

Company registration number 10650092 (England and Wales)

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and administrative details	1 - 2
Trustees' report	3 - 14
Governance statement	15 - 18
Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance	19
Statement of Trustees' responsibilities	20
Independent auditor's report on the accounts	21 - 23
Independent reporting accountant's report on regularity	24 - 25
Statement of financial activities including income and expenditure account	26 - 27
Balance sheet	28
Statement of cash flows	29
Notes to the accounts including accounting policies	30 - 53

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

Jacqueline Frost (Resigned 23 November 2022)
Vivien Gillespie (Deceased 24 April 2023)
Maxwell Harnden
William Knowles (Resigned 13 September 2022)
David Mason (Resigned 13 September 2022)
Roderick Stanley-Bell
Alan Whittaker

Trustees

Jason Addison (Vice Chair of FRA)
Paul Carter (Chair)
Stella Day (Vice Chair)
Susan Faulkner (Appointed 13 September 2022)
Anna Hennell James (CEO & Accounting Officer) (Resigned 31 August 2023)
Jason Kirk (Chair of FRA)
Naomi Smith
Alastair Heath-Robinson (CEO & Accounting Officer) (Appointed 1 September 2023, resigned 21 November 2023)

Senior management team

- Chief Executive Officer / Accounting Officer Anna Hennell James (Resigned 31 August 2023)
- Chief Executive Officer / Accounting Officer Alastair Heath-Robinson (Appointed 1 September 2023)
- Chief Finance Officer Jennifer Hunwicke (Resigned 14 May 2023)
- Chief Finance Officer Ellena Skoulding (Appointed 15 May 2023)
- Headteacher Lee Abbott
- Headteacher Paul Arch (Resigned 31 August 2023)
- Headteacher Kasha Blake
- Headteacher Christine Davy
- Headteacher Richard Dediccoat
- Headteacher Kelly Head
- Headteacher Anita Krishna
- Headteacher Gail Phillips (Appointed 1 September 2023)

Company registration number

10650092 (England and Wales)

Principal and registered office

Halifax Primary School
Prince of Wales Road
Ipswich
IP2 8PY

Independent auditor

Ensors Accountants LLP
Connexions
159 Princes Street
Ipswich
IP1 1QJ

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
PO Box 4
13 Cornhill
Ipswich
IP1 1DG

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Solicitors

Stone King
13 Queen Square
Bath
BA1 2HJ

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

The principal activity of the company is the operation of 7 state funded schools in Suffolk, providing education for pupils aged 2–11. Its schools have a combined pupil capacity of 2151 and had a roll of 1870 in the October 2022 school census.

The Trust was incorporated on 1st April 2017

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 Orwell Multi Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Orwell Multi Academy Trust.

Details of the Trustees who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details section at the beginning of the report on page 1.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

The Trust has 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.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The Members may appoint by ordinary resolution up to 10 Trustees.

The total number of Trustees including the Chief Executive Officer if they so choose to act as Trustee under Article 57 who are employees of the Academy Trust shall not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees.

Providing that the Chief Executive Officer agrees so to act, the Members may by ordinary resolution appoint the Chief Executive Officer as a Trustee. If so appointed, the individual holding the post of Chief Executive Officer shall continue as a Trustee until such time as he or she ceases to hold the post of Chief Executive Officer.

The Trustees may appoint Co-opted Trustees. A 'Co-opted Trustee' means a person who is appointed to be a Trustee by being Co-opted by Trustees who have not themselves been so appointed. The Trustees may not co-opt an employee of the Academy Trust as a Co-opted Trustee if thereby the number of Trustees who are employees of the Academy Trust would exceed one third of the total number of Trustees including the Chief Executive Officer to the extent he or she is a Trustee.

Trustees are appointed by the Members of the Trust on recommendation from the Trust Board. When recruiting Trustees, the Trust Board will carry out a skills analysis of the existing Trust Board and endeavour to recruit persons whose skill set and experience will enhance the overall capacity of the Board of Trustees.

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend on their existing experience. All new Trustees will be offered a tour of the schools and the chance to meet with senior staff and pupils. All Trustees are introduced to policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees. All Trustees are made familiar with the terms of reference and the policies surrounding conduct, including the safeguarding agenda in schools, have time with the CEO and Chair of the Trust to discuss main reports and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Meetings with committee chairs and senior staff will also be scheduled as appropriate. As there are expected to be only one or two new Trustees a year, induction will be carried out informally and will be tailored specifically to the individual.

The Trust recognises the need for training for all Governors, Trustees and Members. Over the past year training opportunities have included:

- Safeguarding
- Choosing and developing a curriculum
- Training and support for Curriculum implementation
- Monitoring the quality of Education

Organisational structure

The Trust structure consists of 4 levels:

- the Trust Board, led by the Chair of Trustees;
- the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), led by the CEO;
- local governing committees in each Academy (LGC);
- school leadership teams in each Academy (SLT).

The aim of the structure is to devolve responsibility to reflect local communities and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Trust was set up with a management structure to support the Education Brief. The scheme of delegation outlines the responsibilities across the Trust. The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the Trust by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the Trust, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments. The Executive Leadership Team, consisting of the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Finance Officer (CFO) and the Headteachers, are responsible for leading the Trust on a day-to-day basis. These school leaders manage the Trust at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the Trustees and reporting back to them. They are responsible for the day to day operations of the Trust, in particular organising the teaching staff, facilities and pupils, securing high educational outcomes and ensuring robust safeguarding procedures. The Senior Leadership Team in each school is responsible for the day to day running of that school.

The appointment of staff, through a short listing and interviews process always includes a minimum of one safer recruitment trained individual.

The role of the LGC is to know their schools and communities extremely well, and they are essential in providing Trustees with local intelligence and information. LGC members provide insight into the community and the challenges and opportunities it faces. Each LGC has two parent members (elected by the parent body in accordance with the Articles). LGCs support the development of centrally agreed policies by bringing an understanding of individual school culture and are responsible for ensuring the local implementation of Trust agreed policies. LGCs approve policies that are delegated to school level. They are champions for their schools and work with the Trust to ensure their schools have what they need to thrive.

The CEO is the Accounting Officer.

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The arrangements for setting the pay and remuneration of all management personnel are detailed in the Trust scheme of delegation. Management personnel, including the Chief Executive Officer, are paid in line with the pay scales set out in the national pay and conditions documents. Pay ranges are agreed with the Trustees, who are responsible for setting pay. All management personnel are subject to normal appraisal procedures which will determine pay increments. Any other remuneration is in line with the Trust pay policy. Neither the CEO /AO nor the CFO receive any additional remuneration. Non-executive Trustees do not receive any remuneration.

An independent review of the pay ranges for school leaders was carried out in the spring term of 2020 to ensure consistency of application of the STPCD and the Trust Pay Policy, and this is used to determine pay ranges for school leaders.

Trade Union Facilities Time

Under the provisions of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017, where an Academy Trust has more than 49 full time employees through any 7 months within the reporting period it must include information included in Schedule 2 of the Regulations. The Trust has more than 49 full time employees throughout the period with 3 employees who were Union officials, however, no official union work was completed by these 3 employees either paid or unpaid during the period.

Engagement with employees

Orwell Multi Academy Trust is committed to high levels of employee involvement and good communication. Our distributed leadership model provides for school-level leadership across the Trust. The Trust engages with its employees continuously and in a number of ways to suit their different working patterns. School leaders are all part of the Executive Leadership Team that meets at least every three weeks with the CEO and CFO. Office Managers meet half termly with the CFO. Headteachers and Office Managers are responsible for cascading news and information from these meetings within their own schools. Other information is relayed to staff through regular Trust mailings, emails and staff training sessions and a half termly 'catch up' with the CEO open to all staff. All local governing committees consider staff well-being as part of their role, and information from them feeds back into the Trust board.

The Trust has a Staff Commitment which sets out what employees can expect from the Trust. An annual trust wide well-being survey of all staff is carried out and used to inform any changes to policy or approach. The most recent survey was carried out in May 2023. In November 2022 the Trust held a Well-being conference for all staff members and Trustees. All employees leaving the Trust are offered an Exit interview, carried out by an independent HR consultant. Outcomes of the Exit Interviews are shared with ELT, Trustees and the HR working party, and are used to inform any changes to policy and procedures. We actively promote good relations with our recognised trades unions and buy into the area facilities time. We have a JCNC and consult with unions on policy changes and discuss issues of mutual interest.

Policy Regarding Disabled Employees

Orwell Multi Academy Trust is committed to ensuring that we are mindful of equality in all that we do. The Trust seeks to ensure that every employee, without exception, is treated equally and fairly and that all employees are aware of their obligations under the Equality Act 2010. Our policies and procedures fully support those with disabilities. We encourage and support a wide diversity of applicants at the recruitment stage and all successful candidates undergo a health screening process to objectively advise line managers on workplace adjustments. For those colleagues with existing disabilities or those who become disabled during their time with the Trust, we work with them to make reasonable adjustments to working practices and/or environment in order to keep the employee safe, and effective. This includes support and training to line managers and colleagues to better understand the needs of those with disabilities. We endeavour to ensure that the recruitment, training, career development and promotion of disabled persons should, as far as possible, be identical to that of other employees.

We seek to make Orwell Multi Academy Trust buildings accessible to all.

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

The Trust recognises that as a public service educational provider it needs to engage with its external stakeholders, which include suppliers, service providers and most importantly its parents, children and wider communities, in strict accordance with the Nolan Principles of Public Life. The Trust maintains regular communications with suppliers, especially those with significant contracts, such as Lunchtime Co (catering), Joskos (IT), Accelerate (Cleaning) and Equans (PPM) to ensure that our supply chains comply with our values and that colleagues working with us feel valued and supported.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Halifax Primary School has a parent association which is a registered charity.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The aim of the Trust is for every child to leave an Orwell Multi Academy Trust school well prepared for the next stage of their academic career, with a passion for lifelong learning.

Our Vision is that every child has an exceptional educational experience. Our mission is to create excellent school communities where learning is unstoppable and aspirations have no limit, enabling all children to flourish, no matter what their starting point or needs.

At Orwell MAT, children are at the heart of everything we do, and we ensure that every decision we make is serving the children of the Trust equally. Everyone in Orwell MAT takes collective responsibility for success across the Trust and we work together to bring about the best outcomes across all our schools.

We believe that we amount to more than the sum of our parts; membership of our Trust leads to better experiences and outcomes for the pupils, staff, and the communities our schools serve. By sharing our resources, talents, passion, and energy, within our common vision and values, we support our individual schools to serve their communities and to deliver and improve within their individual context. Where there is excellent practice, we seek, over time, to make it shared practice across the Trust. We ensure that there is equality of experience and opportunity for all children, no matter which school they attend.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The principal object and activity of the charitable company is the operation of Orwell Multi Academy Trust to provide free education and care for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 2 and 11 years.

The Trust's activities cover a broad curriculum range. Beyond the school day a range of before and after school clubs and activities enrich the curriculum experience. School visits and trips are regularly planned for all pupils with the aim of providing experiences beyond those that they would normally receive, as well as visitors coming in to school.

The Trustees ensure that each school and the Academy Trust as a whole, have effective plans that target areas of development particular to each school and they ensure that the plans are effectively executed. The short-term monitoring of the development plan is delegated to the Local Governing Committees who report to the Trustees termly.

The Trust's aim to retain, train and recruit the best staff at all levels, and to use the skills and expertise from within OMAT to inspire and empower other school communities, is enhanced through the work of the Orwell Education Alliance (formerly the Orwell Teaching School) and the National Leader of Education (NLE) designation of the CEO, with Halifax Primary as a National Support School (NSS). The Education Alliance has a large number of associated Specialist Leaders of Education (SLEs) who work across the Trust Schools to develop staff and improve outcomes for pupils, as well as offering school to school support for schools outside the Trust. This work has been enhanced by the further development of the Trust School Improvement Strategy, approved by the Trust Board in April 2022. This provides a formal model for brokering support between schools, and a commitment from every school in the Trust to provide a minimum number of days support to other schools.

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Orwell Education Alliance (OEA) continues to provide Initial Teacher Training (ITT) in collaboration with Colchester Teacher Training Consortium.

In December 2020 the Trust was selected to open a new one form entry primary school and 60 place nursery in Stowmarket. Work on the building of Grace Cook Primary School started in September 2021 and was completed in August 2022. The school opened to pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 in September 2022. This will further support the principal object and activity of the charitable company to provide free education and care for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 2 and 11 years.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 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 Trust's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

The Trustees have recorded in this report the activities carried out by the Trust in order to further charitable purposes for the public benefit.

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

All schools in the Trust continued to provide full time education for all pupils over the 2022 – 23 academic year. Staffing and pupil absence was maintained at a level where the schools were able to remain open with a contingency of short-term remote education if required. Though this was not required in 2022-23, it was based on the successful model of remote and hybrid learning used during previous periods of national lockdown.

A key objective for the year was to identify gaps in pupils learning and adjust the curriculum to address these. All schools made use of assessment packages and question level analysis to enable these gaps to be identified and closed as swiftly as possible. The Trust introduced the use of PiXL in all schools to support with this.

All schools made use of the National Tutoring Programme and Catch-up funding, to accelerate pupil progress and close any identified gaps in learning. Individual schools planned use of the funding to most effectively suit their context. Approaches used included use of Tutors, appointment of Academic Mentors, and before and after school catch up sessions.

Local Governors and Trustees monitored data through the termly Headteacher reports and using the outcomes of the regular PiXL assessments.

Performance at the end of KS2 SATS in Reading, Writing Maths combined was at or above national for the expected standard in 3 of the 5 reporting schools and above national for the greater depth standard in 2 of the 5 reporting schools.

Grange Community Primary School, whilst below national, showed a 20% improvement on the previously published data from 2019, and significant improvements in progress, with positive progress measures for maths and writing.

Attainment in reading at Brooklands was considerably above the national average.

Attainment in writing at Brooklands, Grange Community Primary School, and Halifax Primary School was considerably above the national average.

Attainment in maths at Brooklands, Halifax Primary and Handford Hall was considerably above the national average.

Brooklands and Handford Hall secured a positive progress score for all pupils as well as disadvantaged pupils in Reading.

Brooklands, Grange Community Primary School, Halifax Primary School and Handford Hall secured a positive progress score for all pupils as well as disadvantaged pupils in Writing.

Halifax Primary and Handford Hall secured a positive progress score for all pupils as well as disadvantaged pupils in maths.

5 of the seven reporting schools were above the national average in the Y1 phonic reading check, with Brooklands Primary achieving 95% and Grace Cook 100%.

Three schools were inspected by Ofsted during the 2022-23 academic year. Grange Community Primary was inspected in January 2023, moving the school from an inadequate to Good judgement in all areas. Brooklands was inspected in October 2022 and received a Good rating for overall effectiveness with an outstanding for the early years provision. Finally, Handford Hall was inspected in May 2023 and also sustained their Good rating for overall effectiveness with an outstanding for personal development.

Attendance across the Trust was just above the national average for all schools with the Trust average at the end of the school year at 93% compared to a national figure of 92.5%.

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Key performance indicators

Key performance indicators:

- Ensure that standards across the Trust remain above the national figure for both attainment and progress.
- Disadvantaged children's attainment and progress is in line with the progress of non-disadvantaged children nationally.
- Ensure that standards across the Trust remain high and schools are challenging themselves by working in partnership across the Trust
- Pupil attendance across the Trust to be in line with the national average.

In order to make a judgement on KPIs the Trust looks at:

- achievement of pupils;
- quality of teaching within the schools;
- behaviour and safety of pupils in the schools;
- quality of leadership and management of the schools.

The Trust has continued to employ external consultants to support schools with their development and improvement plans. In addition to this, over 2022 – 23 half of the Trust schools were visited by a recently retired HMI for quality assurance assessments and two schools had in depth reviews of safeguarding.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Protecting the success of the Academy Trust

The Board considers it crucial that the Trust maintains a reputation for promoting and upholding the highest standards of educational provision, and that any decisions made are in line with our vision, values and strategic aims. Trustees give careful consideration to all decision making, taking into account the long-term consequences of any decisions on our existing academies and staff. By adhering to our core values we seek to sustain strong partnerships with the communities we serve.

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Financial review

We receive our income from a number of sources. The majority of income comes from central government via the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) who provide us with the grant, based largely on our pupil numbers, to cover our staffing and general running costs. (General Annual Grant – GAG). The ESFA may provide us with additional grants for specific purposes (such as Pupil Premium which must be used to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils). These appear in the accounts as DfE / ESFA grants. Where we receive grant or other funding from the Local Authority (such as where we undertake responsibilities on their behalf in respect of our pupils) this appears in the accounts as 'other government grants.' Such income is collectively referred to as 'restricted funds.' Other income is received from parents (for example income for trips) and from other third parties (for example from letting of our premises). Such other income may be restricted or unrestricted depending on whether it comes to us with conditions as to its use or whether it is available to spend at the discretion of the Trustees.

We hold funds in two broad categories, funds which are available for spending and other funds which are not available for spending.

Spendable funds are categorised into restricted and unrestricted. Funds not available for spending include the book value of fixed assets such as land, buildings and resources. These have a value and are therefore included as assets in the accounts but clearly we cannot spend this value. In common with all academies and Local Authorities, our share of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) deficit must also be reflected in our accounts and as this is not a conventional liability, it does not need to be deducted from spendable funds. We meet our obligations in respect of the LGPS by paying over pension contributions due as calculated by the scheme's actuaries.

The LGPS asset is a contingent asset and FRS 102 section 21 states that a contingent asset should only be recognised in the accounts if recoverable. Recoverable in relation to a LGPS scheme asset is either certainty of receiving a refund from the scheme or a reduction in the pension contributions in future years. As there is no evidence that this asset is recoverable the asset was reduced to nil in the trial balance and the actuarial gain was adjusted accordingly.

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

During the year ended 31st August 2023, total expenditure of £12,092,291 was covered by recurrent grant funding from the ESFA together with other incoming resources and use of reserves. Expenditure exceeded income for the year (excluding restricted fixed asset funds and pension funds) by £9,390 and after transfers for fixed asset purchases, expenditure exceeded income by £242,218.

All of the expenditure recorded in the Statement of Financial Activities was in furtherance of the Trust's objectives as set out above.

Prudence has been observed throughout the period to ensure reserves of funds are maintained in line with the Trust's reserves policy.

Where schools have converted into the Trust, tangible fixed assets comprising land and buildings, furniture, fixtures and fittings and classroom equipment were granted to the Trust upon conversion by the Local Authority. The assets were used exclusively for the provision of education and associated support services to the pupils of the Trust.

Grace Cook Primary School and Nursery is currently being occupied by the Academy Trust under a tenancy at will, until a lease agreement is signed. When the lease is signed, the land and buildings will be capitalised in the accounts as donated fixed assets by the Local Authority. The Academy Trust have had use of a new building for Brooklands Primary School. This asset has been added to the academy lease and has been capitalised as a donated fixed asset from the Local Authority within the year.

At 31st August 2023 the net book value of tangible fixed assets was £21,807,509 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown within note 14 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the academy.

In accordance with FRS102, the academy received an actuarial assessment of pension scheme liabilities. The deficit balance is included within the balance sheet as at 31st August 2023 and supporting notes to the accounts 22.

Reserves policy

In 2021 the Trustees elected to move to a model of pooled GAG and unrestricted reserves. The Trustees review the reserve levels of the Trust annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves.

As at 31st August 2023 the Trust held reserves of £1,674,877 excluding pension and fixed asset funds (2022: £1,917,096). Of these reserves £316,995 were general restricted (2022: £570,508), £167,385 restricted (2022: £271,617) and £1,190,497 unrestricted (2022: £1,074,970). The Trustees have determined that the minimum level of available revenue reserves should be equivalent to £75k per location (2022: £525,000). The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance. The Trust's target maximum reserves limit is 8% of GAG income in addition to the minimum £75,000 per school. For 2022/23 this would equate to a target maximum reserve of £1,248,585. As the Trust continues to hold more reserves than the targeted maximum, the Trust will continue to implement its strategy and invest accordingly to bring reserves down to the preferred level.

Capital funding is always used first wherever possible and therefore capital reserves are kept to a minimum unless for a specific project.

Investment policy

The Trust currently has one investment of £508,751 within a 95-day notice account with the Bank of Scotland. This funding is still 100% secure but was opened to maximise interest on reserve balances.

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Principal risks and uncertainties

The major risks to which the Trust is exposed are:

- The Trust is reliant on continued Government funding through the ESFA and there is no assurance that policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms
- Failures of governance and / or management – the risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the 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.
- Reduction in funding through loss of pupil numbers. The continuing success of the Trust is dependent on attracting sufficient numbers of pupils to our schools. This risk is mitigated by ensuring that the provision of a high quality education, delivered through a broad based curriculum, with a robust co-curricular offer is closely monitored and reviewed.
- Reputational risk by poor Ofsted performance of more vulnerable schools. This risk is mitigated by close monitoring of pupil progress and outcomes, a clear school improvement strategy, monitoring of KPIs and the work of School Improvement Boards.
- Failure to recruit and retain high quality staff. The success of our schools is dependent on the recruitment and retention of high-quality staff. To mitigate this risk Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures and recruitment to ensure continued training and professional development of staff, work to sustain a reputation as an employer of choice, and ensure there is clear succession planning. The Trust has an active policy of 'growing our own' and supports staff into Initial Teacher Training (ITT). ITT is delivered through the Orwell Education Alliance in association with Colchester Teacher Training Consortium.
- 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
- Failure to ensuring the Trust's estate is safe, well maintained and complies with relevant legislation

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The Trust Board is responsible for risk management and for maintaining a sound system of internal controls that support the achievement of internal policies, aims and objectives whilst safeguarding public funds and other funds and assets for which it is responsible. A risk register is maintained and regularly reviewed by the Trust Board. Their key objective is to minimise risk and take mitigating action where required. Areas of risk assessed include; control of finance, staffing, premises, Health & Safety, educational outcomes, safeguarding.

Risk management is supported through the use of internal audit, provided by Scrutton Bland. Areas focused on this year included Business Continuity, Procurement and Cyber and IT Infrastructure.

Fundraising

The Academy Trust does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the Trustees.

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

	2023	2022
	kWh	kWh
<i>Energy consumption</i>		
Aggregate of energy consumption in the year		
- Gas combustion	949,043	974,342
- Fuel consumed for transport	10,039	4,725
- Electricity purchased	443,887	507,879
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,402,969	1,486,946
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ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	2023	2022
	metric tonnes	metric tonnes
<i>Emissions of CO2 equivalent</i>		
Scope 1 - direct emissions		
- Gas combustion	173.61	177.86
- Fuel consumed for owned transport	-	-
	-----	-----
	173.61	177.86
Scope 2 - indirect emissions		
- Electricity purchased	-	-
Scope 3 - other indirect emissions		
- Fuel consumed for transport not owned by the Academy Trust	1.91	0.93
	-----	-----
Total gross emissions	175.52	178.79
	=====	=====
<i>Intensity ratio</i>		
Tonnes CO2e per pupil	0.09	0.10
	=====	=====

Quantification and reporting methodology

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

Intensity measurement

The intensity measure we are using as a Trust assessed the Tonnes of CO2e emitted per pupil and in our accounts for 2022 - 2023 the intensity ration was: 0.09

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

We have already updated boilers in 2 of our 6 schools and plan to upgrade our boilers which come into scope over the next 5 - 10 years. We are working with Salix to secure funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to look at ways to reduce our Carbon Footprint. We have invested in LED lighting across the Trust estate with the aim of reducing energy consumption by over 20 %.

Plans for future periods

The Trust opened a new school, Grace Cook Primary School and Nursery, in September 2022. The school has opened as a 1 form entry primary school, with capacity for expansion to two form entry should numbers require it. The nursery currently takes children from the term after their third birthday. Trustees will consider expanding this to 2 years olds if there is demand, to increase occupancy of the nursery. The school is currently running some wrap around provision and the Trust will consider expanding this to include holiday clubs if there is sufficient demand from parents.

The Trust will also endeavour to take on further schools, including through sponsorship, as part of the growth plan.

The Trust was previously a designated Teaching School and has continued to provide support and training to other schools through the Orwell Education Alliance, as well as engaging in Initial Teacher Training through CTTC and in conjunction with the Alpha Teaching hub.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

The Academy Trust and its Trustees do not act as the Custodian Trustees for any other charity.

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Auditor

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 21 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Paul Carter

Chair

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Scope of responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Orwell Multi Academy Trust (OMAT) 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.

Trustees are skilled in a range of areas including education, finance, Human Resources, strategic planning. Trustees have driven strategy and changes across the Trust, set the Trust priorities for the year, assessed structure, capacity and growth, and provided challenge and support to the leadership.

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

The board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to Anna Hennell James, 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 Orwell Multi Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. Anna Hennell James resigned on the 31 August 2023 and the day-to-day responsibility was then delegated by the board of Trustees to Alastair Heath-Robinson from the 1 September 2023. 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 14 times during the year. Where it was not possible to meet face to face meetings were held virtually.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Jason Addison (Vice Chair of FRA)	5	8
Paul Carter (Chair)	8	8
Stella Day (Vice Chair)	8	8
Susan Faulkner (Appointed 13 September 2022)	6	8
Anna Hennell James (CEO & Accounting Officer) (Resigned 31 August 2023)	7	8
Jason Kirk (Chair of FRA)	5	8
Naomi Smith	7	8
Alastair Heath-Robinson (CEO & Accounting Officer) (Appointed 1 September 2023, resigned 21 November 2023)	0	0

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Conflicts of interest

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Owing to the nature of the Trust's operations and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that from time to time transactions will take place with organisations in which members of the Trust may have an interest.

All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the Trust's financial regulations and normal procedures.

When making transactions reference will be made to the pecuniary interest register. The register is updated at the start of each meeting and any changes noted by the Trust governance professional. All purchasing decisions are in line with the Trust's Purchasing and Competitive Tendering Policy. A list of companies where there are known links with members of the Trust is maintained on the finance system.

For any decisions raised at the Trust Board meetings pertaining to suppliers where there are links with members of the Trust Board, the related party member would leave the room and it would be recorded in the minutes. All communication with the supplier is via the Headteacher or the Central Team. All services and invoices are approved by Finance team/ CFO/AO.

The Trust does not have a formal sponsor.

Governance reviews

Following the full review of Governance (Spring 2021) a number of new systems and structures were introduced with effect from September 2021. New terms of reference were drawn up for the Quality of Education Committee (QuEC). The overarching role of QuEC is to monitor educational provision across all of our schools and to assess progress towards our mission to create excellent school communities where learning is unstoppable and aspirations have no limit, enabling all children to thrive and flourish, no matter what their starting points or needs. QuEC is supported to carry out this role by the CEO, ELT and the Local Governing Committees (LGCs). It is the responsibility of QuEC to know how well our schools are doing, and where we could be doing better. QuEC ensures that the Trust School Improvement Strategy is a robust process that supports the drive for improvement across all schools in the Trust and ensures that resources are deployed where they are needed. QuEC meets half termly, and meetings are aligned with the 'data drops' across the Trust to support robust review of outcomes.

Each school has a Local Governing Committee (LGC), which works on behalf of the Trust Board. Following the governance review, the Terms of Reference for the LGCs were updated. The LGCs provide challenge and support to school leaders at a local level and monitor how school and Trust actions are put into practice. They are also a voice for the school community to ensure that each school's individual nature and need is addressed as much as possible. The LGC is made up of parent, community, and staff members. Members of the LGC will know the school well and in detail. They provide local challenge and support to the headteacher, focusing on the quality of education and the curriculum, outcomes for all pupils, and wider community engagement. In order to support the LGC in their role, and to improve sharing of information between the Trust Board and LGCs, there are termly meetings with the CEO, Chair of Trustees, and Chairs of the LGCs. These meetings provide an important opportunity for information to feed out to LGCs from the Board and into the Board from the LGCs. The legal responsibilities for policies, finance and decision making sits with the Trust Board, and the LGCs have an opportunity to provide local input to that process. The Chair of Trustees and CEO also attend at least one LGC meeting each year at each school.

The Finance, Resources and Audit (FRA) committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. The FRA's primary purpose is to provide assurance over the suitability of, and compliance with, its financial systems and operational controls. Its purpose is to assist the decision making of the Trust Board, by enabling more detailed consideration to be given to the best means of fulfilling the Board's responsibility to ensure sound management of the Academies' finances and resources. FRA Committee meetings have taken place throughout the year and the Chair of the FRA is a qualified accountant.

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Review of value for money

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

The accounting officer considers how the Academy Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data or by using a framework where appropriate. The accounting officer for the Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by procuring across more than one school where possible, centralising some work streams, and embedding the centralised system for finance.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Orwell Multi Academy Trust for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating, and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1st September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The risk and control framework

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

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

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint Scrutton Bland as internal auditor. One visit was delivered each term. The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's processes and systems. In particular the checks carried out in the current period included:

- Business Continuity
- Procurement
- Cyber Security

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on 21 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Paul Carter
Chair

Alastair Heath-Robinson
CEO & Accounting Officer

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

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

I confirm that 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.

Alastair Heath-Robinson
Accounting Officer

21 November 2023

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Orwell Multi Academy Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 21 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Paul Carter
Chair

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinion

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

In our opinion the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the accounts, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

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 engagement partner has ensured that the audit team collectively had the required experience, knowledge and competence to perform the planned work and identify any relevant irregularities. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

In planning our audit, we identify and assess the risk of material misstatement within the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In assessing the risks, consideration is given to the control environment (including Trustees' and management's own processes for identification and risk assessment) as well as the nature of the entity, the sector in which it operates and the underlying performance. Consideration is also given to the attitudes and incentives of management to commit fraud, with specific procedures planned and performed to respond to the risk of inappropriate management override of controls.

We also obtained an understanding of the applicable laws and regulations to which the academy trust must adhere, through discussions with management and those charged with governance, as well as commercial knowledge of the sector and statutory legislation, in order to determine the key laws and regulations applicable to the academy trust.

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Our audit work included:

- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the rationale behind significant transactions outside the normal course of business.
- Assessment of key accounting estimates within the financial statements in order to assess their reasonableness to determine whether there is any bias in the estimates.
- Review of meeting minutes and internal scrutiny reports.
- Enquiring of management and Trustees as to whether they are aware of any alleged, suspected or actual fraud during the year.

We also performed procedures to satisfy ourselves regarding the academy trust's compliance with applicable laws and regulations, including

- Enquiry of Trustees, management and the entity's solicitors around actual and potential litigation and claims
- Reviewing correspondence with relevant legal authorities

All audit team members were made aware of the applicable laws and regulations, as well as potential fraud risks during the planning stage of the audit and this was discussed at the audit team planning meeting. It was therefore determined that team members all had the relevant awareness and competence to identify any instances of non-compliance or fraud.

There are, however, inherent limitations to our above audit procedures. Auditing standards only require us to enquire of the Trustees and management regarding non-compliance with laws and regulations, as well as review regulatory and legal correspondence (if there is any). It is therefore possible that instances of non-compliance could be missed, particularly where the law in itself is far removed from any financial transactions.

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

Use of our report

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

Helen Rumsey (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Ensors Accountants LLP

30 November 2023

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Connexions
159 Princes Street
Ipswich
IP1 1QJ

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 20 November 2020 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Orwell Multi Academy Trust during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Orwell Multi Academy Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Orwell Multi Academy Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Orwell Multi Academy Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Orwell Multi Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Orwell Multi Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 31 October 2018 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Enquiry of senior management and the academy trust's Trustees.
- Inspection and review of the accounting records, meeting minutes, internal control procedures, certain governance arrangements, management representations and declarations of interest.
- Checking the application of the financial controls.
- Review of the results of the academy trust's process of independent checking of financial controls, systems and transactions.

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Conclusion

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

Reporting Accountant

Ensors Accountants LLP

Dated: 30 November 2023

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General Fixed asset £ £		Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	2,822	-	2,904,253	2,907,075	827,167
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	218,088	10,791,334	-	11,009,422	10,148,654
Other trading activities	5	111,015	-	-	111,015	75,448
Investments	6	17,079	-	-	17,079	567
Total		349,004	10,791,334	2,904,253	14,044,591	11,051,836
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	2,199	-	-	2,199	2,352
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	9	244,291	10,982,238	863,563	12,090,092	11,506,056
Total	7	246,490	10,982,238	863,563	12,092,291	11,508,408
Net income/(expenditure)		102,514	(190,904)	2,040,690	1,952,300	(456,572)
Transfers between funds	20	13,013	(245,841)	232,828	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	22	-	184,000	-	184,000	4,705,000
Net movement in funds		115,527	(252,745)	2,273,518	2,136,300	4,248,428
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		1,074,970	737,125	20,563,784	22,375,879	18,127,451
Total funds carried forward		1,190,497	484,380	22,837,302	24,512,179	22,375,879

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2022	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
		funds	General	Fixed asset	2022
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	783	-	826,384	827,167
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	200,465	9,948,189	-	10,148,654
Other trading activities	5	75,448	-	-	75,448
Investments	6	567	-	-	567
Total		<u>277,263</u>	<u>9,948,189</u>	<u>826,384</u>	<u>11,051,836</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	2,352	-	-	2,352
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	9	208,687	10,472,576	824,793	11,506,056
Total	7	<u>211,039</u>	<u>10,472,576</u>	<u>824,793</u>	<u>11,508,408</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		66,224	(524,387)	1,591	(456,572)
Transfers between funds	20	(112,739)	(108,758)	221,497	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	22	-	4,705,000	-	4,705,000
Net movement in funds		(46,515)	4,071,855	223,088	4,248,428
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		1,121,485	(3,334,730)	20,340,696	18,127,451
Total funds carried forward		<u>1,074,970</u>	<u>737,125</u>	<u>20,563,784</u>	<u>22,375,879</u>

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	13		88,820		35,502
Tangible assets	14		21,807,509		20,111,915
			<u>21,896,329</u>		<u>20,147,417</u>
Current assets					
Stocks	15	4,318		4,007	
Debtors	16	1,231,961		1,410,971	
Investments		508,751		500,000	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,171,341		2,139,543	
		<u>3,916,371</u>		<u>4,054,521</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(1,299,823)		(1,718,269)	
		<u>(1,299,823)</u>		<u>(1,718,269)</u>	
Net current assets			2,616,548		2,336,252
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>24,512,877</u>		<u>22,483,669</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	18		(698)		(2,790)
			<u>(698)</u>		<u>(2,790)</u>
Net assets before defined benefit pension scheme liability			24,512,179		22,480,879
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	22		-		(105,000)
			<u>-</u>		<u>(105,000)</u>
Total net assets			<u>24,512,179</u>		<u>22,375,879</u>
Funds of the Academy Trust:					
Restricted funds	20				
- Fixed asset funds			22,837,302		20,563,784
- Restricted income funds			484,380		842,125
- Pension reserve			-		(105,000)
			<u>23,321,682</u>		<u>21,300,909</u>
Total restricted funds			23,321,682		21,300,909
Unrestricted income funds	20		1,190,497		1,074,970
			<u>1,190,497</u>		<u>1,074,970</u>
Total funds			<u>24,512,179</u>		<u>22,375,879</u>

The accounts on pages 26 to 53 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 21 November 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

Paul Carter
Chair

Company registration number 10650092

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	23		(85,004)		267,500
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		17,079		567	
Capital grants from DfE Group		1,805,545		616,082	
Purchase of intangible fixed assets		(58,640)		(28,500)	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,636,440)		(688,879)	
Purchase of investments		(8,751)		(500,000)	
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets		101		-	
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities			118,894		(600,730)
Cash flows from financing activities					
Repayment of Salix loan		(2,092)		(2,092)	
Net cash used in financing activities			(2,092)		(2,092)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			31,798		(335,322)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			2,139,543		2,474,865
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			2,171,341		2,139,543

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts of the Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

Donations

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

Where the Academy Trust occupies a school under a tenancy at will and value of the notional rent and notional donation can not be reliably measured, this is not recognised in the financial statements.

Other income

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

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Donated fixed assets

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

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

1.5 Intangible fixed assets and amortisation

Intangible assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably. Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost net of amortisation and any provision for impairment.

Amortisation is provided on intangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Purchased computer software 20%

1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

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

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

Leasehold land and buildings	Over the life of the lease for land and 2%-16.66% for buildings
Assets under construction	See note below
Plant and machinery	5.88%-20%
Computer equipment	20%
Furniture and equipment	20%

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

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 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.

1.8 Leased assets

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

1.9 Investments

Current asset investments relate to a 95 day notice bank account not regarded as a liquid asset. This is stated at cost which is the same as the market value.

1.10 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

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

Financial liabilities

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

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

Cash at bank

This includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short-term maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.11 Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is based on estimated selling price less further costs to completion and disposal. Provision is made for obsolete and slow moving stock.

1.12 Taxation

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

1.13 Pensions benefits

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

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

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

1.14 Fund accounting

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

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

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

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.15 Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are required to be recognised as part of the cost of fixed assets.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 22, will impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. The pension scheme surplus is recognised on the balance sheet to the extent to which it can be recovered through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Donated fixed assets	-	1,332,641	1,332,641	3,275
Capital grants	-	1,571,612	1,571,612	823,109
Other donations	2,822	-	2,822	783
	<u>2,822</u>	<u>2,904,253</u>	<u>2,907,075</u>	<u>827,167</u>

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

4 Funding for the Academy Trust's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	8,419,807	8,419,807	7,691,103
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- UIFSM	-	294,663	294,663	264,012
- Pupil premium	-	752,345	752,345	691,881
- Rates relief	-	41,942	41,942	33,135
- School-led tutoring	-	52,624	52,624	33,292
- PE & sport grant	-	122,480	122,480	110,400
- Teachers pay grant	-	1,371	1,371	2,406
- Teachers pension grant	-	3,875	3,875	6,798
- Main stream additional grant	-	129,228	129,228	-
- Supplementary grant	-	243,404	243,404	98,744
- Others	-	39,806	39,806	17,401
	-	10,101,545	10,101,545	8,949,172
Other government grants				
Growth funding	-	67,487	67,487	367,987
SEN funding	-	335,858	335,858	297,583
Early years	-	164,311	164,311	157,610
Opportunity funding	-	13,700	13,700	95,410
Other revenue grants	-	33,462	33,462	9,648
	-	614,818	614,818	928,238
COVID-19 additional funding				
DfE/ESFA				
Recovery premium	-	74,971	74,971	70,779
Other funding				
Trip income	73,905	-	73,905	63,117
Catering income	98,229	-	98,229	92,250
Receipts from insurance claims	404	-	404	6,705
Orwell Education Alliance income	13,875	-	13,875	19,500
Clubs income	31,675	-	31,675	18,893
	218,088	-	218,088	200,465
Total funding	218,088	10,791,334	11,009,422	10,148,654

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Hire of facilities	22,806	-	22,806	17,189
Income from other activities	85,706	-	85,706	55,405
Uniform income	2,503	-	2,503	2,854
	<u>111,015</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>111,015</u>	<u>75,448</u>

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Short term deposits	17,079	-	17,079	567
	<u>17,079</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,079</u>	<u>567</u>

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure		Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
		Premises £	Other £		
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	-	-	2,199	2,199	2,352
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	7,575,505	858,241	866,837	9,300,583	9,038,278
- Allocated support costs	846,913	867,460	1,075,136	2,789,509	2,467,778
	<u>8,422,418</u>	<u>1,725,701</u>	<u>1,944,172</u>	<u>12,092,291</u>	<u>11,508,408</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	9,107	7,930
- Other services	5,235	5,088
Operating lease rentals	17,758	16,266
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	858,240	819,645
Amortisation of intangible fixed assets	5,323	5,148
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	6,000	73,000
	<u>9,473</u>	<u>132,077</u>

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

8 Central services

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

- Chief Executive leadership time and support
- Chief Finance Officer time and support
- School improvement consultancy and support
- Coaching and mentoring support
- HR consultancy advice and support
- Finance system licenses and costs
- Audit fees (both external and internal)
- Trust governance and risk management
- Governor clerking & training
- Attendance officer
- Access to management tools
- Access to occupational health & wellbeing
- GDPR compliance support
- IT consultancy support
- Health and Safety software

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

The shared services team charge for these services by transferring 5% each of GAG, Early Years Funding and any other grants relating to GAG income (such as the teacher pension and pay grant) for each academy.

The Academy trust also provides the following support services to its academies:

- . School budget setting, accounts management and financial advice
- . Centralised finance processing
- . Trustwide contract procurement and management
- . CIF bid and health and safety support

This is charged on an at cost basis apportioned at 50% per school and 50% per pupil.

The Academy trust holds the pension reserve for all of its academies and so pension service costs and pension finance income from the local government pension scheme are held centrally and not recharged to the academies within the Academy trust.

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Handford Hall Primary School	116,840	93,000
Halifax Primary School	128,439	107,129
Springfield Infants School	101,693	78,816
The Willows Primary School	154,261	127,497
Brooklands Community Primary School	75,473	56,207
Grange Community School	68,851	56,126
Grace Cook Primary School	42,228	-
Central services	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	687,785	518,775
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

9 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Direct costs				
Educational operations	115,414	9,185,169	9,300,583	9,038,278
Support costs				
Educational operations	128,877	2,660,632	2,789,509	2,467,778
	<u>244,291</u>	<u>11,845,801</u>	<u>12,090,092</u>	<u>11,506,056</u>

	2023 £	2022 £
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	846,913	846,097
Technology costs	229,739	151,586
Premises costs	867,460	707,812
Other support costs	801,893	726,706
Governance costs	43,504	35,577
	<u>2,789,509</u>	<u>2,467,778</u>

10 Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	6,184,684	5,764,103
Social security costs	557,842	529,439
Pension costs	1,458,941	1,948,207
Staff costs - employees	<u>8,201,467</u>	<u>8,241,749</u>
Agency staff costs	160,862	111,511
Staff restructuring costs	60,089	-
Total staff expenditure	<u>8,422,418</u>	<u>8,353,260</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Severance payments	<u>60,089</u>	<u>-</u>
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Severance payments

The Academy Trust paid 1 severance payment in the year, disclosed in the following band:

£50,001 - £100,000	1
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ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

10 Staff

(Continued)

Special staff severance payments

Special staff severance payments are amounts paid to employees outside of statutory and contractual requirements. Included in staff restructuring costs is a special severance payment totalling £25,077 (2022: £nil)

Staff numbers

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Teachers	99	103
Administration and support	169	151
Management	18	17
	<u>286</u>	<u>271</u>

Higher paid staff

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	3	4
£70,001 - £80,000	3	2
£90,001 - £100,000	1	1
£120,001 - £130,000	1	-
	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £935,763 (2022: £805,015).

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more of the Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Academy Trust. The principal and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as Trustees.

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

A Hennell James (CEO and Accounting Officer):

Remuneration	£95,000 - £100,000 (2022: £90,000 - £95,000)
Employers' pension contributions	£20,000 - £25,000 (2022: £20,000 - £25,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2023, expenses of £961 were reimbursed or paid directly to two trustees (2022: £852).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 27.

12 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2023 is included in the total insurance cost.

13 Intangible fixed assets

	Computer software £
Cost	
At 1 September 2022	62,058
Additions	58,640
	<hr/>
At 31 August 2023	120,698
	<hr/>
Amortisation	
At 1 September 2022	26,555
Charge for year	5,323
	<hr/>
At 31 August 2023	31,878
	<hr/>
Carrying amount	
At 31 August 2023	88,820
	<hr/> <hr/>
At 31 August 2022	35,502
	<hr/> <hr/>

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Assets under construction £	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 September 2022	21,827,117	24,442	1,157,042	542,583	288,295	23,839,479
Transfer	24,442	(24,442)	-	-	-	-
Additions	1,599,104	478,816	154,162	207,601	114,252	2,553,935
Disposals	-	-	-	(1,738)	-	(1,738)
At 31 August 2023	23,450,663	478,816	1,311,204	748,446	402,547	26,391,676
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2022	2,570,686	-	733,806	281,524	141,548	3,727,564
On disposals	-	-	-	(1,637)	-	(1,637)
Charge for the year	532,669	-	151,621	110,372	63,578	858,240
At 31 August 2023	3,103,355	-	885,427	390,259	205,126	4,584,167
Net book value						
At 31 August 2023	20,347,308	478,816	425,777	358,187	197,421	21,807,509
At 31 August 2022	19,256,431	24,442	423,236	261,059	146,747	20,111,915

Land with a value of £8,014,222 (2022: £8,081,619) is held under long term leases, each with a term of 125 years, with Suffolk County Council. A peppercorn rent is payable on each lease.

15 Stock

	2023 £	2022 £
Goods for resale	4,318	4,007

16 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	13,868	12,974
VAT recoverable	155,168	174,625
Other debtors	398	1,208
Prepayments and accrued income	1,062,527	1,222,164
	1,231,961	1,410,971

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Government loans	2,093	2,093
Trade creditors	576,010	787,717
Other taxation and social security	147,115	117,408
Other creditors	153,338	147,690
Accruals and deferred income	421,267	663,361
	<u>1,299,823</u>	<u>1,718,269</u>

18 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Government loans	698	2,790
	<u>698</u>	<u>2,790</u>
Analysis of loans	£	£
Wholly repayable within five years	2,791	4,883
Less: included in current liabilities	(2,093)	(2,093)
	<u>698</u>	<u>2,790</u>
Loan maturity		
Debt due in one year or less	2,093	2,093
Due in more than one year but not more than two years	698	2,790
	<u>2,791</u>	<u>4,883</u>

The Government loan is a Salix loan relating to the purchase of lighting. The loan amount is due to Suffolk County Council.

19 Deferred income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	248,866	289,307
	<u>248,866</u>	<u>289,307</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	289,307	223,639
Released from previous years	(289,307)	(223,639)
Resources deferred in the year	248,866	289,307
	<u>248,866</u>	<u>289,307</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	<u>248,866</u>	<u>289,307</u>

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 Deferred income

(Continued)

At the balance sheet date the Academy trust was holding funds received in advance for school trips totalling £7,084 (2022: £3,749), £180,449 for Universal Infant Free School Meals grants (2022: £156,663), £nil for growth fund grants (2022: £67,487), £39,436 for Early Years grants (2022: £31,925) and £21,897 for other grant income relating to 2023/24 (2022: £29,483).

20 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	570,508	8,419,807	(8,536,740)	(136,580)	316,995
UIFSM	-	294,663	(274,148)	(20,515)	-
Pupil premium	55,341	752,345	(783,487)	-	24,199
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	4,096	74,971	(79,067)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	45,971	634,730	(649,011)	(21,285)	10,405
Other government grants	166,209	614,818	(580,785)	(67,461)	132,781
Pension reserve	(105,000)	-	(79,000)	184,000	-
	<u>737,125</u>	<u>10,791,334</u>	<u>(10,982,238)</u>	<u>(61,841)</u>	<u>484,380</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion and donated assets	17,233,215	1,332,641	(591,413)	2,092	17,976,535
DfE group capital grants	2,546,269	1,571,612	(200,384)	(2,092)	3,915,405
Capital expenditure from GAG	784,300	-	(71,766)	232,828	945,362
	<u>20,563,784</u>	<u>2,904,253</u>	<u>(863,563)</u>	<u>232,828</u>	<u>22,837,302</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>21,300,909</u>	<u>13,695,587</u>	<u>(11,845,801)</u>	<u>170,987</u>	<u>23,321,682</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	1,074,970	349,004	(246,490)	13,013	1,190,497
Total funds	<u>22,375,879</u>	<u>14,044,591</u>	<u>(12,092,291)</u>	<u>184,000</u>	<u>24,512,179</u>

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20 Funds

(Continued)

Transfers

Restricted general funds and unrestricted funds totalling £232,828 were used to purchase fixed assets, this is shown as a transfer.

Restricted general funds

The restricted general fund consists of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to educational purposes.

Other ESFA/DfE Grants includes balances for the PE and Sports Grant.

Recovery premium relates to COVID-19 additional funding.

Other restricted funds include balances for growth fund, moderation, opportunity area grants and Rope Trust grant.

Pupil premium provides funding to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and support pupils with parents in regular armed forces.

UIFSM relates to Universal Infant Free School Meals and provides funding to offer free school meals to pupils in reception, year 1, and year 2.

Restricted fixed asset funds

The government capital funds are provided by the government for specific capital projects. In year, the trust has received Devolved Formula Capital funding of £139,585, CIF grant income of £1,174,863 and Connect the Classroom grant income of £257,164.

Unrestricted funds

These funds relate to unrestricted income to be used to support the Academy trust's objectives and educational activities.

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

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	692,250	7,691,103	(7,773,631)	(39,214)	570,508
Start up grants	12,023	-	(12,023)	-	-
UIFSM	-	264,012	(229,618)	(34,394)	-
Pupil premium	8,840	691,881	(645,380)	-	55,341
Catch-up premium	2,635	-	(2,635)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	70,779	(64,773)	(1,910)	4,096
Other DfE/ESFA grants	28,249	302,176	(284,454)	-	45,971
Other government grants	20,273	928,238	(749,062)	(33,240)	166,209
Pension reserve	(4,099,000)	-	(711,000)	4,705,000	(105,000)
	<u>(3,334,730)</u>	<u>9,948,189</u>	<u>(10,472,576)</u>	<u>4,596,242</u>	<u>737,125</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion and donated assets	17,834,203	3,275	(606,355)	2,092	17,233,215
DfE group capital grants	1,808,086	823,109	(82,834)	(2,092)	2,546,269
Capital expenditure from GAG	698,407	-	(135,604)	221,497	784,300
	<u>20,340,696</u>	<u>826,384</u>	<u>(824,793)</u>	<u>221,497</u>	<u>20,563,784</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>17,005,966</u>	<u>10,774,573</u>	<u>(11,297,369)</u>	<u>4,817,739</u>	<u>21,300,909</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>1,121,485</u>	<u>277,263</u>	<u>(211,039)</u>	<u>(112,739)</u>	<u>1,074,970</u>
Total funds	<u>18,127,451</u>	<u>11,051,836</u>	<u>(11,508,408)</u>	<u>4,705,000</u>	<u>22,375,879</u>

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20 Funds

(Continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:		
Handford Hall Primary School	6,018	-
Halifax Primary School	17,187	51,631
Springfield Infants School	8,119	3,267
The Willows Primary School	4,285	24,280
Brooklands Community Primary School	-	23,069
Grange Community School	-	300
Grace Cook Primary School	131,777	-
Central services	1,507,491	1,814,548
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	1,674,877	1,917,095
Restricted fixed asset fund	22,837,302	20,563,784
Pension reserve	-	(105,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds	24,512,179	22,375,879
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The Trust is currently budgeting a 2023/24 deficit of £198,138 (2022/23 - £245,965 deficit) to reinvest some of these reserves in schools and supporting their pupils to catch up following the impact of Covid-19. The Trust is constantly reviewing the balances in schools and the provision available to our students.

In accordance with the reserves policy the Trustees have pooled all of the schools' unrestricted and GAG funds.

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20 Funds

(Continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff	Other support staff costs	Educational supplies	Other costs excluding depreciation	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Handford Hall Primary School	1,378,191	127,160	80,000	315,969	1,901,320	1,771,113
Halifax Primary School	1,635,390	87,962	103,523	346,420	2,173,295	2,091,215
Springfield Infants School	1,127,959	76,509	72,528	241,792	1,518,788	1,411,591
The Willows Primary School	1,593,355	106,498	148,491	413,428	2,261,772	1,996,762
Brooklands Community Primary School	692,491	52,882	97,759	254,126	1,097,258	1,038,496
Grange Community School	756,707	61,864	59,473	188,454	1,066,498	1,011,080
Grace Cook Primary School	300,544	12,921	33,607	111,891	458,963	-
Central services	109,029	302,959	11,180	327,668	750,836	1,363,357
	<u>7,593,666</u>	<u>828,755</u>	<u>606,561</u>	<u>2,199,748</u>	<u>11,228,730</u>	<u>10,683,614</u>

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	88,820	88,820
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	21,807,509	21,807,509
Current assets	1,197,077	1,495,588	1,223,706	3,916,371
Current liabilities	(6,580)	(1,011,208)	(282,035)	(1,299,823)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(698)	(698)
Total net assets	<u>1,190,497</u>	<u>484,380</u>	<u>22,837,302</u>	<u>24,512,179</u>

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:				
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	35,502	35,502
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	20,111,915	20,111,915
Current assets	1,117,374	1,762,701	1,174,446	4,054,521
Current liabilities	(42,404)	(920,576)	(755,289)	(1,718,269)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(2,790)	(2,790)
Pension scheme liability	-	(105,000)	-	(105,000)
Total net assets	1,074,970	737,125	20,563,784	22,375,879

22 Pension and similar obligations

The Academy Trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Suffolk County Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020, and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £151,162 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022: £143,471) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education in October 2023, due to be implemented from 1 April 2024.

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

22 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2027.

The current employer contribution rate is 23.68% of pensionable pay. The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £968,620 (2022: £916,910)

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website.

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 21.7% for employers and tiered % for employees.

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

Total contributions made	2023	2022
	£	£
Employer's contributions	413,000	388,000
Employees' contributions	109,000	98,000
Total contributions	<u>522,000</u>	<u>486,000</u>

Principal actuarial assumptions	2023	2022
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.95	3.75
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.95	3.05
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	<u>5.20</u>	<u>4.25</u>

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

22 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2023	2022
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.1	21.9
- Females	23.5	24.3
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	21.0	22.9
- Females	25.4	26.1

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

	2023	2022
	£	£
Discount rate + 0.1%	125,000	140,000
Discount rate - 0.1%	(125,000)	(140,000)
Mortality assumption + 1 year	206,000	222,000
Mortality assumption - 1 year	(206,000)	(222,000)
CPI rate + 0.1%	119,000	134,000
CPI rate - 0.1%	(119,000)	(134,000)

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

	2023	2022
	Fair value	Fair value
	£	£
Equities	3,995,000	3,709,000
Corporate bonds	1,513,000	1,200,000
Cash and other liquid assets	61,000	-
Property	484,000	546,000
Total market value of assets	6,053,000	5,455,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £148,000 (2022: £(44,000)).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Current service cost	486,000	1,026,000
Interest income	247,000	160,000
Interest cost	(241,000)	(87,000)
Total operating charge	492,000	1,099,000

The amounts included in the balance sheet arising from the company's obligations in respect of defined benefit plans are as follows:

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

22 Pension and similar obligations	(Continued)	
Amount recognised in the balance sheet	2023 £	2022 £
Present value of defined benefit obligations	5,147,000	5,560,000
Fair value of plan assets	(6,053,000)	(5,455,000)
Surplus in scheme	(906,000)	105,000
Restriction on scheme assets	906,000	-
Total liability recognised	-	105,000

The fair value of the pension assets at 31 August 2023 is in excess of the present value of the defined benefit scheme obligation at that date. This gives rise to surplus of £906,000.

The surplus is recognised in the financial statements only to the extent that the Academy Trust can recover that surplus, either through a reduction in future contributions or a refund to the Academy Trust.

The Academy Trust is not able to determine that the future contributions will be reduced and it is unlikely the Academy Trust will receive a refund. Therefore, the surplus of £906,000 is not recognised as an asset at 31 August 2023 as the Academy Trust is not able to determine that future contributions will be reduced or that a refund of a surplus will be available in the foreseeable future.

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 September 2022	5,560,000	9,181,000
Current service cost	486,000	1,026,000
Interest cost	247,000	160,000
Employee contributions	109,000	98,000
Actuarial gain	(1,183,000)	(4,836,000)
Benefits paid	(72,000)	(69,000)
At 31 August 2023	5,147,000	5,560,000

Changes in the fair value of the Academy Trust's share of scheme assets	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 September 2022	5,455,000	5,082,000
Interest income	241,000	87,000
Actuarial loss	(93,000)	(131,000)
Employer contributions	413,000	388,000
Employee contributions	109,000	98,000
Benefits paid	(72,000)	(69,000)
At 31 August 2023	6,053,000	5,455,000

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

23 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		1,952,300	(456,572)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(2,904,253)	(826,384)
Investment income receivable	6	(17,079)	(567)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	22	73,000	638,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	22	6,000	73,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		858,240	819,645
Amortisation of intangible fixed assets	13	5,323	5,148
(Increase) in stocks		(311)	(732)
(Increase) in debtors		(54,923)	(189,171)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(3,301)	205,133
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		<u>(85,004)</u>	<u>267,500</u>

24 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	31 August 2023 £
Cash	2,139,543	31,798	2,171,341
Loans falling due within one year	(4,883)	2,092	(2,791)
	<u>2,134,660</u>	<u>33,890</u>	<u>2,168,550</u>

25 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts due within one year	11,287	10,676
Amounts due in two to five years	7,101	4,805
Amounts due after five years	76	-
	<u>18,464</u>	<u>15,481</u>

ORWELL MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

26 Capital commitments

	2023 £	2022 £
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	919,139	384,700

27 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the Academy trust's operations and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 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 period of account with organisations connected to the trust. None of the organisations are under the control of the trust's trustees or members.

Team Ipswich Swimming: This is an organisation in which trustee S Day is Club secretary. Income of £Nil (2022: £4,848) was received in the year for use of a school swimming pool. There is no balance owed to Orwell Multi Academy Trust at the year end.

Raedwald Trust: This is an organisation in which trustee A Hennell James is a board member, and A Whittaker a member and Chair of the board. Expenditure of £26,760 was made in relation to PRU places (2022: £8,881) and £225 for training (2022: £50). A balance of £Nil was owed from Orwell Multi Academy Trust at the year end. The expenditure has been declared with the ESFA.

The sister of A Hennell James is the local chair of governors of Willows primary school, however as the local chair of governors she was not involved in setting A Hennell James's remuneration.

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 or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he or she ceases to be a member.