

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 08168042 (England and Wales)

**Report of the Trustees and
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023
for
The Cedars Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Clive Owen LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
140 Coniscliffe Road
Darlington
County Durham
DL3 7RT

The Cedars Academy Trust

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for the Year Ended 31 August 2023**

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The Cedars Academy Trust

**Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023**

MEMBERS:	I Smith R Miller G D Morton G Neale M Hall (resigned 30/11/22) M Flowers (15/06/23)
TRUSTEES	A Thompson (13/10/23) E Neale (15/06/23) M Flowers (resigned 28/02/23) M Hall (resigned 30/11/22) N Kelly (resigned 14/10/23) S Kay (resigned 01/03/23) G Morton (resigned 04/11/22) G Neale J Vincent P Finn P Hills R Lane J MacCabe (13/10/22) J Cairns M P O'Reilly P Smith M Wilson (18/11/22) K Vincent (15/06/23) L Cameron (15/06/23) S Farnie (15/06/23) Rev B Vernon (15/06/23) Dr I Gordan (18/11/22)
REGISTERED OFFICE	Ivy Lane Low Fell Gateshead Tyne and Wear NE9 6QD
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	08168042 (England and Wales)
AUDITORS	Clive Owen LLP Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors 140 Coniscliffe Road Darlington County Durham DL3 7RT
SOLICITORS	Jackson Law Innovation House Yarm Road Stockton on Tees TS18 3TN
SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM	M O'Reilly – Headteacher J Vincent – Headteacher J MacCabe R Lane

The Cedars Academy Trust
Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

BANKERS

Lloyds Bank
5th Floor 102 Grey Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 6AG

The Cedars Academy Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements 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 Directors' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

The academy trust operates an academy for pupils aged 3 to 19 serving a catchment area in Gateshead. It has a pupil capacity of 190 and had a roll of 230 in the school census September 2023.

Commissioned places from Gateshead comprise 170 pre-16 and 20 post 16. All of the pupils at Cedars must have a Statement of Special Educational Needs/Educational Health Care Plan, although it may be possible for this to be drawn up whilst they are in attendance. The Single Plan/Statement have protection in law, and describe the education provision to meet the child's individual need. The Statement/Plan protects the child's individual needs and is formally reviewed at least annually.

Pupils are admitted at any time during the school year, referred via a range of routes. The academy trust works closely with all involved professionals to ensure pupils are correctly placed and that they receive appropriate provision for their needs.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and Aims

The principal objective and activity of the charitable company is the operation of Cedars Academy Trust to provide education for pupils aged 3 to 19 years with physical, sensory and medical needs, speech, language and communication disorders, autism, and a wide range of other complex needs often associated with emotional vulnerability. As a special school we serve the borough of Gateshead with a few out of borough places.

In accordance with the articles of association the charitable company has adopted a 'Scheme of Government' approved by the Secretary of State for Education. The Scheme of Government specified, amongst other things, the basis for admitting students to the academy trust, the catchment area from which the students are drawn, Gateshead, and that the curriculums should comply with the substance of the national curriculum with emphasis on developing skills, knowledge and resilience necessary in adulthood: to create a school that inspires and nurtures creativity and communication and where pupils and staff feel safe and are comfortable within themselves and with each other: and to help develop young people who are confident in and inquisitive of the world around them, who are physically active people, making healthy choices who are confident in a range of environments, who are well prepared for adulthood.

The Cedars Academy Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and Aims

Our aim is to provide a caring but challenging environment where adults and children feel valued and secure and to provide an education which promotes the growth and development of each individual in our care.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance and public benefit. The pupils who attend live in and around the borough, with some out of borough pupils also attending.

The academy trust provides education for pupils of different abilities, with additional (special educational) needs. The academy trust has a curriculum satisfying the requirements of section 78 of EA 2002 (balanced and broad curriculum). The academy trust will be at the heart of the community, promoting community cohesion and sharing facilities with other schools and the wider community.

The academy trust offers all pupils a broad and balanced curriculum. Our curriculum is highly individualised, responsive and rich; it is focused on the promotion of communication, emotional development, resilience, and the development of personal and social skills. We place a significant emphasis on enrichment and activity, its positive impact on developing independence, cognitive functioning, emotional literacy, physical & mental health and self-esteem. As students progress through school the focus is on preparation for an extensive range of accredited routes and transition into a range of routes into FE, training or employment.

The main objectives of the academy trust during the year ended 31 August 2023 are as summarised below:

1. to improve the Quality of Education received by all our young people
2. to improve Access to Learning for all our young people
3. to improve our Leadership and Management capabilities across the academy trust
4. to improve and develop the accommodation on offer at both sites

The Cedars Academy Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The academy trust's main objectives are encompassed in its mission statement: Ours is a community of learning, where secure partnerships create opportunities for students, staff, governors, parents and carers alike to participate and grow to become intellectually, emotionally and socially 'fit for life'.

To this end the objectives and the strategies and activities undertaken to achieve these objectives are all intended to provide the highest quality of education and include:

1. Improved Communication to develop staff skills, knowledge and confidence in a range of communication and language acquisition strategies and that these are at the core of all curriculum delivery
2. Deeper understanding of the teaching and applications of Numeracy - where real life acquisition strategies are at the core of all curriculum delivery
3. More Creativity - a school that truly inspires, nurtures and celebrates creativity
4. Better Understanding of the World - young people who are confident in and inquisitive of the world around them (Science)
5. Understanding Personal, Social and Health Needs - People making healthy choices, comfortable within themselves and with each other
6. Improved Work Skills Independence - Young people who are well prepared for adulthood
7. Physical Development - Young people making healthy choices, working with others and enjoying physical activity

Public Benefit

The academy trust's aims and achievements are set out within this report and have been undertaken to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit. The trustees have complied with the duty under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and the trustees have considered this guidance in deciding what activities the academy trust should undertake. The academy trust trustees confirm they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit as published by the Charity Commission in exercising its powers and duties

FUNDRAISING

The Cedars Academy Trust has an active Cedars Charitable Trust (CCT) that oversees fundraising activities and works closely with parents and the school community. Cedars also fundraises with community activities and has wider business links for fund raising initiatives. The Cedars is currently fund raising to create additional teaching and non-teaching (therapeutic and intervention) accommodation.

The Cedars Academy Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Key Performance Indicators

Ofsted Rating

Overall effectiveness: Good
Effectiveness of leadership and management: Good
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment: Good
Personal development, behavior and welfare: Outstanding
Outcomes for pupils: Good
16 to 19 study programmes: Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection: Good

Achievement and Progress 2022-23

Our assessments for the Summer Term for the Whole School (EYFS-KS3: 163 students) show that students made expected or better progress in all areas is similar to the excellent progress recorded in the previous academic year:

- The number of students exceeding or meeting expected progress in English raised slightly to 97% overall.
- 2% drop in the number of students exceeding or meeting expected progress in Maths (96% overall) this equates to roughly 1.8 students.
- 3% increase in the number of students exceeding or meeting expected progress in PD (96% overall).

Pupil Premium (84 students) data shows progress in line with that of non-PP peers:

- The percentage of students exceeding or meeting expectations in English increased by 2% at 97% overall.
- 3% decrease in the number of students exceeding or meeting expected progress in Maths (96% overall). This is in line with non-PP peers.
- 5% increase in students exceeding or meeting expectations in Personal Development (95% overall). This is slightly higher than for non-PP peers.

The data for Looked After Children (LAC: 4 students) also shows more students meeting or exceeding expectations in all areas over the year:

- 12% increase in students meeting or exceeding expected progress in English (100% overall).
- Maths remained at 100% of all students making or exceeding expected progress.
- 12% increase in students exceeding or meeting expectations in PSEW (88% overall).

The Cedars Academy Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Comparing progress for the Formal Curriculum against the Semi Formal Curriculum

This year, given the higher number of children we have on the semi-formal pathway, we have compared progress of students on the formal pathway with those on the semi-formal, for us to better understand the strengths and areas for development in our curriculum offer.

At first glance, it may appear that students on the formal curriculum (unshaded on the graph) are making very slightly less progress than the semi-formal learners (shaded).

All Students

96% of students on the formal English pathway exceeded or met expectations

98% of students on the semi-formal pathway exceeded or met expectations

96% of students on the formal Maths pathway exceeded or met expectations

96% of students on the semi-formal pathway exceeded or met expectations

94% of students on the formal PD pathway exceeded or met expectations

97% of students on the semi-formal pathway exceeded or met expectations

Students in receipt of Pupil Premium (35 students)

97% of students on the formal English pathway exceeded or met expectations

96% of students on the semi-formal pathway exceeded or met expectations

96% of students on the formal Maths pathway exceeded or met expectations

96% of students on the semi-formal pathway exceeded or met expectations

98% of students on the formal PD pathway exceeded or met expectations

92% of students on the semi-formal pathway exceeded or met expectations

Progress on the Semi-Formal curriculum pathway

In the early part of the academic year, our data suggested that pupils on the **semi-formal** curriculum pathway were not making the same rates of progress as learners on the **formal** pathway. This was largely because most learners on the semi-formal pathway have severe learning needs. They do not have learning 'delay', they have **severe and multiple cognitive developmental conditions** that means learning new things is very difficult and usually happens through repetitive and multi-sensory/modal approaches. Progress for these children will always be relatively slower compared to peers working at National Curriculum levels.

25% of the semi-formal cohort joined Cedars in September 2022. These learners were new to the school (and some to schools altogether) and the first term is usually the most unsettled for them as they begin to learn new routines, make relationships with new adults/peers and adjust to a new environment. The focus on transition means that much time is given to developing emotional and sensory regulation and it takes time for children to become engaged with experiences aimed at developing reading, maths and creativity. Now the children have been in familiar routines for a while, their rates of engagement and progress in all areas of the curriculum is showing excellent improvement.

We developed and introduced a new assessment framework for the Semi-Formal pathway to help our teaching teams accurately assess and record progress at the earliest stages of development.

The data for Summer Term has shown that giving time for gaining familiarity with staff and routines, lots of repetition, tailored sensory approaches and lots and lots of consolidation is very effective as outcomes have improved significantly.

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Progress across the Formal curriculum pathway

The number of children meeting and exceeding expectations in **Communication and English** continues to be strong. The newly implemented **Read Write Inc.** programme continues to show good results throughout the school. The **Talk Boost** intervention continues to show excellent results in developing communication skills. We have been delighted with the success of this programme. Other Specialist schools are now visiting us to look at how we run the programme as we have shared our evidence at the Federation of Leaders Of Specialist Education (FLSE).

The number of children meeting and exceeding expectations in **Maths** also continues to be strong. Teaching teams have a good understanding of the needs of their groups and are able to use a range of strategies and resources to carefully scaffold new concepts and are taking time to practice and consolidate key knowledge and skills before moving on to more abstract ideas. The **10% gap in Personal Development** between students in receipt of **Pupil Premium** on the **Semi-Formal** pathway and **Pupil Premium** Students on the **Formal curriculum** in Autumn 2022 has been addressed. There was a **+12% increase** of students on the **Semi-Formal** pathway meeting or exceeding expected progress in **Personal Development** in the Summer Term.

The data on both curriculum pathways shows that strategies put in place through our Pupil Premium Strategy is having a significant impact on outcomes for children.

Cedars College

Progress and achievement - Summer 2023

Curriculum pathways – Cedars College

Students at Cedars College follow one of three curriculum pathways when studying Numeracy. These are outlined below:

Semi-Formal - Working at Pre Key Stage 1/Pre Entry Level standards

Formal - Working at Key Stage 1/Entry Level 1 standards or higher

Formal+ - Working at chronological age (14+)

Numeracy

Students at Cedars College follow one of three curriculum pathways when studying Numeracy. These are outlined below:

Semi-Formal - Working at Pre Key Stage 1/Pre Entry Level standards

Formal - Working at Key Stage 1/Entry Level 1 standards or higher

Formal+ - Working at chronological age (14+)

The number of students who followed each curriculum pathway in the academic year 2022/23 are as follows:

Pathway	Year Group				
	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Semi-Formal	-	5	1	2	-
Formal	4	11	5	10	7
Formal+	1	3	5	9	3

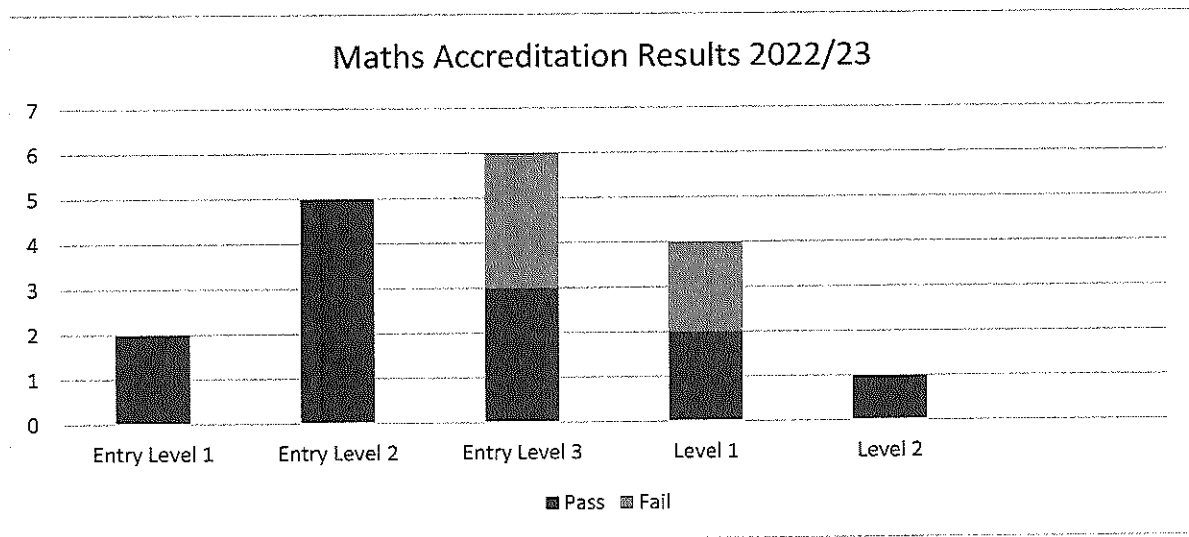
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- 20 students in total entered for accreditation this academic year:
- Functional Skills Maths Entry Level 1 x 2
- Functional Skills Maths Entry Level 2 x 5
- Functional Skills Maths Entry Level 3 x 6
- Functional Skills Maths Level 1 x 4
- Functional Skills Maths Level 2 x 1
- GCSE Maths (Higher Tier x 1, Foundation Tier x 1)

The chart opposite shows the breakdown of results.

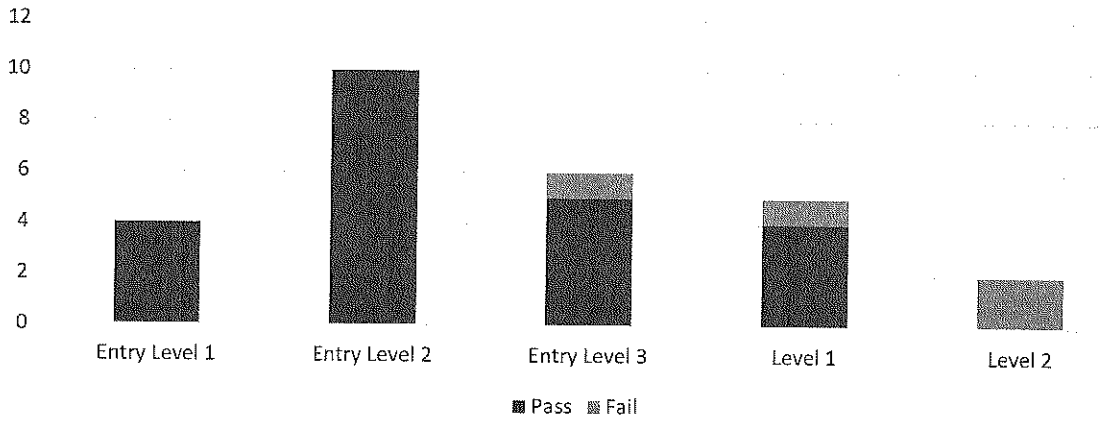
Notes:

- Entry Level 1 = 100% pass rate
- Entry Level 2 = 100% pass rate
- Entry Level 3 = 50% pass rate
- Level 1 = 50% pass rate
- Level 2 = 100% pass rate
- GCSE Foundation result = Grade 4
- GCSE Higher result = Grade 5



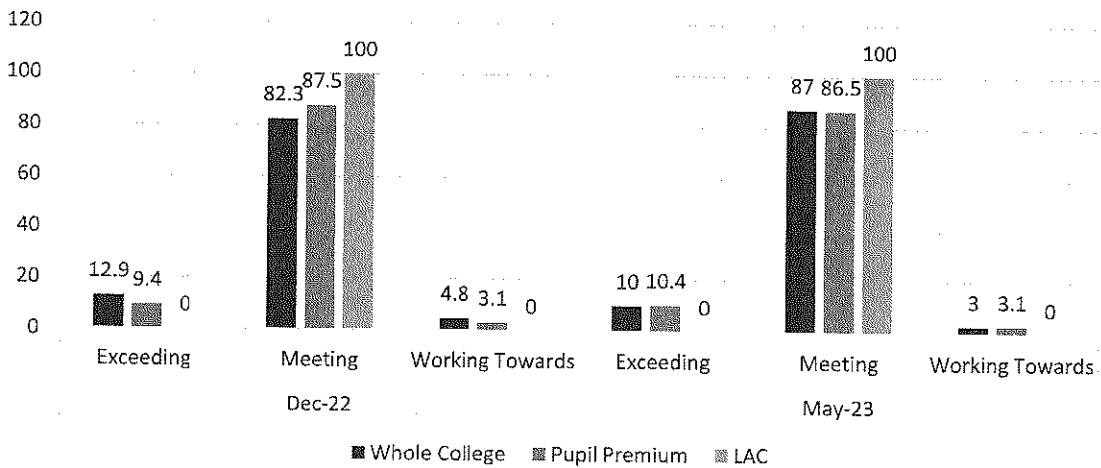
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Functional Skills Maths Accreditation Results 2021/22



- Of the six students who failed Entry Level 3 and Level 1 exams in 2022/23, five had attendance below 80% across the academic year.
- One student had only studied Entry Level 3 for one year and found the step up from Entry Level 2 particularly difficult. They will re-sit Entry Level 3 in the 2023/24 academic year.
- Of the two students who failed the Level 1 exam, attendance was particularly low, with one student only studying the content for one year having passed Entry Level in Year 12.

Cedars College Maths Assessment Data (December 2022 vs May 2023)



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Assessment Data Notes:

- 97% (May 2023) of all students meeting or exceeding expectations (95.2% December 2022);
- 96.9% (May 2023) of Pupil Premium students meeting or exceeding expectations (96.9% December 2022);
- 10.4% (May 2023) of Pupil Premium students exceeding expectations (9.4% December 2022); and
- 100% (May 2023) of Looked After Children (LAC) meeting or exceeding expectations (100% December 2022).

Interventions (for students working towards expected progress):

- 1-2-1 support sessions with maths-specialist teaching assistants;
- Peer support within class; and
- Extra support through CPA approach – large focus on concrete manipulatives to embed concepts.

Maths interventions

- Small group/1-2-1 booster sessions - focus on number bonds/times tables facts using manipulatives/virtual manipulatives;
- Focus on resilience building (e.g. regular use of mini whiteboards to remove fear of mistakes being 'permanent');
- Social games (e.g. Monopoly, Connect 4, Chess, Card games, Dominoes);
- Flexible accreditation entries (e.g. some students sitting levels over two years, one student working towards a practical maths award); and
- Flexible timetabling (e.g. some students accessing maths sessions in the afternoon, some students accessing math sessions with more familiar staff).

Communication

Overview:

We improved all aspects of reading within College with focus on the following:

- How Reading levels are assessed.
- How Reading levels can improve within college.
- How to increase Reading for Pleasure.

One of the ways we have worked towards improvements, was to introduce an effective and accurate reading age assessment, called the Salford Reading Assessment. Students now have an accurate reading age which can be used to inform students and parents about appropriate materials suitable to their age and ability. It was also informative to recognise which class texts were most appropriate and how to effectively differentiate for the reading age spread across the groups. Recommended reading lists were made available to parents and carers during consultations to support home learning or suggestions for appropriate home reading.

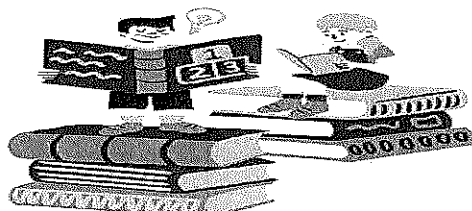
Reading progress is determined through three assessments. Assessment one is completed. Assessment two is due before Christmas and three before the end of the academic year. To determine the effectiveness of the Improving Reading strategy these assessments must be completed.

The reading scores in the Functional English Accreditations are always an area of strength; we must continue to develop the area of reading in order to maintain this high standard.

Students across college submitted stories for the Cedars Young Writers book which is available to purchase on Amazon. This is a wonderful way to celebrate their writing skills by featuring them as published writers. This is something we hope to do at least annually.

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**CEDARS YOUNG
WRITERS**
VOLUME 2



An Anthology of Stories
from the Students of
Cedars College

Accreditation achieved Summer 2023

Pass rate grade GCSE 1-9

For English Language: 2 pupils 2 passes 100%

GCSE Citizenship: 4 students 4 passes 100%

Pass rate for Functional skills

E1: 1 pupil 1 pass 100%

E2: 4 pupils 4 passes 100%

E3: 8 pupils 5 passes 62.5%

L1: 2 pupils 2 pupils 100%

L2: 1 pupil 1 pass 100%

Literacy interventions used this year for learners not making expected progress:

- Small group/1-2-1 booster sessions - focus on Speaking and Listening and social interactions. Some help with the development of writing
- Social games (e.g. Role Playing activities and gaming. Reading games, cards, turn taking, articulating rules, supporting one another)
- Flexible accreditation entries (e.g. some students sitting levels over two years, one student working towards a practical English award)
- Flexible timetabling (e.g. some students accessing English sessions in the afternoon)
- Small group PFA activities in the community

Creativity

Skills for employment, training and personal development

In summer 2023, 17 young people were registered on SETPD qualification. 1 was claimed, 1 was withdrawn, leaving a predicted 94.10% success rate.

Employability

Entry level 2 – 14 learners are registered. Due to current issues with attendance of some students, there is a predicted pass rate of 85.7% on the course.

Entry level 3 – 9 learners are registered, 4 are continuing with the course in to the next academic year, with a predicted pass rate of 44.4%.

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Beliefs and Values

Entry level 3 – 23 learners were registered, 18 were claimed in summer 2023, 5 were withdrawn, giving a current success rate of 78.3% on the course.

Level 1 Beliefs and Values – 1 student was registered, 1 was claimed, giving 100% pass rate.

Independent living skills

Entry level 2 – 5 learners were registered, 5 learners achieved their qualifications, giving 100% pass rate.

Entry level 3 – 8 learners were registered for claiming next academic year so therefore current 100% predicted pass rate.

Entry level ICT

6 learners were registered, 1 was claimed in summer 2023, 5 learners are continuing with the course in the next academic year. This gives a current success rate of 16.7% with a predicted success rate for summer 2024 of 100%.

GCSE achievement

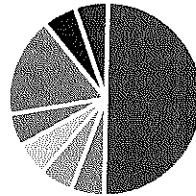
College learners achieved a fantastic set of results in summer 2023 in the following subjects:

GCSE English Language – 3 learners achieving grades 2-5
GCSE Mathematics – 2 learners achieving grades 4-5
GCSE Business studies – 1 learner achieving grade 6
GCSE Computer science - 2 learners achieving grades 2-3
GCSE History – 3 learners achieving grades 3-9
GCSE Citizenship – 4 learners achieving grades 2-8
GCSE Physics – 1 learner achieving grade 9
GCSE Chemistry – 1 learner achieving grade 4
GCSE Psychology – 1 learner achieving grade 4
GCSE Biology – 1 learner achieving grade 5

The Cedars Academy Trust
Report of the Trustees
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Destination data 2022

No. of learners accessing destination



- Supported learning course - Gateshead College (Project Choice)
- Supported learning course - Newcastle College
- Apprenticeship
- Paid employment
- Newcastle 6th Form College
- Gateshead College mainstream courses
- Gateshead Council - Learning Skills

We are still preparing the majority of our young people for progression onto Stage 2 of the Project Choice programme at Gateshead College, Baltic Campus. This stage of the programme is also known as supported internship, and there is an expectation that learners are ready for employment. It is generally assumed, that young people able to directly progress to Stage 2 of Project Choice can function within a workplace setting for up to 4 days per week. It is therefore of paramount importance, that we secure meaningful workplace encounters for our young people at the earliest possible opportunity within Cedars College to give our young people the best head start for their futures.

The Cedars Academy Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Work experience

In the academic year 2022-23, we were fortunate that we were able to secure some work experience placements for our young people that have continued into the current academic year. Placements included:

- Nexus
- NHS Project Choice England
- Wheels
- YMCA
- Riding for the disabled
- St Vincents

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Most of the academy trust's income is obtained from the Department of Education (DfE) via the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants and Local Authorities (LA) in the form of top up funding and fixed costs. The use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE/ESFA/LA during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The academy trust also received grants for fixed assets from the DfE/ESFA. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2015), such grants are shown under the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

During the year ended 31 August 2023 total expenditure of £4,738,000 was in excess of recurrent grant funding from DfE/ESFA/LA together with other incoming resources. The excess of income over expenditure for the year (excluding pension reserve movements and restricted fixed asset funds) was £298,000.

All of the expenditure shown in the Statement of Financial Activities is in furtherance of the academy trust's objectives.

At 31 August 2023, net book value of fixed assets was £4,892,000 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 12 to the Financial Statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the students of the academy trust.

The provisions of Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 have been applied in full in respect of LGPS pension scheme, resulting in a no surplus or deficit recognised on the Balance Sheet.

The academy trust held fund balances as at 31 August 2023 of £5,873,000 comprising £914,000 of restricted general funds, £4,892,000 of restricted fixed asset funds, and £67,000 of unrestricted funds.

Investment Policy and Objectives

The academy trust has an approved Investment Policy and if the Academy is able to generate better returns than currently provided in the deposit account, it may undertake other investments. All investments, outside of the deposit account, will be made on a risk-averse basis, taking ethical considerations into account and need Board of trustee's approval.

The aim of this policy is to ensure that funds which the academy does not immediately need to cover anticipated expenditure are invested in such a way as to maximise the school's income but without risk. Our aim is to spend the publicly funded monies with which we are entrusted for the direct education benefit of students as soon as is prudent. The academy does not consider the investment of surplus funds as a primary activity, rather it is the result of best practice as and when circumstances allow.

The Cedars Academy Trust
Report of the Trustees
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FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves Policy

The academy trust holds restricted and unrestricted funds (the attached financial statements detail these funds). Unrestricted funds are held:

- To provide funds which can be designated to specific areas such as rolling program investment in repairs and maintenance and building improvements
- To cover ongoing costs in relation to the running of the academy trust including catering provisions, school trips and uniform costs

The level of reserves is reviewed by trustees regularly throughout the year. The minimum level of reserves for the ongoing needs of the academy trust is reviewed by the trustees on an annual basis.

The Governing Body will ensure that the levels of reserves that can be carried forward at the end of the financial period will be in line with the guidance received from the DfE on the treatment of General Annual Grant [GAG] income and other grants. The Governing Body will consider the improvement plan for capital developments required.

The Governing Body will always try to match income with expenditure in the current period and will only carry forward reserves that it considers are necessary for future period's expenditure. The Governing Body may accumulate reserve funds raised from private sources to defray for the benefit of the Academy in future years.

As at 31 August 2023 the academy trust holds available reserves of £954,000, comprising of restricted general funds (excluding pension reserves) of £891,000 and unrestricted funds of £63,000.

The trustees continue to consider additional activities related to the academy trust's objectives to which the excess reserves may be applied including:

- a) Development of an additional site at Key stage 4/5 to facilitate the delivery of a vocational curriculum to enhance the opportunities for young people with additional needs in Gateshead.
- b) To expand and develop the hydro pool area at Cedars School site.

In addition a designated fund has been established for an equal pay provision. It is intended to increase this in line with any compensation claims received.

The Academy considers it prudent to hold £100,000 of free unrestricted reserves to cover unforeseen costs.

Going Concern

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

The Cedars Academy Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The trust has the following plans in the medium term:

- Become a Research Engaged Learning Community to be at the forefront of pedagogical and curriculum development in Specialist Education
- To have a fully integrated therapeutic offer that will maximise outcomes and opportunities for all students
- To become a centre of excellence for communication development
- To provide a purpose build EYFS Unit for children aged 3+ with complex needs
- Development of a Post 19 provision that is widely accessed and caters for a range of young adults with additional needs
- To create a KS4 Transition Base at Ivy Lane

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The academy trust was incorporated on 3 August 2012 and is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity, 8168042. The company commenced operation as an Academy on 1 September 2012. The Charitable Company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. The articles of association require the members of the Charitable Company to be responsible for the statutory and constitutional affairs of the charitable company and management of the academy trust.

The governors act as trustees for the charitable activities of The Cedars Academy Trust and are also known as the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company is known as The Cedars Academy Trust.

Details of the trustees who served throughout the period between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023, except as noted, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on Page 1.

Members' Liability

Each member of the academy trust undertakes to contribute to the assets of the 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 cease to be a member.

Trustees' Indemnities

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 every trustee or other officer or auditor of the academy trust shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Special academy trust against any liability incurred by him in that capacity in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgment is given in favour or in which he is acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to him by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the academy trust.

The Cedars Academy Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

Membership is determined in accordance with the composition set out in the memorandum and articles. This states that the academy trust composition is comprised as follows:

The number of trustees shall be not less than three but (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) shall not be subject to any maximum.

Subject to Articles 48-49 and 64, the academy trust shall have the following trustees:

- Up to 10 trustees, appointed under Article 50;
- Any Staff trustees, if appointed under Article 50A;
- Up to 1 LA Governor if appointed under Article 51;
- a minimum of 2 Parent trustees appointed under Articles 53-58;
- the Headteacher;
- up to 3 Co-opted trustees if appointed under Article 59;
- any Additional trustees, if appointed under Article 62, 62A or 68A;
- any Further trustees, if appointed under Article 63 or Article 68A; and
- The Special academy trust may also have any Co-opted Governor appointed under Article 59.

Future trustees shall be appointed or elected, as the case may be, under these Articles. Where it is not possible for such a trustees to be appointed or elected due to the fact that an academy trust has not yet been established or the Headteacher has not been appointed, then the relevant Article or part thereof shall not apply.

Appointment of Trustees

- The Members may appoint up to 10 trustees.
- The Members may appoint Staff trustees through such process as they may determine, provided that the total number of trustees (including the Principal) who are employees of the Special Academy Trust does not exceed one third of the total number of trustees.
- The Principal shall be treated for all purposes as being an ex officio trustee.
- Subject to Article 57, the Parent trustees shall be elected by parents of registered pupils at the Academy. A Parent trustee must be a parent of a pupil at the academy trust at the time when he is elected.

Co-opted Trustees

The trustees may appoint up to 3 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 Special 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 Principal).

The term of office for any trustee shall be 4 years, save that this time limit shall not apply to the Principal. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of trustee, any trustee may be re-appointed or re-elected.

The Cedars Academy Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisational Structure

The academy trust's unified management structure consists of the trustees and the Senior Leadership Group [SLG], defined within three main sub committees; Curriculum and Pupils, Finance & Staffing and Business & Partnership Development Group.

The trustees are responsible for determining general policy, adopting an annual School Improvement Plan following a self-evaluation review, monitoring the practices and procedures adopted by the Special academy trust, determining strategic direction of the academy trust, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The SLG consists of the Principal, Assistant Principal (AHT) Teaching & Learning KS1&2, AHT Teaching & Learning KS3&4, AHT Quality of Education, AHT Post 16/Business Partnership and Development Manager (BPDM), AHT Access to Learning (x2 PT posts).

The SLG controls the academy trust at an executive level, implementing the policies laid down by the trustees and reporting back to them. The SLG and trustees are responsible for the agreement of spending with agreed budgets and appointment of staff as stated in the finance handbook.

The academy trust is responsible for the management of the financial systems and ensuring efficient and effective use of resources. The Principal is responsible for the authorisation of spending up to agreed limits as stated in the Financial Handbook. The academy trust Staffing and Facilities Manager is responsible for the efficient operation of the school office.

The Senior Management Team is as follows:

- M O'Reilly, School Principal and Accounting Officer
- J Carr, Assistant School Principal
- D Hearne, Assistant College Principal
- E Neale, Services Principal
- K Vincent, Services Principal
- J Vincent, College Principal and Chief Financial Officer

Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The Board of Trustees will determine those posts that have substantial strategic responsibilities for school leadership. These will comprise the Senior Leadership Group and include the Principal, Assistant Principal(s) and School Improvement Teacher (SIT) Leads (Teaching and Learning Responsibilities (TLR) holders, Middle Management).

The Finance and Staffing Committee will establish, and recommend to the whole Governing Body for approval, the appropriate pay ranges for members of their Senior Leadership Group. The pay award must be in line with the academy trust's Pay and Conditions document.

Policies and Procedures for the Induction and Training of New Trustees

The training and induction provided for new trustees depends on their existing experience. Where necessary induction and training is provided on charity, educational, legal and financial matters. All new trustees are given a tour of the academy trust and the chance to meet with staff and students. All trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as trustees.

The Cedars Academy Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Trade Union Facility Time

The Cedars Academy Trust does not have any information to disclose under the provisions of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017.

Related Parties and Other Connected Charities and Organisations

Trustees have declared business interests to date and where trustees have declared an interest, procedures are in place to address this. The school have adopted a policy that if there are any interests declared the trustee would remove themselves from the decision-making process.

Cedars Academy has a number of relationships with related parties and any other charities/ companies/ organisations with which it cooperates in the pursuit of shared charitable activities; representatives of these partners sit on our Governing Body.

These core partners play a significant role in governance and in meeting our wider aims:

- Gateshead Kestrels is a community sports and physical activity club that specialises in activities for disabled people aged 4 - 25 years living in Gateshead and the surrounding region;
- Be inspired to... provides access to a variety of vocational and personal development opportunities, work placements, training & FE pathways, advocacy arrangements, life skills improvement, support and social networks;
- SEN Support aims to provide knowledge, independent impartial information, advice, support and disability advocacy to young people and their families to embed preparing for adulthood from the earliest years;
- Re:SEND aims to create strong partnerships and collaboratives between local NE specialist schools and colleges to develop an ongoing professional learning community that sees practitioners collectively sharing and developing practice on an ongoing basis.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN FOR OTHERS

There are no funds held.

The Cedars Academy Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

FINANCIAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

The trustees recognise that the LGPS pension deficit, which is set in the pension note 19, represents a significant liability. However, the trustees consider that the academy trust is able to meet its liabilities in respect of paying its annual contributions for the foreseeable future, and the risk from this liability is minimised.

Purposes

- To ensure adequate cash balances are maintained in the current account to cover day to day working capital requirements
- To ensure there is limited risk of loss in the capital value of any cash funds invested
- To protect the capital value of any invested funds against inflation
- To optimise returns on invested funds

Regular cash flows are prepared and monitored to ensure there are adequate funds to meet all payroll related commitments and outstanding creditors that are due for payment. Where the cash flow identifies a base level of cash funds that will be surplus to requirements these may be invested only with Lloyds Bank who are the current banking providers for the school. The Academy Business & Partnership Development Manager will seek approval from the Finance & Staffing Committee (F&S) before investing such funds and will provide a statement on any monies invested to the F&S Committee at their regular termly meetings. Periodically (at least every 3 months) the Academy Business & Partnership Development Manager will review the interest rates being achieved and will compare with other investment opportunities to ensure the investment funds are delivering value for money.

The Chief Financial Officer shall take independent financial advice for any fixed term investment for a period longer than six months in line with the Articles of Association 5 (m) and (n) and observe any guidance in the Academies Financial Handbook. In addition, these investments shall be restricted to ones that guaranteed return of capital rather than any equity-based investment. All investments must be authorised by either the Chief Executive or the Chief Financial Officer.

The Cedars Academy Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The principal risks and uncertainties are centred on changes in the level of funding from DfE/ESFA. In addition, the academy trust is a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), which results in the recognition of a significant deficit on the academy trust Balance Sheet.

The trustees have assessed the major risks, to which the academy trust is exposed, in particular those relating specifically to teaching provision of facilities and other operational areas of the academy trust, and its finances. The trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the school faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying and school visits) and in relation to the control of finance. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The academy trust has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement.

The academy trust has fully implemented the requirements of the Safe Recruitment procedures and all staff have received training in this area in addition to training on Child Protection.

The academy trust is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties in common with other academies. The academy trust has in place procedures to identify and mitigate financial risks.

The academy trust maintains a risk register which is reviewed by the Health & Safety Officer to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are in place to manage risk. There is an annual review of all risk management issues led by various staff e.g. Principal, Health & Safety Officer and Administration and Facilities Manager as well as teaching staff; there is ongoing review in response to situations or new legislation or information.

The academy trust considers all risks and the trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that may impact the academy trust, particularly operational areas, e.g. in relation to teaching, management of IT security, safeguarding, health & safety, including educational visits and in relation to the control of finance. The trustees are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to major risk.

AUDITOR

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the academy trust's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make them aware of any audit information and to establish that the academy trust's auditors are aware of that information.

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



A Thompson
Trustee

The Cedars 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 The Cedars Academy Trust has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement of loss.

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

The Board of the trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Principal, 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 The Cedars Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Report of the Trustees and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 5 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
A Thompson	5	5
G D Morton	3	5
G Neale	4	5
M Hall	0	2
J Vincent	4	5
P Finn	5	5
P Hills	4	5
N Kelly	3	5
R Lane	3	5
J MacCabe	2	5
J Cairns	3	5
M Flowers	2	5
M P O'Reilly	4	5
S Kay	0	4
R Miller	1	5
I Smith	2	4
L Cameron	1	1
S Farnie	1	1
E Neale	0	1
Rev B Vernon	1	1
M Wilson	1	4
K Vincent	1	1
Dr J Gordan	1	4

There have been no major changes to the Board composition. The Board receives information of good quality and sufficient detail to enable effective decision making. An annual governance audit is carried out to ensure the Board and Governing body have the skills required to adequately challenge and support the school.

In addition to the 4 Full Governing Body Meetings held annually the Board also held 3 Finance & Staffing Meetings and a further 3 Business Partnership Development Group Meetings; these meetings provided the means by which the Board maintained effective oversight of funds during the year.

Conflicts of interest

The academy trust maintains an up to date and complete register of interests. This is reviewed on a regular basis by the trustees to identify any actual or potential conflicts of interest.

The Cedars Academy Trust
Governance Statement
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

The Finance & General Purposes Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to ensure efficient and effective use of resources whilst seeking ways to ensure outstanding sustainable provision. It also stands as the Audit Committee. Attendance at meetings during the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
A Thompson	5	5
M Hall	0	1
G D Morton	1	1
J Vincent	4	5
J Cairns	0	5
G Neale	3	5
M O'Reilly	4	5
M Flowers	1	1
P Hills	3	5
P Finn	4	5
S Kay	0	2
R Lane	1	5
N Kelly	2	5
J MacCabe	2	2
M Wilson	2	4

The Cedars Academy Trust
Governance Statement
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 state 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 where appropriate. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by obtaining quotes from at least 3 professionals before work is carried out.

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 The Cedars Academy Trust for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

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 1 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 decided to buy-in an internal audit service from Inspire Compliance Limited. This option has been chosen to provide independence from the external auditors.

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

- testing of procurement processes.
- testing of control account/bank reconciliations.
- testing of other financial systems.

On an annual basis, the auditor reports to the board of trustees, through the audit and risk committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities and annually prepares an annual summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

The Cedars Academy Trust
Governance Statement
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Review of Effectiveness

As accounting officer, the Principal has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- the work of the internal auditor.
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool.
- the work of the external auditor.
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- correspondence from ESFA eg financial notice to improve/notice to improve (FNtl/Ntl) and 'minded to' letters

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

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



.....
A Thompson - Trustee



.....
M O'Reilly - Accounting Officer

The Cedars Academy Trust

**Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023**

As accounting officer of The Cedars 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 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.


.....
M O'Reilly - Accounting Officer

Date: 12 December 2023

The Cedars Academy Trust

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



.....
A Thompson

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of The Cedars Academy Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Cedars Academy Trust (the 'academy trust') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the academy trust's affairs as at 31 August 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 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the academy trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the 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 trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of The Cedars Academy Trust

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 Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees 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 Report of the Trustees.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of The Cedars Academy Trust

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. Our audit must be alert to the risk of manipulation of the financial statements and seek to understand the incentives and opportunities for management to achieve this.

We undertake the following procedures to identify and respond to these risks of non-compliance:

- Understanding the key legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Trust. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. We determined the most significant of these to be the regulations set out by the DfE/ESFA. Our audit focuses on financial matters as set out in our regularity opinion. Other key laws and regulations included safeguarding, Health & Safety, GDPR and employment law
 - Enquiry of trustees and management as to policies and procedures to ensure compliance and any known instances of non-compliance
 - Review of board minutes and correspondence with regulators
 - Enquiry of trustees and management as to areas of the financial statements susceptible to fraud and how these risks are managed
 - Challenging management on key estimates, assumptions and judgements made in the preparation of the financial statements. These key areas of uncertainty are disclosed in the accounting policies
 - Identifying and testing unusual journal entries, with a particular focus on manual journal entries.
- Through these procedures, we did not become aware of actual or suspected non-compliance.

We planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards but owing to the inherent limitations of procedures required in these areas, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected a material misstatement in the accounts. The further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve concealment, collusion, forgery, misrepresentations, or override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

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

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
The Cedars Academy Trust**

Use of our report

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

Kevin Shotton BA BFP FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Clive Owen LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
140 Coniscliffe Road
Darlington
County Durham
DL3 7RT

Date:.....

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Cedars Academy Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 16 September 2022 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 The Cedars Academy Trust during the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 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 The Cedars Academy Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to The Cedars Academy Trust and the 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 The Cedars Academy Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of The Cedars Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Cedars Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2021, 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 Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

**Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to
The Cedars Academy Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency**

Approach

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Review of governing body and committee minutes;
- Review of termly Internal Assurance reports;
- Completion of self assessment questionnaire by Accounting Officer;
- Review documentation provided to Directors and Accounting Officer setting out responsibilities;
- Obtain formal letters of representation detailing the responsibilities of Directors;
- Review of payroll, purchases and expenses claims on a sample basis;
- Confirmation that the lines of delegation and limits set have been adhered to;
- Evaluation of internal control procedures and reporting lines;
- Review cash payments for unusual transactions;
- Review of credit card transactions;
- Review of registers of interests;
- Review related party transactions;
- Review of borrowing agreements;
- Review of land and building transactions;
- Review of potential and actual bad debts;
- Review an instance of gifts/hospitality to ensure in line with policy;
- Review whistleblowing procedures;
- Review pay policy and factors determining executive pay;
- Review of staff expenses;
- Review other income to ensure is in line with funding agreement;
- Review governance structure and number of meetings held; and
- Review whether there is a risk register in place.

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.

Clive Owen LLP
Reporting Accountant
140 Coniscliffe Road
Darlington
County Durham
DL3 7RT

Date:

The Cedars Academy Trust

Statement of Financial Activities
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

				31.8.23	31.8.22	
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Total funds £'000	Total funds £'000
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and capital grants	3	11	44	-	55	31
Charitable activities						
Funding for the academy's educational operations	4	-	-	4,611	4,611	3,948
Other trading activities	5	14	-	-	14	8
Total		25	44	4,611	4,680	3,987
EXPENDITURE ON						
Raising funds		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities						
Academy's educational operations		86	300	4,352	4,738	4,542
Total	7	86	300	4,352	4,738	4,542
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)						
Transfers between funds	16	-	40	(40)	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit schemes		-	-	874	874	2811
Asset ceiling restriction		-	-	(543)	(543)	-
Net movement in funds		(61)	(216)	550	273	2,256

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Cedars Academy Trust
Statement of Financial Activities
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

				31.8.23	31.8.22
Notes	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Total funds £'000	Total funds £'000
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward	124	5,135	341	5,600	3,344
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>63</u>	<u>4,919</u>	<u>891</u>	<u>5,873</u>	<u>5,600</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Cedars Academy Trust

Balance Sheet
31 August 2023

				31.8.23	31.8.22
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Total funds £'000
				Total funds £'000	Total funds £'000
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	12	-	4,892	-	4,892
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	13	46	-	85	131
Cash at bank		<u>21</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,877</u>	<u>1,898</u>
		67	-	1,962	2,029
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	14	-	-	(1,048)	(1,048)
		<u>67</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>914</u>	<u>708</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		67	4,892	914	5,873
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		67	4,892	914	5,873
PENSION LIABILITY	18	-	-	-	(231)
		<u>67</u>	<u>4,892</u>	<u>914</u>	<u>5,600</u>
NET ASSETS					

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Cedars Academy Trust

Balance Sheet - continued
31 August 2023

		31.8.23	31.8.22
		Total funds £'000	Total funds £'000
FUNDS	Notes 16		
Restricted funds:			
Pension Reserve		-	(231)
General Annual Grant (GAG)		891	572
Transfer on conversion		3,023	3,181
DfE Group capital grants		404	411
Capital expenditure from GAG		1,492	1,543
Private sector capital sponsorship		-	-
Summer School		-	-
		<u>5,710</u>	<u>5,476</u>
Unrestricted funds:			
General fund		<u>63</u>	<u>124</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>5,873</u></u>	<u><u>5,600</u></u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 12 December 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
A Thompson

The Cedars Academy Trust
Cash Flow Statement
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	31.8.23 £'000	31.8.22 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	<u>971</u>	<u>109</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		<u>971</u>	<u>109</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest from investment		-	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(84)	(150)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		16	-
Capital Grants		<u>44</u>	<u>14</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(24)</u>	<u>(136)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			
		947	(27)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>951</u>	<u>978</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>1,898</u>	<u>951</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Cedars Academy Trust

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

I. RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31.8.23 £'000	31.8.22 £'000
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	42	(555)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	300	316
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	337	(160)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	336	(60)
Difference between pension charge and cash contributions		582
Capital Grant	(44)	(14)
Interest	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operations	<u>971</u>	<u>109</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.9.22 £'000	Cash flow £'000	At 31.8.23 £'000
Net cash			
Cash at bank	<u>951</u>	<u>947</u>	<u>1,898</u>
	<u>951</u>	<u>947</u>	<u>1,898</u>
Total	<u>951</u>	<u>947</u>	<u>1,898</u>

The Cedars Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

I. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

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

The Cedars Academy Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the 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.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the academy trust has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received 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 year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

Sponsorship income

Sponsorship income provided to the academy trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions), where it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

The Cedars Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

I. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Donations

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where there are no performance related conditions), where it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

Expenditure

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

Charitable activities

Costs of charitable activities are 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.

Tangible fixed assets

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

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

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

The Cedars Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

I. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

- Freehold buildings:	20 years
- Fixtures and fittings:	4 years
- Plant and machinery:	2 to 4 years
- Motor vehicles:	4 years

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.

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.

Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 14. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

Taxation

The academy trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph i 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.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the academy trust. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

The Cedars Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

I. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in the pension notes, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore 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 scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the statement of financial activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

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 Cedars Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION
UNCERTAINTY - continued

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in notes to the accounts, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 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 original Local Government Pension scheme valuation showed an asset of £543,000. That asset valuation is highly dependent on a number of assumptions and does not represent the future value of benefits to the trust. As a result, the Trustees have considered the potential benefits to the trust. On the basis that the future value of employer contributions in respect of future service cost (£183,000) exceed the employer future service costs (£178,000) combined with the fact that the last Local Government Scheme actuarial review set the contribution rates from 1 April 2023 and that these will not be revised until April 2026 the Trustees have decided to include the pension asset at £NIL.

Goodwin

The case related to male spouse or civil partner of a female member is treated in the same way as a same-sex spouse or civil partner. Survivor benefits will be calculated using service from 1 April 1972, or 6 April 1978 if the marriage or civil partnership took place after the last day of pensionable service. This change will apply for deaths in respect of female members which occurred from 5 December 2005, which is the date that same-sex civil partnerships were introduced. This case was brought against the Teachers' Pension Scheme. Actuaries have estimated that the impact of Goodwin indexation to be less than 0.1% of total liabilities. Based on this estimate it would increase liabilities by £3,000 which has been assessed to be immaterial to the financial statements.

Depreciation – Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its residual value, over the economic life of that asset. An estimate of the useful life of assets is detailed in the depreciation accounting policy. The value of depreciation charge during the year was £316,000.

3. DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	31.8.23	31.8.22
	£'000	£'000
Donations	11	17
Grants	<u>44</u>	<u>14</u>
	<u>55</u>	<u>31</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	31.8.23	31.8.22
	£'000	£'000
Other DfE/ESFA grants	44	14
Other grants	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>44</u>	<u>14</u>

The Cedars Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

4. FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY TRUST'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	31.8.23 Total funds £'000	31.8.22 Total funds £'000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant(GAG)	-	1,900	1,900	1,900
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	13	13	4
Pupil Premium	-	125	125	109
UIFSM	-	6	6	4
Summer School	-	-	-	-
Teachers Pay Grant	-	-	-	-
Teachers Pension Grant	-	-	-	-
PE & Sports Grant	-	17	17	17
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,061</u>	<u>2,061</u>	<u>2,034</u>
Other Government grants				
Other Government grant	-	3	3	33
Local Authority grants	-	228	228	204
SEN	-	2,174	2,174	1,586
COVID 19 Additional Funding (DfE/ESFA)				
Other DfE/ESFA COVID 19 funding	-	128	128	61
COVID 19 Additional Funding (Non DfE/ESFA)				
Other COVID 19 funding	-	5	5	3
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,538</u>	<u>2,538</u>	<u>1,887</u>
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	<u>-</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>27</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>4,611</u>	<u>4,611</u>	<u>3,948</u>

5. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31.8.23 £'000	31.8.22 £'000
Educational visits	-	-
Other income	14	8
	<u>14</u>	<u>8</u>

In 2023 other trading activities income of £14,000 (2022: £8,000) was unrestricted.

The Cedars Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

6. EXPENDITURE

	Non-pay expenditure			31.8.23	31.8.22
	Staff costs	Premises	Other costs	Total	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Charitable activities					
Academy's educational operations					
Direct costs	3,509	-	147	3,656	3,526
Allocated support costs	<u>199</u>	<u>665</u>	<u>218</u>	<u>1,082</u>	<u>1,016</u>
	<u>3,708</u>	<u>665</u>	<u>365</u>	<u>4,738</u>	<u>4,542</u>

There were no individual transactions exceeding £5,000 for:

- Compensation payment
- Gifts made by the academy trust
- Fixed asset losses
- Stock losses
- Unrecoverable debts
- Cash losses

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.8.23	31.8.22
	£'000	£'000
Auditors' remuneration	11	9
Depreciation - owned assets	316	316
Other operating leases	<u>63</u>	<u>49</u>

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Direct costs	-	3,656	3,656	3,546
Support costs	<u>86</u>	<u>996</u>	<u>1,082</u>	<u>996</u>
	<u>86</u>	<u>4,652</u>	<u>4,738</u>	<u>4,542</u>

The Cedars Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS - continued

	31.8.23	31.8.22
	Total	Total
	£'000	£'000
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	199	180
Depreciation	316	316
Technology costs	18	35
Premises costs	349	292
Other support costs	183	153
Governance costs	<u>28</u>	<u>20</u>
Total support costs	<u>1,093</u>	<u>996</u>

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 August 2023 nor for the year ended 31 August 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 August 2023 nor for the year ended 31 August 2022.

9. STAFF COSTS

	31.8.23	31.8.22
	£'000	£'000
Wages and salaries	2,797	2,427
Social security costs	254	227
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	<u>639</u>	<u>902</u>
Other staff costs	3,690	3,556
	<u>18</u>	<u>15</u>
	<u>3,708</u>	<u>3,571</u>

Included in operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes is a charge of £95,000 (2022: £420,000) relating to the pension deficit actuarial adjustment.

The Cedars Academy Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023**

9. STAFF COSTS - continued

The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the academy trust during the year was as follows:

	31.8.23	31.8.22
Management	6	7
Teachers	31	27
Teaching Assistants	57	51
Administrative Support	4	3
Other	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
	<u>102</u>	<u>93</u>

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

	31.8.23	31.8.22
£60,001 - £70,000	3	6
£70,001 - £80,000	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed in the Trustees Report. 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 £509,000 (2022: £575,00).

10. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

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

The Cedars Academy Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023**

II. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS - TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from employment with the academy trust. The principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment.

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

M O'Reilly (Principal and Trustee):

Remuneration £65,000 - £70,000 (2022: £60,000 - £65,000)

Employer's pension contributions paid £15,000 - £20,000 (2022: £15,000 - £20,000)

J Vincent (Principal & CFO and Trustee):

Remuneration £70,000 - £75,000 (2022: £60,000 - £65,000)

Employer's pension contributions paid £15,000 - £20,000 (2022: £15,000 - £20,000)

K Vincent (Staff Trustee):

Remuneration £70,000 - £75,000

Employer's pension contributions paid £15,000 - £20,000

J MacCabe (Staff Trustee)

Remuneration £30,000 - £35,000 (2022: £20,000 - £25,000)

Employer's pension contributions paid £5,000 - £10,000 (2022: £5,000 - £10,000)

R Lane (Staff Trustee)

Remuneration £25,000 - £30,000 (2022: £20,000 - £25,000)

Employer's pension contributions paid £0 - £5,000 (2022: £0 - £5,000)

The Cedars Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £'000	Plant and machinery £'000	Fixtures and fittings £'000
COST			
At 1 September 2022	7,224	93	113
Additions	67	2	-
Reclassification	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 August 2023	<u>7,291</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>113</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 September 2022	2,116	85	107
Charge for year	<u>305</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>2,420</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>110</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 August 2023	<u>4,871</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>5,108</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
		Motor vehicles £'000	Totals £'000
COST			
At 1 September 2022		51	7,481
Additions		15	84
Reclassification		-	-
Disposals		<u>(10)</u>	<u>(10)</u>
At 31 August 2023		<u>56</u>	<u>7,555</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 September 2022		50	2,358
Charge for year		1	316
Disposal		<u>(10)</u>	<u>(10)</u>
At 31 August 2023		<u>41</u>	<u>2,663</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 August 2023		<u>15</u>	<u>4,892</u>
At 31 August 2022		<u>1</u>	<u>5,123</u>

The Cedars Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

13. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.8.23	31.8.22
	£'000	£'000
Trade debtors	25	24
VAT	46	114
Prepayments and accrued income	56	331
Other debtors	4	-
	<u>131</u>	<u>469</u>

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.8.23	31.8.22
	£'000	£'000
Trade creditors	41	4
Social security and other taxes	59	52
Other creditors	60	52
Accruals and deferred income	888	604
	<u>1,048</u>	<u>712</u>

	31.8.23	31.8.22
	£'000	£'000
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	461	455
Resources deferred in the year	819	461
Resources released in the year	(461)	(455)
	<u>819</u>	<u>461</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds of £819,000 received in advance in relation to fixed costs funding, additional grant funding and teachers pay and NI grant for the year ended 31 August 2023.

15. MEMBERS' LIABILITY

Each member of the academy trust undertakes to contribute to the assets of the 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 cease to be a member.

The Cedars Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.9.22 £'000	Net movement in funds £'000	Transfers between funds £'000	At 31.8.23 £'000
Restricted general funds				
Pension Reserve	(231)	231	-	-
General Annual Grant (GAG)	572	359	(40)	891
Summer School	-	-	-	-
	<u>341</u>	<u>590</u>	<u>(40)</u>	<u>891</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds				
Transfer on conversion	3,181	(158)	-	3,023
DfE Group capital grants	411	(7)	-	404
Capital expenditure from GAG	1,543	(91)	40	1,492
Private sector capital sponsorship	-	-	-	-
	<u>5,135</u>	<u>(256)</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>4,919</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>5,476</u>	<u>334</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,810</u>
Unrestricted fund				
General fund	124	(61)	-	63
	<u>124</u>	<u>(61)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>63</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>5,600</u>	<u>273</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,873</u>

The Cedars Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £'000	Resources expended £'000	Gains and losses £'000	Movement in funds £'000
Restricted general funds				
Pension Reserve	-	(100)	331	231
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,900	(1,541)	-	359
Pupil Premium	125	(125)	-	-
UIFSM	6	(6)	-	-
SEN	2,174	(2,174)	-	-
Other Grants	244	(244)	-	-
COVID 19 Funding	133	(133)	-	-
Other Income	12	(12)	-	-
PE and Sports Grant	17	(17)	-	-
Summer School	-	-	-	-
Restricted Donations	-	-	-	-
	<u>4,611</u>	<u>(4,352)</u>	<u>331</u>	<u>590</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds				
Transfer on conversion	-	(158)	-	(158)
DfE Group capital grants	44	(51)	-	(7)
Capital expenditure from GAG	-	(91)	-	(91)
Private sector capital sponsorship	-	-	-	-
	<u>44</u>	<u>(300)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(256)</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>4,655</u>	<u>(4,652)</u>	<u>331</u>	<u>334</u>
Unrestricted fund				
General fund	25	(86)	-	(61)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>4,680</u>	<u>(4,738)</u>	<u>331</u>	<u>273</u>

The Cedars Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.9.21 £'000	Net movement in funds £'000	Transfers between funds £'000	At 31.8.22 £'000
Restricted general funds				
Pension Reserve	(2,580)	2,349	-	(231)
General Annual Grant (GAG)	407	314	(149)	572
Summer School	<u>73</u>	<u>(73)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>(2,100)</u>	<u>2,590</u>	<u>(149)</u>	<u>341</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds				
Transfer on conversion	3,339	(158)	-	3,181
DfE Group capital grants	442	(31)	-	411
Capital expenditure from GAG	1,504	(110)	149	1,543
Private sector capital sponsorship	<u>3</u>	<u>(3)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>5,288</u>	<u>(302)</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>5,135</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>3,188</u>	<u>2,288</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,476</u>
Unrestricted fund				
General fund	<u>156</u>	<u>(32)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>124</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>3,344</u>	<u>2,256</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,600</u>

The Cedars Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £'000	Resources expended £'000	Gains and losses £'000	Movement in funds £'000
Restricted general funds				
Pension Reserve	-	(462)	2,811	2,349
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,900	(1,586)	-	314
Pupil Premium	109	(109)	-	-
UIFSM	4	(4)	-	-
SEN	1,587	(1,587)	-	-
Summer School	228	(228)	-	-
Teachers Pay Grant	64	(64)	-	-
Teachers Pension Grant	17	(17)	-	-
PE and Sports Grant	18	(18)	-	-
Summer School	-	(73)	-	(73)
COVID Catch up	3	(3)	-	-
	<u>3,930</u>	<u>(4,151)</u>	<u>2,811</u>	<u>2,590</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds				
Transfer on conversion	-	(158)	-	(158)
DfE Group capital grants	14	(45)	-	(31)
Capital expenditure from GAG	-	(110)	-	(110)
Private sector capital sponsorship	-	(3)	-	(3)
	<u>14</u>	<u>(316)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(302)</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>3,944</u>	<u>(4,467)</u>	<u>2,811</u>	<u>2,288</u>
Unrestricted fund				
General fund	43	(75)	-	(32)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>3,987</u>	<u>(4,542)</u>	<u>2,811</u>	<u>2,256</u>

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

General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the academy. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023.

Other DfE/ESFA grants received include:

- Pupil Premium is additional funding to be spent as the school sees fit to support deprived students.
- Other DfE/ESFA grants include monies received in relation to Universal Infant Free School Meals grant to provide free school meals for infants, and PE and Sports Premium funding towards making additional and sustainable improvements to the quality of the PE, physical activity and sports provided by the academy trust. Other DfE/ESFA Grants also includes rates relief, teachers' pay grant and teachers' pension grant.
- COVID 19 funding must be spend on activities to support pupils' education recovery
- Other grants relates Teachers' pay and pension funding from the local authority to cover the increase in salary costs.

The Cedars Academy Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

SEN funding is to support pupils with additional education needs.

The pension reserves is the liability due to the deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme. Further details are shown in note 19.

The restricted fixed asset funds represent monies received to purchase fixed assets. Depreciation is charged against each fund over the useful economic life of the associated assets.

A transfer of £40,000 has been made to capital expenditure from GAG to reflect those items included within fixed assets which have been purchased using GAG monies.

Unrestricted funds include the income from uniform sales, school trips and catering with the relevant costs allocated accordingly

The Cedars Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSET BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset £'000	Restricted general fund £'000	Total funds £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	4,892	-	4,892
Current assets	67	-	1,962	2,029
Current liabilities	-	-	(1,048)	(1,048)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	-	-
	<u>67</u>	<u>4,892</u>	<u>914</u>	<u>5,873</u>

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

	unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted general fund £'000	Restricted fixed asset £'000	Total funds £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	5,123	-	5,123
Current assets	124	-	1,296	1,420
Current liabilities	-	(75)	(637)	(712)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	(231)	(231)
	<u>124</u>	<u>5,048</u>	<u>428</u>	<u>5,600</u>

18. 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 South Tyneside Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS to the period ended 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £61,000 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022 - £55,000) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' pension scheme

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

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

The Cedars Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

18. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS - continued

Valuation of the teachers' pension scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 5 March 2019. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2023.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £356,000 (2022 - £326,000).

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

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

Local government pension scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £262,000 (2022 - £210,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £188,000 (2022 - £152,000) and employees' contributions totalled £74,000 (2022 - £58,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 14.1% for employers and 5.5 to 12% for employees.

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

The Cedars Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

19. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS - continued

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

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.23	31.8.22
	£'000	£'000
Current service cost	284	572
Net interest from net defined benefit asset/liability	5	42
Past service cost	-	-
	<u>289</u>	<u>614</u>
Actual return on plan assets	<u>(90)</u>	<u>(68)</u>

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.23	31.8.22
	£'000	£'000
Opening defined benefit obligation	3,758	6,016
Current service cost	284	572
Contributions by scheme participants	74	58
Interest cost	154	102
Actuarial losses/(gains)	(1,014)	(3,203)
Benefits paid	(74)	(51)
Actuarial (gains)/losses due to liability experience	13	264
Asset ceiling restriction	543	-
	<u>3,738</u>	<u>3,758</u>

The Cedars Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

19. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS - continued

Changes in the fair value of scheme assets are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.23	31.8.22
	£'000	£'000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	3,527	3,436
Interest income	149	60
Contributions by employer	189	152
Contributions by scheme participants	74	58
Actuarial gains/(losses)	(127)	(128)
Benefits paid	<u>(74)</u>	<u>(51)</u>
	<u>3,738</u>	<u>3,527</u>

The amounts recognised in other recognised gains and losses are as follows:

	31.8.23	31.8.22
	£'000	£'000
	<u>874</u>	<u>2,811</u>

The major categories of scheme assets as amounts of total scheme assets are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.23	31.8.22
	£'000	£'000
Equities	1,924	1,898
Property	385	392
Government bonds	49	56
Corporate bonds	707	656
Multi Asset Credit	172	155
Cash	64	63
Other	<u>437</u>	<u>307</u>
	<u>3,738</u>	<u>3,527</u>

The Cedars Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

19. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS - continued

Principal actuarial assumptions at the Balance Sheet date (expressed as weighted averages):

	31.8.23	31.8.22
Discount rate	5.00%	4.10%
CPI Inflation	2.60%	2.70%
Future pension increases	2.60%	2.70%
Pension account revaluation rate	2.60%	2.70%
Future salary increases	4.10%	4.20%
Commutation	75.00%	75.00%

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

Retiring today		
Males	21.0	21.8
Females	24.1	23.5
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	22.2	25.0
Females	25.5	26.7

Sensitivity analysis

	31.8.23	31.8.22
	£'000	£'000
Discount rate +0.1%	(70)	(101)
Discount rate -0.1%	73	105
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	(80)	(105)
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	80	105
CPI rate +0.1%	70	94
CPI rate -0.1%	(67)	(90)

20. LONG-TERM COMMITMENTS, INCLUDING OPERATING LEASES

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	31.8.23	31.8.22
	£'000	£'000
Within one year	25	23
Between one and five years	86	88
In more than five years	82	82
	<u>193</u>	<u>193</u>

The Cedars Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

21. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Mrs E Neale and Mr K Vincent are members of the senior management team as listed on page 19 and are related to Mr G Neale and Mrs J Vincent who are trustees of the Academy. Their employment predates Mr G Neale and Mrs J Vincent becoming trustees and they have had no subsequent involvement in any aspect of the terms, conditions or remuneration, which have been determined in line with the national agreements on leadership pay scales. Mr A Finn is a teaching member of staff at the Academy and is related to Mrs P Finn who is a trustee of the academy. Mr Finn's employment pre-dates Mrs P Finn becoming a trustee and they have had no subsequent involvement in any aspect of the terms, conditions or remuneration, which have been determined in line with the national agreements on teaching pay scales. Facility Integrity Services Limited – A company co-owned by G Morton, a trustee. The academy trust purchased repair services from the above named company totalling £485 (2022: £2,135). The amount outstanding at the year end was £NIL (2021: £NIL).

22. AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2023 the academy trust received £2,649 and disbursed £2,649 from the fund. An amount of £NIL is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that is repayable to ESFA. Comparatives for the accounting period ending 31 August 2022 are £2,414 received, £2,414 disbursed and £NIL included in other creditors.

