work was integrated with our audit on the financial statements where appropriate and included analytical review and detailed substantive testing of transactions.

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 Trust's compliance with safeguarding, health and safety and estates management.

RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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

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**Conclusion**

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

*Bishop Fleming LLP*

Reporting Accountant  
**Bishop Fleming LLP**  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditors  
2nd Floor Stratus House  
Emperor Way  
Exeter Business Park  
Exeter  
EX1 3QS

Date: *12/12/2024*

RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
<b>Income from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	8,077	83,697	46,392	138,166	193,838
Other trading activities		330,933	-	-	330,933	341,611
Investments	7	13,540	-	-	13,540	7,003
Charitable activities	4	19,787	8,102,392	-	8,122,179	7,835,496
Teaching schools		112,796	-	-	112,796	123,001
<b>Total income</b>		<b>485,133</b>	<b>8,186,089</b>	<b>46,392</b>	<b>8,717,614</b>	<b>8,500,949</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities	9	674,201	7,979,020	385,364	9,038,585	8,759,910
Teaching schools		119,394	8,872	-	128,266	135,668
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>793,595</b>	<b>7,987,892</b>	<b>385,364</b>	<b>9,166,851</b>	<b>8,895,578</b>
<b>Net income /(expenditure)</b>		<b>(308,462)</b>	<b>198,197</b>	<b>(338,972)</b>	<b>(449,237)</b>	<b>(394,629)</b>
Transfers between funds	20	-	(75,458)	75,458	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)</b>		<b>(308,462)</b>	<b>122,739</b>	<b>(263,514)</b>	<b>(449,237)</b>	<b>(394,629)</b>
<b>Other recognised (losses):</b>						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	26	-	253,000	-	253,000	969,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(308,462)</b>	<b>375,739</b>	<b>(263,514)</b>	<b>(196,237)</b>	<b>574,371</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		637,034	(470,000)	13,484,623	13,651,657	13,077,286
Net movement in funds		(308,462)	375,739	(263,514)	(196,237)	574,371
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>328,572</b>	<b>(94,261)</b>	<b>13,221,109</b>	<b>13,455,420</b>	<b>13,651,657</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 35 to 65 form part of these financial statements.

**RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)  
REGISTERED NUMBER:09751294**

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024**

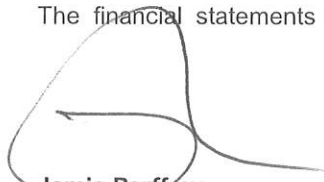
	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	16	13,413,113	13,646,289
		<u>13,413,113</u>	<u>13,646,289</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	17	230,703	260,550
Cash at bank and in hand		833,715	1,170,668
		<u>1,064,418</u>	<u>1,431,218</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(740,214)	(763,479)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>324,204</u>	<u>667,739</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>13,737,317</u>	<u>14,314,028</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	19	(153,897)	(192,371)
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>		<u>13,583,420</u>	<u>14,121,657</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	26	(128,000)	(470,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u><u>13,455,420</u></u>	<u><u>13,651,657</u></u>
<b>Funds of the Academy Trust</b>			
<b>Restricted funds:</b>			
Fixed asset funds	20	13,221,109	13,484,623
Restricted income funds	20	5,877	-
		<u>13,226,986</u>	<u>13,484,623</u>
Restricted funds excluding pension reserve	20	13,226,986	13,484,623
Pension reserve	20	(128,000)	(470,000)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	20	<u>13,098,986</u>	<u>13,014,623</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	20	<u>356,434</u>	<u>637,034</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><u>13,455,420</u></u>	<u><u>13,651,657</u></u>

RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)  
REGISTERED NUMBER:09751294

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)  
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

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The financial statements on pages 31 to 65 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on  
6/12/24 and are signed on their behalf, by:



**Jamie Parffrey**  
(Chair of Trustees)

The notes on pages 35 to 65 form part of these financial statements.

**RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	22	<b>(244,696)</b>	87,236
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
	23	<b>(92,255)</b>	35,175
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		<b>(336,951)</b>	122,411
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<b>1,170,668</b>	1,048,257
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	24, 25	<b>833,717</b>	1,170,668

The notes on pages 35 to 65 form part of these financial statements

**1. Accounting policies**

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

**1.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The financial statements of the Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic 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 i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Academy Trust to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

**1.3 INCOME**

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

Grants 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 year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

Capital grants are recognised in full when there is an unconditional entitlement to the grant. Unspent amounts of capital grant 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 provided to the Academy 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 are recognised on a receivable basis (where there are no performance-related conditions), where the receipt is probable and it can be reliably measured.

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 and services.

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.4 EXPENDITURE**

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

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

**1.5 INTEREST RECEIVABLE**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Academy Trust; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

**1.6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

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

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

On conversion the Academy Trust was granted a 125 year lease from the Local Authority for the land and a 50 year lease for the buildings previously occupied by the local authority school. On conversion the long term leasehold property was recognised as a donation from the Local Authority and was valued using the depreciated replacement cost method.

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 these assets, less their estimated residual value, over its expected useful lives on the following basis:

**RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (CONTINUED)**

Long-term leasehold property	- 50-125 years straight line
Furniture and equipment	- 5-20 years straight line
Computer equipment	- 3 years straight line

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

**1.7 DEBTORS**

Trade and other debtors with no stated interest rate and due within one year are recorded at the amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be received. Prepayments are valued at the amount paid.

**1.8 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account and cash on deposit that has a notice period of less than 3 months.

**1.9 LIABILITIES**

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

**1.10 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 17. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 18 and 19. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

**1.11 OPERATING LEASES**

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

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.12 PENSIONS**

Retirement benefits to employees of the Academy Trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ("TPS") and the Local Government Pension Scheme ("LGPS"). These are defined benefit schemes.

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

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Academy Trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each Balance sheet date. The amounts charged to 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.

**1.13 FUND ACCOUNTING**

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

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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

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

Transfers are made between restricted funds and restricted fixed asset funds where restricted funds are used to purchase fixed assets.

**2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND AREAS OF JUDGMENT**

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 26, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 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.

Critical areas of judgment:

The Academy Trust obtain use of fixed assets as a lessee. The classification of such leases as operating or finance lease requires the Academy Trust to determine, based on an evaluation of the terms and conditions of the arrangements, whether it retains or acquires the significant risks and rewards of ownership of these assets and accordingly whether the lease requires an asset and liability to be recognised in the Balance Sheet.

RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	8,077	83,697	-	91,774	102,764
Capital Grants	-	-	46,392	46,392	91,074
<b>TOTAL 2024</b>	<b>8,077</b>	<b>83,697</b>	<b>46,392</b>	<b>138,166</b>	<b>193,838</b>
TOTAL 2023	8,077	94,687	91,074	193,838	

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Education	19,787	8,102,392	8,122,179	7,835,496
TOTAL 2023	35,274	7,800,222	7,835,496	

**RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**5. Funding for the Academy Trust's charitable activities**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
<b>DFE/ESFA GRANTS</b>				
General Annual Grant	-	6,177,770	<b>6,177,770</b>	5,983,795
<b>OTHER DFE/ESFA GRANTS</b>				
Pupil Premium	-	466,495	<b>466,495</b>	475,970
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	196,367	<b>196,367</b>	183,848
Mainstream Schools additional grant	-	211,315	<b>211,315</b>	88,048
Rates Relief	-	32,861	<b>32,861</b>	30,362
Teachers Pay and Pension Grant	-	161,683	<b>161,683</b>	9,129
PE and Sports Grant	-	60,030	<b>60,030</b>	60,000
School Supplementary Grant	-	-	-	175,824
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	4,514	<b>4,514</b>	11,910
	-	7,311,035	<b>7,311,035</b>	7,018,886
<b>OTHER GOVERNMENT GRANTS</b>				
High Needs	-	386,870	<b>386,870</b>	377,926
Nursery Income funded	-	251,765	<b>251,765</b>	256,552
Other Government Grants	-	87,319	<b>87,319</b>	40,627
	-	725,954	<b>725,954</b>	675,105
<b>OTHER INCOME FROM THE TRUST'S EDUCATION</b>				
	19,787	-	<b>19,787</b>	44,574
<b>COVID-19 ADDITIONAL FUNDING (DFE/ESFA)</b>				
Recovery Premium	-	44,697	<b>44,697</b>	46,835
School Led Tutoring	-	20,706	<b>20,706</b>	50,096
	-	65,403	<b>65,403</b>	96,931
	19,787	8,102,392	<b>8,122,179</b>	7,835,496
<b>TOTAL 2023</b>	<b>35,274</b>	<b>7,800,222</b>	<b>7,835,496</b>	

RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

6. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Lettings	44,941	44,941	40,424
Fees received	285,833	285,833	301,187
Other	159	159	-
<b>TOTAL 2024</b>	<u>330,933</u>	<u>330,933</u>	<u>341,611</u>
TOTAL 2023	<u>341,611</u>	<u>341,611</u>	

7. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Investment income	13,540	13,540	7,003
TOTAL 2023	<u>7,003</u>	<u>7,003</u>	

8. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2024 £	Premises 2024 £	Other 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Education:					
Direct costs	6,033,700	291,546	289,846	6,615,092	6,360,573
Allocated support costs	1,393,277	556,539	473,677	2,423,493	2,399,337
Teaching school	117,325	-	10,941	128,266	135,668
<b>TOTAL 2024</b>	<u>7,544,302</u>	<u>848,085</u>	<u>774,464</u>	<u>9,166,851</u>	<u>8,895,578</u>
TOTAL 2023	<u>7,095,135</u>	<u>827,915</u>	<u>972,528</u>	<u>8,895,578</u>	

RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

9. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Education	674,201	8,364,384	<b>9,038,585</b>	8,759,910
TOTAL 2023	279,959	8,479,951	8,759,910	

Teaching school expenditure in the year amounted to £128,266 from unrestricted funds.

10. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Education	6,615,092	2,423,493	<b>9,038,585</b>	8,759,910
TOTAL 2023	6,360,573	2,399,337	8,759,910	

**RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**10. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of support costs**

	<b>Education 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Pension finance costs	5,700	<b>5,700</b>	-
Staff costs	1,381,139	<b>1,381,139</b>	1,339,334
Depreciation	97,126	<b>97,126</b>	106,391
Staff development	8,792	<b>8,792</b>	18,908
Other costs	67,598	<b>67,598</b>	58,114
Recruitment and support	5,423	<b>5,423</b>	5,724
Maintenance of premises and equipment	102,124	<b>102,124</b>	181,746
Cleaning	42,779	<b>42,779</b>	50,869
Rent and rates	62,118	<b>62,118</b>	58,414
Energy costs	134,852	<b>134,852</b>	62,474
Insurance	41,611	<b>41,611</b>	38,868
Security and transport	20,150	<b>20,150</b>	21,183
Catering	266,023	<b>266,023</b>	256,470
Technology costs	80,621	<b>80,621</b>	82,873
Office overheads	5,393	<b>5,393</b>	6,359
Legal and professional	77,295	<b>77,295</b>	82,525
Educational consultancy	4,056	<b>4,056</b>	8,767
Governance costs	20,693	<b>20,693</b>	20,318
	<u>2,423,493</u>	<u><b>2,423,493</b></u>	<u>2,399,337</u>
TOTAL 2023	<u>2,399,337</u>	<u>2,399,337</u>	

**11. Net (expenditure)/income**

Net (expenditure)/income for the year includes:

	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Operating lease rentals	<b>21,647</b>	24,418
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<b>385,364</b>	410,139
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	<b>15,000</b>	13,100
- other services	<b>2,295</b>	2,185
	<u><b>2,295</b></u>	<u>2,185</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**12. Staff**

**a. Staff costs and employee benefits**

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	5,676,362	5,291,435
Social security costs	510,876	470,475
Pension costs	1,187,018	1,283,279
	<u>7,374,256</u>	<u>7,045,189</u>
Agency staff costs	81,631	28,108
Staff restructuring costs	12,277	21,838
	<u><u>7,468,164</u></u>	<u><u>7,095,135</u></u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

**b. Special staff severance payments**

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £5,000 (2023: £21,488). Individually, the payment was £5,000 (2023: £21,488).

**c. Staff numbers**

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

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Teachers	77	73
Educational Support	139	134
Administration and Clerical	22	21
Management	6	7
	<u>244</u>	<u>235</u>

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**12. Staff (continued)**

**c. Staff numbers (continued)**

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	<b>No.</b>	No.
Teachers	<b>64</b>	62
Educational Support	<b>78</b>	75
Administration and Clerical	<b>15</b>	15
Management	<b>6</b>	6
	<b>163</b>	158

**d. Higher paid staff**

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer's National Insurance contributions and employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	<b>No.</b>	No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	<b>3</b>	4
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	<b>2</b>	-
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	<b>-</b>	1
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	<b>1</b>	-

**e. Key management personnel**

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees (who did not receive remuneration for their role as Trustees) and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £263,266 (2023 - £ 259,500).

As staff trustees are not remunerated in respect of their role as a trustee, where staff trustees do not form part of the key management personnel other than in their role as trustee, their remuneration as set out in note 14 has not been included in the total benefits received by key management personnel above.

**RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**13. Central services**

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

- Human resources and payroll
- Legal, audit and other professional services
- Repairs and maintenance
- Executive communication and marketing
- Insurance
- School improvement support (leadership, CPD, curriculum research)
- Financial management
- Funded Apprentice training
- Operational support (policies, procurement, asset and premises management)
- IT Support and IT Hardware
- Central Government and governing body support

From 1 September 2022, the Trust put in place a policy of GAG pooling. The Trust also agreed to pool individual school reserves. As such, central service recharges ceased and income was redistributed to ensure that all academies budgeted for break even position. All costs outlined above were provided and charged centrally, with the Trust picking up any budgeted surplus/deficit.

**14. Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

The Headteacher and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Headteacher and staff, and not in respect of their services as Trustees. Other Trustees did not receive any payment, other than expenses, from the Academy Trust in respect of their role as Trustees. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows: Stewart Biddles: Remuneration £115,000 - £120,000 (2023: £105,000 - £110,000), employer's pension contributions £Nil (2023: £Nil).

Other related party transactions involving the Trustees are set out in note 29.

During the year ended 31 August 2024, £1,145 in expenses were distributed to 1 Trustee (2023: £72 to 1 Trustee).

During the year, retirement benefits were accruing to no Trustee (2023 - none) in respect of defined benefit pension schemes

During the year ended 31 August 2024, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2023 - £NIL).

**15. Trustees' and Officers' insurance**

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

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

16. Tangible fixed assets

	Long-term leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>COST OR VALUATION</b>				
At 1 September 2023	15,939,317	2,391,677	554,200	18,885,194
Additions	46,450	101,151	4,587	152,188
Disposals	-	-	(49,885)	(49,885)
At 31 August 2024	<u>15,985,767</u>	<u>2,492,828</u>	<u>508,902</u>	<u>18,987,497</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>				
At 1 September 2023	2,447,066	2,288,606	503,233	5,238,905
Charge for the year	290,208	49,043	46,113	385,364
On disposals	-	-	(49,885)	(49,885)
At 31 August 2024	<u>2,737,274</u>	<u>2,337,649</u>	<u>499,461</u>	<u>5,574,384</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>				
At 31 August 2024	<u>13,248,493</u>	<u>155,179</u>	<u>9,441</u>	<u>13,413,113</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>13,492,251</u>	<u>103,071</u>	<u>50,967</u>	<u>13,646,289</u>

17. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>		
Trade debtors	3,962	49,651
Prepayments and accrued income	204,066	182,670
VAT recoverable	22,675	28,229
	<u>230,703</u>	<u>260,550</u>

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**18. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	£	£
Salix Loans	<b>38,474</b>	38,474
Trade creditors	<b>43,209</b>	89,771
Other taxation and social security	<b>112,046</b>	102,605
Other creditors	<b>232,421</b>	205,352
Accruals and deferred income	<b>314,064</b>	327,277
	<u><b>740,214</b></u>	<u>763,479</u>
	<b>2024</b>	2023
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	<b>147,083</b>	131,119
Resources deferred during the year	<b>164,070</b>	147,083
Amounts released from previous periods	<b>(147,083)</b>	(131,119)
	<u><b>164,070</b></u>	<u>147,083</u>

At the balance sheet date the Academy was holding funds received in advance for universal free school meals, school trips and wrap around care for the following school year.

**19. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year**

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	£	£
Salix loans	<b>153,897</b>	192,371
	<u><b>153,897</b></u>	<u>192,371</u>

Included within creditors is a Salix loan of £192,371 repayable in six-monthly instalments over 8 years with an applicable annual interest rate of 0%.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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20. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>						
Early Years	-	-	-	45,000	-	45,000
School Improvement	100,000	-	(100,000)	-	-	-
SEN Match Funding	12,000	-	(2,298)	(9,702)	-	-
Building Maintenance	63,000	-	(63,000)	-	-	-
	<u>175,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(165,298)</u>	<u>35,298</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,000</u>
<b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>						
General Funds	<u>462,034</u>	<u>485,133</u>	<u>(600,435)</u>	<u>(35,298)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>311,434</u>
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<u>637,034</u>	<u>485,133</u>	<u>(765,733)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>356,434</u>

RIVIERA EDUCATION TRUST  
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

20. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
<b>RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS</b>						
GAG	-	6,177,770	(6,122,563)	(55,207)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	466,495	(466,495)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	196,367	(196,367)	-	-	-
Rates	-	32,861	(32,861)	-	-	-
High Needs	-	386,870	(386,870)	-	-	-
PE Grant	-	60,030	(60,030)	-	-	-
Mainstream School Additional Grant	-	211,315	(211,315)	-	-	-
Educational visits	-	74,694	(74,694)	-	-	-
Donations	-	9,002	(9,002)	-	-	-
Teachers Pay and Pension	-	161,683	(161,683)	-	-	-
Pupil Premium Recovery	-	44,696	(44,696)	-	-	-
School Led Tutoring	-	20,705	(20,705)	-	-	-
Other DFE	-	4,514	(4,114)	-	-	400
Other	-	339,087	(313,359)	(20,251)	-	5,477
Pension reserve	(470,000)	-	89,000	-	253,000	(128,000)
	<b>(470,000)</b>	<b>8,186,089</b>	<b>(8,015,754)</b>	<b>(75,458)</b>	<b>253,000</b>	<b>(122,123)</b>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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20. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
<b>RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS</b>						
Purchased from GAG	866,636	-	(59,226)	16,733	-	824,143
DfE/EFA capital grant	154,045	28,408	(34,014)	-	-	148,439
Other donations	445,008	-	(26,050)	-	-	418,958
Capital improvement	934,207	-	(20,926)	-	-	913,281
Other capital grants	23,289	17,984	(4,706)	20,251	-	56,818
Salix loan	(230,846)	-	-	38,474	-	(192,372)
Transfer on Conversion	11,292,284	-	(240,442)	-	-	11,051,842
	<u>13,484,623</u>	<u>46,392</u>	<u>(385,364)</u>	<u>75,458</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,221,109</u>
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<u>13,014,623</u>	<u>8,232,481</u>	<u>(8,401,118)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>253,000</u>	<u>13,098,986</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>13,651,657</u></u>	<u><u>8,717,614</u></u>	<u><u>(9,166,851)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>253,000</u></u>	<u><u>13,455,420</u></u>

**20. Statement of funds (continued)**

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

**Designated Funds**

Early Years - Trustees have designated funds to schools within the Trust towards improving early years outcomes

**Restricted Funds**

General Annual Grant - Income from the ESFA which is to be use for the normal running costs of the Academy, including education and support costs.

Pupil Premium - Represents funding received from the ESFA for children that qualify for free school meals to enable the Academy to address the current underlying inequalities between those children and their wealthier peers.

UIFSM (Universal Infant Free School Meals) - This funding was received in order to ensure children that meet the criteria have access to free school meals.

Rates Relief - Income from the ESFA which is to be used for paying rates at the Academy.

High Needs - Funding received by the Local Authority to fund further support for students with additional needs.

PE Grant - This represents funding received from the ESFA and must be used to fund improvements to the provision of PE and sport, for the benefit of primary-aged pupils, so that they develop healthy lifestyles.

Supplementary Grant – Additional ESFA grant in year to support schools with meeting cost of the Health and Social Care Levy and wider cost pressures.

Mainstream School Additional Grant – ESFA funding for the academy to be used for the purposes of the schools.

School Led Tutoring – ESFA funding to provide tutoring intervention to support catch-up for lost education due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other restricted – these represent other restricted funds to be used for specific purposes.

Donations - these represent donated funds to be used for specific purposes.

Educational visits – these represent contributions towards specific educational visits.

Teachers' Pay and Pension Grant - This represents funding to cover the increase in both teachers' salaries and also the increase in the employer's contribution rate for teachers' pensions.

Pension Reserve – This represents the academy's share of the assets and liabilities in the Local Government Pension Scheme.

**Fixed Asset Funds**

Purchased from GAG - These relate to fixed assets purchased using GAG funds. The balance at the year end represents the net book value of the assets purchased.

DfE/ESFA capital grants - This represent funding from the ESFA to cover the maintenance and purchase

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**20. Statement of funds (continued)**

of the schools assets.

Other donations – This represents the value of assets donated to the academy. The balance at the year end represents the NBV of donated assets held by the academy.

Capital improvement - This represents the value of funding received in respect of the Condition Improvement Fund grants.

Other capital grants - these represent other grant funding to be used for specific capital purposes.

Salix loans - This represents the value of loans given to the trust for specific energy efficient projects.

Transferred on conversion – This represent the buildings and equipment donated to the school from the Local Authority on conversion to an Academy.

Fixed Asset Transfer - These represent transfers between restricted fixed assets funds to reflect the allocations within the Trust fixed asset register. The net transfer in year was £79,192 transferred to restricted fixed assets.

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

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

**20. Statement of funds (continued)**

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>						
Early Years	48,469	-	(10,791)	(37,678)	-	-
SEN and Inclusion	90,000	-	(83,145)	(6,855)	-	-
School Improvement	-	-	-	100,000	-	100,000
SEN Match Funding	-	-	-	12,000	-	12,000
Building Maintenance	-	-	-	63,000	-	63,000
	<u>138,469</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(93,936)</u>	<u>130,467</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>175,000</u>
<b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>						
General Funds	<u>399,226</u>	<u>514,966</u>	<u>(321,691)</u>	<u>(130,467)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>462,034</u>
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<u>537,695</u>	<u>514,966</u>	<u>(415,627)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>637,034</u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

20. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
<b>RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS</b>						
GAG	34,781	5,983,795	(5,937,856)	(80,720)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	475,970	(475,970)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	183,848	(183,848)	-	-	-
Rates	-	30,362	(30,362)	-	-	-
High Needs	-	377,926	(377,926)	-	-	-
PE Grant	-	60,000	(60,000)	-	-	-
Supplementary Grant	-	175,824	(175,824)	-	-	-
Mainstream School Additional Grant	-	88,048	(88,048)	-	-	-
Educational visits	-	69,039	(69,039)	-	-	-
Donations	1,250	24,447	(25,697)	-	-	-
Teachers Pay and Pension	-	9,129	(9,129)	-	-	-
Pupil Premium Recovery	-	46,835	(46,835)	-	-	-
School Led Tutoring	-	50,096	(50,096)	-	-	-
Other DFE	-	11,910	(11,910)	-	-	-
Other	64	307,680	(309,272)	1,528	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,221,000)	-	(218,000)	-	969,000	(470,000)
	<u>(1,184,905)</u>	<u>7,894,909</u>	<u>(8,069,812)</u>	<u>(79,192)</u>	<u>969,000</u>	<u>(470,000)</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**20. Statement of funds (continued)**

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
<b>RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS</b>						
Purchased from GAG	895,911	-	(71,521)	42,246	-	866,636
DfE/EFA capital grant	102,490	87,806	(36,251)	-	-	154,045
Other donations	484,758	-	(39,750)	-	-	445,008
Capital improvement	955,133	-	(20,926)	-	-	934,207
Other capital grants	22,798	3,268	(1,249)	(1,528)	-	23,289
Salix loan	(269,320)	-	-	38,474	-	(230,846)
Transfer on Conversion	11,532,726	-	(240,442)	-	-	11,292,284
	<u>13,724,496</u>	<u>91,074</u>	<u>(410,139)</u>	<u>79,192</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,484,623</u>
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<u>12,539,591</u>	<u>7,985,983</u>	<u>(8,479,951)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>969,000</u>	<u>13,014,623</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>13,077,286</u></u>	<u><u>8,500,949</u></u>	<u><u>(8,895,578)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>969,000</u></u>	<u><u>13,651,657</u></u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

20. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 were allocated as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Central Services	362,311	637,034
Restricted fixed asset fund	13,221,109	13,484,623
Pension reserve	(128,000)	(470,000)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,455,420</b>	<b>13,651,657</b>

The Trust operates a gag pooling policy where income is pooled by the Trust and the reserves are held centrally.

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Oldway Primary	2,460,213	515,919	63,949	438,981	3,479,062	3,111,906
Roselands Primary	1,472,332	191,709	39,482	243,492	1,947,015	1,787,158
Shiphay Learning Academy	1,779,366	387,817	48,506	327,828	2,543,517	2,269,483
Central Services	321,789	297,832	5,635	275,636	900,892	1,098,892
<b>ACADEMY TRUST</b>	<b>6,033,700</b>	<b>1,393,277</b>	<b>157,572</b>	<b>1,285,937</b>	<b>8,870,486</b>	<b>8,267,439</b>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**21. Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current period**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	13,413,113	13,413,113
Current assets	1,058,174	5,877	367	1,064,418
Creditors due within one year	(701,740)	-	(38,474)	(740,214)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	-	(153,897)	(153,897)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(128,000)	-	(128,000)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>356,434</b>	<b>(122,123)</b>	<b>13,221,109</b>	<b>13,455,420</b>

**Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period**

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	13,646,289	13,646,289
Current assets	1,362,041	-	69,179	1,431,220
Creditors due within one year	(725,005)	-	(38,474)	(763,479)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	-	(192,371)	(192,371)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(470,000)	-	(470,000)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>637,036</b>	<b>(470,000)</b>	<b>13,484,623</b>	<b>13,651,659</b>

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22. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net expenditure for the period (as per Statement of financial activities)	(449,237)	(394,629)
<b>ADJUSTMENTS FOR:</b>		
Depreciation	385,365	410,139
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(46,392)	(91,044)
Interest receivable	(13,540)	(7,003)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(104,000)	172,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	15,000	46,000
Decrease in debtors	29,847	51,765
Decrease in creditors	(61,739)	(99,992)
<b>NET CASH (USED IN)/PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(244,696)</b>	<b>87,236</b>

23. Cash flows from investing activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	13,540	7,003
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(152,187)	(62,872)
Capital grants from DfE Group	46,392	91,044
<b>NET CASH (USED IN)/PROVIDED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(92,255)</b>	<b>35,175</b>

24. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand and at bank	368,159	615,382
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	465,558	555,286
<b>TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>833,717</b>	<b>1,170,668</b>

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**25. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	At 1 September 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,170,668	(336,953)	833,715
Debt due within 1 year	(38,474)	-	(38,474)
Debt due after 1 year	(192,371)	38,474	(153,897)
	<u>939,823</u>	<u>(298,479)</u>	<u>641,344</u>

**26. Pension commitments**

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 Devon County Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 202 and of the LGPS 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £54,912 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 (2023 - £54,569) and are included within creditors.

**Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers in academies. 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.

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26. Pension commitments (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 ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies 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 27 October 2023, with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation outcome are:

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million

The 2020 valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024 and effective until 31 March 2027. The employer contribution rate for this period will be 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy).

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £667,696 (2023 - £567,723).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2019/04/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx>) for 2016 and [www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2023/10/valuation-result.aspx](https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2023/10/valuation-result.aspx) for 2020.

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

**Local Government Pension Scheme**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £664,000 (2023 - £546,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £528,000 (2023 - £421,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 136,000 (2023 - £125,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 22..9 per cent rising to 22.9 per cent for employers and 5.5 - 12.5 per cent for employees.

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

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

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**26. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Principal actuarial assumptions**

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	<b>3.80</b>	3.85
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	<b>2.80</b>	2.85
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	<b>5.10</b>	5.30

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

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
Males	<b>21.4</b>	21.4
Females	<b>22.7</b>	22.6
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	<b>22.7</b>	22.7
Females	<b>24.1</b>	24.0

**Sensitivity analysis**

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	£000	£000
Discount rate +0.1%	<b>(144)</b>	(125)
Discount rate -0.1%	<b>148</b>	128
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	<b>190</b>	170
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	<b>(185)</b>	(166)
CPI rate +0.1%	<b>146</b>	126
CPI rate -0.1%	<b>142</b>	(123)

**Share of scheme assets**

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

	<b>At 31 August 2024</b>	At 31 August 2023
	£	£
Equities	<b>3,956,000</b>	3,209,000
Corporate bonds	<b>1,679,000</b>	1,309,000
Property	<b>536,000</b>	507,000
Cash and other liquid assets	<b>182,000</b>	80,000
Other assets	<b>918,000</b>	913,000
<b>TOTAL MARKET VALUE OF ASSETS</b>	<b>7,271,000</b>	6,018,000

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26. Pension commitments (continued)

The actual return on scheme assets was £764,000 (2023 - £155,000).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Current service cost	(424,000)	(593,000)
Interest income	328,000	237,000
Interest cost	(343,000)	(283,000)
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT RECOGNISED IN THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(439,000)</b>	<b>(639,000)</b>

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

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>6,488,000</b>	<b>6,572,000</b>
Current service cost	424,000	593,000
Interest cost	343,000	283,000
Employee contributions	136,000	125,000
Actuarial losses/(gains)	179,000	(1,117,000)
Benefits paid	(171,000)	32,000
<b>AT 31 AUGUST</b>	<b>7,399,000</b>	<b>6,488,000</b>

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

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>6,018,000</b>	<b>5,351,000</b>
Interest income	332,000	240,000
Actuarial gains/(losses)	432,000	(148,000)
Employer contributions	528,000	421,000
Employee contributions	136,000	125,000
Benefits paid	(171,000)	32,000
Administration expenses	(4,000)	(3,000)
<b>AT 31 AUGUST</b>	<b>7,271,000</b>	<b>6,018,000</b>

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**27. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 August 2024 the Academy Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Not later than 1 year	18,758	22,918
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	18,758
	<u>18,758</u>	<u>41,676</u>

**28. Members' liability**

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

**29. Related party transactions**

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

The following related party transactions took place in the year:

During the year purchases were made from Thinking Schools Academy Trust (a Trustee is an employee) of £6,000 (2023: £6,000), this transaction was completed at cost and supported by a statement of assurance. At 31 August 2024 the amount owed to Thinking Schools Academy Trust was £Nil (2023: £Nil).

