

Dunstone Education Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

Dunstone Education Trust
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31st August 2023

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Dunstone Education Trust

Reference and Administrative Details

Year Ended 31st August 2023

Members	Sir C W Dunstone (Sponsor) V Hornby T Morris J Dean
Trustees	J Dean (Chair) M Snelson J Nowell T Griffiths C Slater (appointed 2 nd September 2022) P Smith R Smith J Madeley
Company Secretary	D Brookes (resigned 31 st January 2023)
Senior Leadership Team	
Principal/Accounting Officer	A Galbraith
Vice Principal	L McLinden
Vice Principal	P Rimmer
Assistant Principal	K Kaye
Associate Assistant Principal	H Livesley
Associate Assistant Principal	L Johnson
Director of Finance & Operations	D Brookes (resigned 31 st January 2023) J Bell (appointed 14 th September 2023)
Company Name	Dunstone Education Trust
Principal and Registered Office	Black Bull Lane Fulwood Preston PR2 9YR
Company Registration Number	06960253
Independent Auditor	CWR Chartered Accountants 20 Mannin Way Lancaster Business Park Caton Road Lancaster LA1 3SW

Dunstone Education Trust

Reference and Administrative Details

Year Ended 31st August 2023

Bankers

Lloyds Bank
Mercer Row
Louth Branch
PO Box 1000
BX1 1LT

Solicitors

Browne Jacobson LLP
14th Floor
No 1 Spinningfields
Hardman Square
Spinningfields
Manchester
M3 3EB

Dunstone Education Trust

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2023

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

The trust operates an academy for pupils aged 11 to 16 serving a catchment area in North Preston. It has a pupil capacity of 1000 and had a roll of 879 in the school census as at October 2023.

1. Structure, Governance and Management

1.1 Constitution

The Dunstone Education Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Academy Trust was incorporated on 13 July 2009 and commenced trading on 1 September 2009. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy. Members of the charitable company are nominated by Sir Charles Dunstone, the sponsor of the Academy Trust. The members of Dunstone Education Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The articles of association require the members of the charitable company to appoint at least three members to be responsible for the statutory and constitutional affairs of the charitable company and the management of the Academy. The charitable company is now known as the Dunstone Education Trust.

Details of the trustees who served throughout the year except as noted are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 2.

1.2 Members' Liability

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

1.3 Principal Activities

The principal object and activity of the charitable company is the operation of the Dunstone Education Trust to provide education for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 11 and 16.

1.4 Trustees' Indemnities

Trustees/Directors' liability insurance is in place, with a limit of indemnity up to £2,000,000 on any one claim (£10,000,000 in total per annum).

1.5 Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The members and Chair of Trustees are appointed by the academy trust sponsor; the board must appoint a minimum of three members and establish a trustee board. The Secretary of State for Education may appoint trustees in exceptional circumstances. Trustees, with the exception of the Chair, may be removed by the Trustee board. The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) may appoint an observer to the Trustee board if it feels necessary.

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

All trustees are provided with copies of procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they need to undertake their role as trustees.

1.7 Organisational Structure

The academy trust is governed by the trustee board who appoint two sub-committees to focus on Standards and Resources. Trustees are directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and trustees

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Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2023

for the purposes of charity legislation. The organisational structure of the academy trust consists of three levels: The members, trustees, and the senior leadership team. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the academy trust by the use of budgets and making major strategic decisions about the direction of the academy, and senior staff appointments. The trustees are responsible for monitoring the performance of the Principal, who in turn monitors the performance of the senior leadership team on a regular basis.

The senior leadership team consists of the Principal/ Accounting Officer of Fulwood Academy, the Vice Principal, the Assistant Principal, the Associate Assistant Principal and the Director of Finance & Operations. These leaders currently control the academy trust at an executive level, implementing the policies laid down by the trustees and reporting back to them. As a group, the senior leadership team are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff.

1.8 Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

Pay decisions are reviewed annually during the autumn term by a committee of three trustees following a robust performance management process set by the Principal and Academy senior leadership team. Staff members have to show success in three mutually agreed objectives in order for a decision to be recommended for any pay progression.

Once this process has been completed a list of recommendations are then submitted to the Resources Committee trustees for final approval. Members and trustees receive no remuneration in relation to their roles, and act in a voluntary capacity with their work at the Dunstone Education Trust.

1.9 Related Parties and Other Connected Charities and Organisations

The Dunstone Education Trust is sponsored by Sir Charles Dunstone. Previously the academy received funding from 'The Charles Dunstone Charitable Trust' through the form of donations. The charity is a grant making trust applying funds to various charities at the trustees' discretion. The Charles Dunstone Charitable Trust has connections with many organisations in the arts and culture, community care, education, training, medical and social welfare sectors. One donation from The Charles Dunstone Charitable Trust has been made to the academy during 2022/ 2023 for a 'Girls in Technology' project.

The Dunstone Education Trust confirms it does not have any connections or links, directly or indirectly to any of the other charities supported by the Charles Dunstone Charitable Trust.

2. Objectives and Activities

2.1 Objects and Aims

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 specifies, amongst other things, the basis for admitting pupils to the Academy, the catchment area from which the pupils are drawn, and that the curriculum should develop the substance of the national curriculum.

The main objectives of the Academy during the period ended 31 August 2023 are summarised below:

- To improve the overall provision for pupils at Fulwood.
- To improve outcomes for all pupils.
- To implement a new broad and balanced curriculum.
- To raise expectations and aspirations.
- To model lifelong learning approaches amongst staff and pupils.
- To value and practice exemplary teaching.

Dunstone Education Trust

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2023

- To initiate and practice collaboration and partnerships with pupils, colleagues, parents and carers and the communities of Fulwood to build regional, national and international networks to benefit our pupils.
- To provide value for money for the funds expended.
- To comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements.
- To conduct the Academy's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness.

2.2 Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The academy trust's main strategy is encompassed in its ethos, vision, and values wherein the academy trust is committed to young people's entitlement to a good education, and pupils of all abilities will be supported to achieve their full potential. Staff and pupils are committed to the trust's vision and new values, 'We Care, We Challenge, We Commit.'

To this end, the academy trust aims in 2023/24 are to:

- Review the trust's vision for location and expansion.
- Improve the progress of all students.
- Following moving to a Good School, ensure that Fulwood Academy is continually improving with a view maintaining this at the next Ofsted inspection.
- Ensure that the trust is confident the information that it is being provided with is accurate and robust.
- Ensure the academy is well managed financially and is focussed on integrated curriculum led financial planning which meets the needs of all pupils.
- Ensure the academy is fully compliant whilst embedding systems and procedures to identify, monitor and mitigate risk.

Trustees will regularly assess the above aims against performance measures received from a number of internal and credible external sources, including the DfE, ESFA, OFSTED through monitoring visits, the trusts School Improvement Partner, Preston Teaching School Alliance representatives and the Trust's internal scrutineers, Shard Business Services.

2.3 Public Benefit

The academy trust operates one academy (Fulwood Academy) and its catchment includes some of the most deprived areas of Lancashire. Pupils are admitted in accordance with the admissions policy agreed with the Department for Education (DfE), which is based on the Academy's catchment area. Pupils are able to study a wide range of subjects, and in addition the Academy offers a range of activities and experiences (extra-curricular activities) for its pupils, funded from donations and other non-restricted income, which help our pupils to broaden their horizons beyond the immediate area.

Strategic report

3. Achievements and Performance

The Academic year 2022-23 was the first full year as Andrew Galbraith as Principal of Fulwood Academy, and allowed for the full implementation of the rapid improvement plan. This had priorities in behaviour for learning and in teaching and learning.

The Academy had an OFSTED inspection in June 2023, where the school was rated as a 'Good School'.

Ofsted key findings:

- Leaders have developed an ambitious curriculum, and taken the necessary steps to address the issues that led to the 2022 Key Stage 4 results
- Curriculum where the key knowledge that pupils should learn is clear, and supports the majority of pupils (including SEND)

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Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2023

- Leaders have placed the English Baccalaureate at the heart of the curriculum – leading to an increase in the number of pupils choosing the EBacc route at Key Stage 4
- Regular checks on what pupils know and remember
- Positive attitudes by pupils towards their learning
- Pupils benefit from the time taken to understand their needs – used by leaders to improve behaviour and attendance
- Prioritising reading across the school
- Established an inclusive culture, where every pupil is valued
- Trust Leaders have a clear and ambitious vision for the school, and hold school leaders to account for the quality of education.
- Arrangements for safeguarding are effective

The focus for the Academy is to maintain the 'Good School' status and to continue to improve, in order to provide the best education for the pupils. The Senior Leadership Team has continued to strengthen its function with the addition of two Associate Assistant Principals.

Outcomes of 2023 GCSEs

	2020 TAGS	2021 TAGS	2022 Results	2023 FFT 20 Targets	2023 Results
P8	-0.64	-0.41	-0.86	-0.18	-0.54
PP P8	-1.09	-0.96	-1.4	-0.11	-0.89
Students Achieving 4+ in En and Ma only	49.3%	51%	38.3%	61%	47%
Students Achieving 5+ in En and Ma only	19.6%	33%	13.6%	37%	23.3%
Basics 4+ (5 Standard passes inc EM)	50%	47.8	33.3%	56.3%	33.1%
Basics 5+ (5 Strong passes inc EM)	20%	28.3	13.6%	32.2%	20.6%
English 5+	38%	44%	32.1%	46.5%	39.7%
English 4+	62%	59%	51.9%	64.6%	59.5%
English Progress	-0.71	-0.53	-0.93	0.47	0.63
Maths 5+	30%	43.5%	23.7%	41.7%	34.1%
Maths 4+	57%	60.1%	47.4%	64.6%	55.6%
Maths Progress	-0.48	-0.06	-0.71	-0.01	-0.33
Science 4+	50%	52%	26.6%	78%	42.9%
Science 5+	28%	33%	12.1%	55%	31.3%
Science Progress (VA)	-0.40	-0.04	-0.719	0.17	0.75
Hums 4+	43%	48.2%	31.9%	63%	37.1%
Hums 5+	23%	33.3%	14.8%	44%	27%
Hums Progress (VA)	-0.46	-0.31	-1.339	-	-0.58

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The performance of the School through 22/23, can be supported by the increase in pupil numbers that the Academy has experienced at the start of the 2023/24 academic year, where in the October 2023 Census pupils on roll were 881.

The Trustees and Senior Leadership Team continue to have open dialogue with the North West Regional Group of the Department for Education (DfE), in order to ensure improvements continue within the Academy and the Trust can grow with its offering as a multi academy trust to other schools.

Year group	Pupil Admission Number	Students on Roll 2010-2021	Students on Roll 2021-2022	Students on Roll 2022-2023
Y7	200	120	125	155
Y8	200	142	127	136
Y9	200	143	139	141
Y10	200	177	141	151
Y11	200	146	163	144
TOTAL KS3/4	1,000	728	695	727

3.1 Key Performance Indicators

The key performance indicators of the Academy are considered to be pupil outcomes, pupil numbers, attendance rates, incoming resources and expenditure and the integrated curriculum financial planning metrics. These KPI's are discussed within the Strategic Report within 'Achievements and Performance' and 'Financial Review'.

3.2 Going Concern

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

4. Financial Review

4.1 Operating and Financial Review

Most of the Academy's income is obtained from the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the period ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds (non-fixed assets) in the Statement of Financial Activities. The Academy also receives grants for fixed assets from the ESFA. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2005), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed assets fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, the academy reported a deficit on its funds (excluding movements on capital funds and the Local Government Pension Scheme) of £66,000 (2022: £310,000 surplus). The deficit in the year is due to an increase in students on roll in 2022-23 (727 pupils) compared to the October 2021 (695 students), as a result there is a time lag in the funding received for these additional pupils while the academy has incurred the staffing and other teaching costs associated with these students. Pupil numbers continue to increase into 2023/24, with numbers expected to exceed 1,000 in 2024/25.

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At 31 August 2023, the net book value of fixed assets was £27,000 (2022: £125,000) and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 11 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the academy. The academy's non-teaching staff are entitled to membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme. The academy's share of the Scheme's assets is currently assessed to be more than its liabilities in the Scheme, and consequently the academy trust's balance sheet includes a net surplus of £1,735,000 (2022: £942,000 net surplus).

4.2 Reserves Policy

The academy's "free" reserves are its funds after excluding restricted funds and the Charles Dunstone Charitable Trust fund. "Reserves" are therefore the resources the academy has or can make available to spend for any or all of the academy's purposes once it has met its commitments and covered its other planned expenditure. More specifically "free reserves" represent income to the academy which is to be spent at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of any of the academy's objects but which is not yet spent, committed or designated.

The Academy's long-term policy is that the appropriate level of free reserves should be maintained at least to the equivalent of one month's expenditure, currently estimated to be between £500,000 and £550,000. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance.

The Academy's current level of free/GAG reserves stand at £483,000 (2022: £514,000).

4.3 Investment Policy

The trustees agree all investments made by the academy. Investments are made with regard to Charities Commission guidance in relation to investments. Currently all investments are held in cash.

4.4 Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Academy maintains detailed strategic and operational risk registers that are discussed by trustees and the senior leadership team and key risks are then reported back to the Full Trustee Board. The Academy's key risks currently are academic, based around standards, examination results, and the Academy's ability to increase its profile within the local community.

4.5 Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Academy is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, pupil progress, data reliability and other operational areas of the Academy, and its finances. The trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the Academy faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, behaviour management, health and safety and bullying) and in relation to the control of finance. They have systems, including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors, supervision of academy grounds) and internal financial controls (see below) in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains, they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The Trust has an effective system of internal financial controls, and financial controls are reviewed on an annual basis.

4.6 Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The academy will carry a cash balance into 2023/2024 which is less than in the previous year, but will still closely monitor cash flow due to the current high increase in many overheads, e.g. general effects of high inflation, energy and staffing costs. The Academy Trust intends to utilise its cash balances to cushion the impact of any lag in pupil grant funding, due to the increase in pupil numbers in 23/24 compared to the October 2022 census. The Academy does carry a pension surplus, which has increased from £942,000 surplus as at 31st August 2022 to £1,735,000 surplus as at 31st August 2023, however the current cash impact this surplus has on the Academy is limited to employer contributions the academy trust continues to make and this will remain at the same level despite the fund now being in surplus.

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Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31st August 2023

5. Plans for Future Periods

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charities Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The academy will continue striving to improve the levels of performance of its pupils at all levels and continue its efforts to ensure its pupils get jobs, apprenticeships or a place in higher education once they leave. The academy's targets for 2023/24 are to secure improved progress and outcomes for pupils and raising pupil attendance rates.

6. Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 4th December 2023 and signed on the board's behalf by:

Joan Dean

Member & Chair of Trustees

Dunstone Education Trust

Governance Statement

Year Ended 31st August 2023

7.1 Scope of Responsibility

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

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the 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 Dunstone Education Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

7.2 Governance

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

Trustee		Meetings Attended	Out of a possible
J Dean	Chair of Trustees	4	4
M Snelson	Trustee	4	4
J Nowell	Trustee	4	4
T Griffiths	Trustee	-	4
R Smith	Trustee	2	4
P Smith	Trustee	2	4
C Slater	Trustee	2	4
J Madeley	Trustee	2	4
A Galbraith	Principal/ Accounting Officer	4	4

In addition to these meetings there was regular dialogue between both the Principal and Chair of Trustees, and the Chair of Trustees and Sponsor.

7.3 Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer of the Dunstone Education Trust 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 achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

Resources were effectively deployed in 2022/23.

Set out below are details on how the Academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year:

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Governance Statement

Year Ended 31st August 2023

Improving educational results

The staffing structure is reviewed at regular intervals to ensure staffing is efficiently covering the teaching required after Option choices at GCSE have been made.

The Academy continues to use resources to improve literacy and reading levels particularly at key stage 3.

- The Small Learning Community programme has been introduced into Year 7 and 8 to close gaps from key stage 2.
- A wide range of literary support programmes operate in order to develop literacy levels.

The Academy made use of sponsorship funds to:

- Develop a 'Girls in Tech' project that will continue to run into 2023/24.

We have reviewed the resources used to support student progress:

- We have given staff CPD on using SISRA to analyse student progress.
- We have utilised CPOMS to track Safeguarding.
- We have reviewed and relaunched ClassCharts to track achievement and behaviour and improve parental communication.
- Worked with SOL to improve our Student Attendance procedures.

We have reviewed our SEND work to ensure:

- Teaching Assistants are assigned to pupils and used to improve progress.
- Dyslexic pupils receive 1:1 attention as do EAL pupils. Individual pupils are mentored by Teaching Assistants. Additional pastoral support is given, with counselling, nurture groups etc.

We have put in place clear Quality assurance procedures, including:

- The Academy has also acquired the services of a former Ofsted Inspector to act as the Academy Improvement Partner. She provides support to the senior and middle leadership team and acts as quality assurance for the Academy.
- We have used a trained SMRA to look closely at our KPI's for Budget spend and staffing structures and produce an action plan to improve our value for money.

Financial Governance

In addition to following the Academies Financial Handbook, the academy trust has its own Financial Regulations Manual, and Financial Scheme of Delegation which details information on the academy's accounting procedures. These manuals are reviewed annually by the Director of Finance & Operations and trustees.

Purchasing

Many of the educational material orders are placed with regular preferred suppliers with best prices negotiated at budget holder level. A significant discount has also been negotiated with a book supplier and contracts are being evaluated constantly.

Increased use of the internet, with easy price comparison, has also given better opportunity to get lowest cost. The Director of Finance & Operations also maintains a preferred supplier database to ensure easy tracking of best value arrangements.

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Governance Statement

Year Ended 31st August 2023

Income Generation

Revenue from lettings has been greatly increased this year due to a more proactive approach to community usage of our buildings and a move away from covid related lockdown. This is still restricted due to planning permissions for floodlights being declined and therefore income from letting the 3G astro turf pitch is limited. However, it is hoped that this will be revisited in future when community outreach programmes are developed.

Controls

Regular budget monitoring reports are reviewed on a monthly basis. External audit reports are prepared on an annual basis by CWR Chartered Accountants and these reports investigate the processes of many of the financial procedures. These reports are shared directly with trustees.

We have also implemented a full internal scrutiny program undertaken by Shard Business Services. This audit considers all aspects of the non-curriculum finances and operations. The terms of reference for internal scrutiny follow the ESFA guidelines and protocols.

7.4 The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Academy Trust's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Dunstone Education Trust for the year ended 31st August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

7.5 Capacity to Handle Risk

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

7.6 The Risk and Control Framework

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

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

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

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

Dunstone Education Trust

Governance Statement

Year Ended 31st August 2023

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

7.7 Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the 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 external auditor,
- the work relating to internal scrutiny;
- the work of executive managers within the academy who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 4th December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Joan Dean
Member and Chair of Trustees

Andrew Galbraith
Accounting Officer

Dunstone Education Trust

Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

Year Ended 31st August 2023

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

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

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

Andrew Galbraith
Accounting Officer

Date: 4th December 2023

Dunstone Education Trust

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Year Ended 31st August 2023

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

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

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

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

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls which conform to the requirements both of propriety and good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring that grants received from the Education & Skills Funding Agency and Department for Education have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 4th December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Joan Dean
Member and Chair of Trustees

Dunstone Education Trust

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Dunstone Education Trust

Year Ended 31st August 2023

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

(Continued)

Dunstone Education Trust

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Dunstone Education Trust

Year Ended 31st August 2023

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 16, the trustees (who are also the directors of the Academy Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

(Continued)

Dunstone Education Trust

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Dunstone Education Trust

Year Ended 31st August 2023

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

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

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

Use of our report

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

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

Date: 20th December 2023

Dunstone Education Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Dunstone Education Trust and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

Year Ended 31st August 2023

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

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

Respective responsibilities of Dunstone Education Trust's Accounting Officer and the reporting accountant

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

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusions includes:

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

(Continued)

Dunstone Education Trust

**Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Dunstone Education Trust
and the Education & Skills Funding Agency**

Year Ended 31st August 2023

Conclusion

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

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

Date: 20th December 2023

Dunstone Education Trust

Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income & Expenditure Account

Year Ended 31st August 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	-	693	47	740	691
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations	3	-	5,397	-	5,397	5,172
Other trading activities	4	55	135	-	190	91
Investments	5	1	-	-	1	-
Total		56	6,225	47	6,328	5,954
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
Academy trust's educational operations	6/7	55	6,379	124	6,558	6,069
Total		55	6,379	124	6,558	6,069
Net income/(expenditure)		1	(154)	(77)	(230)	(115)
Transfers between funds	15	(1)	22	(21)	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	15, 26	-	859	-	859	2,630
Net movement in funds		-	727	(98)	629	2,515
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	15	-	1,681	125	1,806	(709)
Total funds carried forward	15	-	2,408	27	2,435	1,806

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

Dunstone Education Trust

Balance Sheet

Year Ended 31st August 2023

	Notes	2023 £000	2023 £000	2022 £000	2022 £000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		27		125
Current assets					
Debtors	12	200		156	
Cash at bank and in hand		953		1,051	
		<u>1,153</u>		<u>1,207</u>	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(436)</u>		<u>(418)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>717</u>		<u>789</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			744		914
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	14		(44)		(50)
Net assets excluding pension asset			<u>700</u>		<u>864</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	26		1,735		942
Net assets including pension asset			<u>2,435</u>		<u>1,806</u>
Funds of the Academy Trust:					
Restricted funds					
Fixed asset fund	15	27		125	
Restricted income fund	15	673		739	
Pension reserve	15	<u>1,735</u>		<u>942</u>	
Total restricted funds			2,435		1806
Unrestricted income funds	15		-		-
Total funds			<u>2,435</u>		<u>1806</u>

The financial statements on pages 22 to 49 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on the 4th December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

Joan Dean
Chair of Trustees

Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number: 06960253

Dunstone Education Trust

Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended 31st August 2023

	Notes	2023 £000	2022 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	19	(114)	522
Cash flows from investing activities	21	21	16
Cash flows from financing activities	20	(5)	(8)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>(98)</u>	<u>530</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1st September 2022		1,051	521
Cash and cash equivalents at 31st August 2023	22/23	<u>953</u>	<u>1,051</u>

Dunstone Education Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

1 Accounting policies

General information and basis of preparation

Dunstone Education Trust is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England. The address of the registered office is given in the Reference and Administrative Details given on page 2 of these financial statements and the principal place of business is Black Bull Lane, Fulwood, Preston PR2 9YR. The nature of the Academy Trusts operations and principal activities are set out in the Trustees' Report on page 4.

The financial statements of the Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102) 2019), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

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

Going concern

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

Income

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

- **Grants receivable**

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

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

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

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Income (continued)

- **Donations**

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

- **Other income**

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

- **Donated goods, facilities and services**

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

Expenditure

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

Dunstone Education Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Expenditure (continued)

- **Expenditure on raising funds**

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

- **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Tangible fixed assets

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

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

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

Leasehold land and buildings	5-50 years straight line
Fixtures, Fitting and Equipment	3-10 years straight line
ICT equipment	3 years straight line

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

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

Dunstone Education Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Liabilities

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

Provisions

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

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

Leased assets

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

Financial instruments

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

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 12. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Dunstone Education Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments (continued)

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

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 13 and 14. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

Taxation

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

Pensions Benefits

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

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

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

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

Dunstone Education Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Fund Accounting

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

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

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 26, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31st March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31st August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Dunstone Education Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Capital grants	-	47	47	16
Donated fixed assets	-	-	-	7
Trips and other non public funds	-	16	16	12
Notional Rent	-	581	581	581
Other donations	-	96	96	75
	<u>-</u>	<u>740</u>	<u>740</u>	<u>691</u>

Income from donations and capital grants was £740,000 (2022 - £691,000) of which £nil (2022 - £nil) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £693,000 (2022 - £675,000) was attributable to restricted general funds and £47,000 (2022 - £16,000) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

£47,000 (2022 - £16,000) of government grants were received for capital and maintenance works.

3 Funding for Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	4,600	4,600	4,576
Pupil Premium	-	318	318	298
Rates grant	-	33	33	30
Supplementary grant	-	142	142	59
MSG grant	-	77	77	-
Other DfE grants	-	8	8	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,178</u>	<u>5,178</u>	<u>4,963</u>
Other Government grants				
Local Authority grants	-	85	85	101
	<u>-</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>101</u>
Exceptional Government funding				
Other DfE/ESFA Covid-19 funding	-	134	134	108
	<u>-</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>108</u>
Total	<u>-</u>	<u>5,397</u>	<u>5,397</u>	<u>5,172</u>

Dunstone Education Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

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

Funding for Academy Trust's educational operations was £5,397,000 (2022 - £5,172,000) of which £nil (2022 - £nil) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £5,397,000 (2022 - £5,172,000) was attributable to restricted general funds and £nil (2022 - £nil) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

£5,397,000 (2022 - £5,172,000) of government grants were received for the purposes of the day to day running costs of the Academy and its charitable objectives.

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Hire of facilities	41	-	41	43
Catering income	-	105	105	12
Supply staff insurance claims	-	30	30	32
Sundry income	14	-	14	4
	<u>55</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>190</u>	<u>91</u>

Income from other trading activities was £190,000 (2022 - £91,000) of which £55,000 (2022 - £47,000) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £135,000 (2022 - £44,000) was attributable to restricted general funds and £nil (2022 - £nil) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Short term deposits	1	-	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

Investment income was £1,000 (2022 - £nil) of which £1,000 (2022 - £nil) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £nil (2022 - £nil) was attributable to restricted general funds and £nil (2022 - £nil) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

Dunstone Education Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

6 Expenditure

	Staff Costs £000	Non Pay Expenditure Premises £000	Other Costs £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Academy Trust's educational operations					
Direct costs	3,587	-	388	3,975	3,596
Allocated support costs	647	1,152	784	2,583	2,473
	<u>4,234</u>	<u>1,152</u>	<u>1,172</u>	<u>6,558</u>	<u>6,069</u>

£55,000 (2022 - £47,000) of the above expenditure on the Academy Trust's educational operations was attributable to unrestricted funds, £6,379,000 (2022 - £5,897,000) was attributable to restricted general funds and £124,000 (2022 - £125,000) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

Net income/expenditure for the year includes:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Operating lease rentals	10	171
Depreciation	124	125
Fees payable to the auditor for:		
Audit	6	5
Other services	5	4
	<u>145</u>	<u>305</u>

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

Dunstone Education Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

7 Charitable activities

	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Direct costs – educational operations	3,975	3,596
Support costs – educational operations	2,583	2,473
	<hr/> 6,558	<hr/> 6,069

Analysis of direct costs

	Educational operations £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Direct staff costs	3,587	3,587	3,289
Learning resources	118	118	74
Examination fees	67	67	86
School trips and visits	16	16	12
Other direct costs	187	187	135
Total direct costs	<hr/> 3,975	<hr/> 3,975	<hr/> 3,596

Analysis of support costs

	Educational operations £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Support staff costs	647	647	727
Depreciation	124	124	125
Technology costs	27	27	184
Premises costs	571	571	377
Notional rent	581	581	581
Other support costs	615	615	457
Governance costs	18	18	22
Total support costs	<hr/> 2,583	<hr/> 2,583	<hr/> 2,473

Dunstone Education Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

8 Staff

(a) Staff costs

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Staff costs during the period were:		
Wages and salaries	2,887	2,695
Social security costs	291	265
Pension costs	584	785
	<u>3,762</u>	<u>3,745</u>
Agency staff costs	453	268
Staff restructuring costs	19	3
	<u>4,234</u>	<u>4,016</u>
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Redundancy payments	19	-
Severance payments	-	3
Other restructuring costs	-	-
	<u>19</u>	<u>3</u>

(b) Severance payments

No severance payments were made in the year.

(c) Special severance payments

No special severance payments were made in the year.

(d) Staff numbers

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

	2023	2023	2022	2022
	Number	Full-time	Number	Full-time
		equivalent		equivalent
Teachers	38	35	36	35
Administration and support	55	35	39	31
Management	6	5	8	6
	<u>99</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>72</u>

Dunstone Education Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

8 Staff (continued)

(e) Higher paid staff

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	-	1
£70,001 - £80,000	2	-
£80,001 - £90,000	-	1
£100,001 - £110,000	1	-

(f) Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the trustees and the senior leadership team as listed on page 2. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £514,000 (2022: £426,000).

9 Related party transactions - Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No trustees have been paid remuneration or have received other benefits from employment with the Academy Trust.

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

10 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

Dunstone Education Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold Land and Buildings £000	Furniture and Fixtures £000	Computer Equipment £000	Total £000
Cost				
At 1 st September 2022	798	242	198	1,238
Additions	-	26	-	26
At 31 st August 2023	<u>798</u>	<u>268</u>	<u>198</u>	<u>1,264</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 st September 2022	(720)	(220)	(173)	(1,113)
Charged in period	(77)	(24)	(23)	(124)
At 31 st August 2023	<u>(797)</u>	<u>(244)</u>	<u>(196)</u>	<u>(1,237)</u>
Net book values				
At 31 st August 2022	78	22	25	125
At 31 st August 2023	<u>1</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>27</u>

Dunstone Education Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

12 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Trade debtors	11	8
VAT recoverable	91	68
Other debtors	89	64
Prepayments and accrued income	9	16
	<u>200</u>	<u>156</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Trade creditors	189	37
Other taxation and social security	73	63
Other creditors	79	48
Accruals and deferred income	95	270
	<u>436</u>	<u>418</u>

Dunstone Education Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

14 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Other creditors	44	50
	<u>44</u>	<u>50</u>

Other creditors relates to a loan received from the ESFA CIF loan scheme to fund roof repairs in the academy. The loan is repayable over 10 years with interest charged at 1.95%.

The total repayable after more than five years is £20,000. (2022: £26,000)

15 Funds

	Balance at 1 st September 2022 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains, Losses and Transfers £000	Balance at 31 st August 2023 £000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	514	4,600	(4,653)	22	483
Pupil premium grant	-	318	(318)	-	-
Rates grant	-	33	(33)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	361	(361)	-	-
Local Authority grants	-	85	(85)	-	-
Donation for rent of premises	-	581	(581)	-	-
Charles Dunstone Charitable Trust	190	-	-	-	190
Other restricted funds	35	247	(282)	-	-
Pension reserve	942	-	(66)	859	1,735
	<u>1,681</u>	<u>6,225</u>	<u>(6,379)</u>	<u>881</u>	<u>2,408</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE/ESFA capital grants	-	47	-	(21)	26
Donated assets	24	-	(23)	-	1
Capital Expenditure from GAG	26	-	(26)	-	-
Assets previously funded via endowment.	75	-	(75)	-	-
	<u>125</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>(124)</u>	<u>(21)</u>	<u>27</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>1,806</u>	<u>6,272</u>	<u>(6,503)</u>	<u>860</u>	<u>2,435</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>-</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>(55)</u>	<u>(1)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>1,806</u>	<u>6,328</u>	<u>(6,558)</u>	<u>859</u>	<u>2,435</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. The Academy is allowed to carry forward up to 12% of the current GAG. Of the carried forward amount, up to 2% of GAG can be used for general purposes at the discretion of the Academy, but any balance over 2% must be used for capital purposes. At 31st August 2023 the balance was £483,000.

Dunstone Education Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

15 Funds (continued)

Pupil Premium and other DfE/ESFA grants include monies received outside of GAG funding. At 31st August 2023 these funds had been fully spent.

Local Authority grants represent amounts payable to the Academy from Lancashire County Council. This includes funds which relate specifically to Special Educational Needs (SEN) funding. At 31st August 2023 these funds had been spent in full.

Donation for rent of premises - the buildings are deemed to be occupied under the current agreement on a rental basis. Due to this a notional rental expense is covered equally by a notional donation towards rent as shown in the accounts.

Other restricted funds include monies from trips, non public funds, supply teacher insurance claims and grants.

The pension reserve represents the value of the Academy's share in the Local Government Pension Scheme. The value of the fund was in a surplus position at 31st August 2023 by £1,735,000, this is not however a reserve which represents working capital for the day to day operations of the Academy.

DfE/ESFA capital grants represent capital monies received during the period from the ESFA. At 31st August 2023 these funds were fully spent.

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

Unrestricted funds represents funds generated via activities such as from lettings and bank interest receivable. At 31st August 2023 these funds were fully spent.

Dunstone Education Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

15 Funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 st September 2021 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains, Losses and Transfers £000	Balance at 31 st August 2022 £000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	219	4,576	(4,297)	16	514
Pupil premium grant	-	298	(298)	-	-
Rates grant	-	30	(30)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	151	(151)	-	-
Local Authority grants	-	117	(117)	-	-
Donation for rent of premises	-	581	(581)	-	-
Charles Dunstone Charity Trust	190	-	-	-	190
Other restricted funds	20	131	(116)	-	35
Pension reserve	(1,381)	-	(307)	2,630	942
	(952)	5,884	(5,897)	2,646	1,681
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE/ESFA capital grants	-	16	-	(16)	-
Donated Assets	39	7	(22)	-	24
Capital Expenditure from GAG	101	-	(78)	3	26
Trustee grant	3	-	-	(3)	-
Assets previously funded via endowment.	100	-	(25)	-	75
	243	23	(125)	(16)	125
Total restricted funds	(709)	5,907	(6,022)	2,630	1,806
Total unrestricted funds	-	47	(47)	-	-
Total funds	(709)	5,954	(6,069)	2,630	1,806

Dunstone Education Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31st August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total Funds £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	27	27
Current assets	-	1,153	-	1,153
Current liabilities	-	(436)	-	(436)
Non-current liabilities	-	(44)	-	(44)
Pension scheme asset	-	1,735	-	1,735
Total net assets	<u>-</u>	<u>2,408</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>2,435</u>

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

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total Funds £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	125	125
Current assets	-	1,207	-	1,207
Current liabilities	-	(418)	-	(418)
Non-current liabilities	-	(50)	-	(50)
Pension scheme asset	-	942	-	942
Total net assets	<u>-</u>	<u>1,681</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>1,806</u>

17 Capital commitments

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

18 Commitments under operating leases

Operating leases

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

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Amounts due within one year	-	10
Amounts due between one and five years	-	-
Amounts due after five years	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>10</u>

Dunstone Education Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

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

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(230)	(115)
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation (note 11)	124	125
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(47)	(23)
Interest receivable (note 5)	(1)	-
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 26)	108	285
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 26)	(42)	22
Increase in debtors	(44)	(21)
Increase in creditors	18	249
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	(114)	522

20 Cash flows from financing activities

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Interest receivable	1	-
Repayments of borrowing	(6)	(8)
Net cash used in financing activities	(5)	(8)

21 Cash flows from investing activities

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(26)	(7)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	47	23
Capital funding received from others	-	-
Net cash provided by investing activities	21	16

22 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Cash at bank and in hand	953	1,051
Total cash and cash equivalents	953	1,051

Dunstone Education Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

23 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 st September 2022	Cash flows	Acquisition / disposal of subsidiaries	Finance leases	Other non-cash changes	At 31 st August 2023
Cash	1,051	(98)	-	-	-	953
Cash equivalents	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overdraft facilities repayable on demand	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1,051	(98)	-	-	-	953
Loans falling due within one year	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loans falling due after more than one year	(50)	6	-	-	-	(44)
Finance lease obligations	-	-	-	-	-	-
	(50)	6	-	-	-	(44)
Total	1,001	(92)	-	-	-	909

24 Contingent Liabilities

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

25 Members' Liability

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

26 Pension and similar obligations

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

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

Contributions amounting to £11,315 (2022: £12,858) were payable to the schemes at 31st August 2023 and are included within creditors.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

26 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions along with those made by employers are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £426,000 (2022: £381,000).

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.

Dunstone Education Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

26 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31st August 2023 was £142,000 (2022: £161,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £90,000 (2022: £105,000), and employees' contributions totalled £52,000 (2022: £56,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 10.5% for employers and the rate for employees remains dependant on the earnings of the employee.

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

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

Principal Actuarial Assumptions	At 31 st August 2023	At 31 st August 2022
Rate of increase in salaries	4.3%	4.4%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.9%	3.0%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.4%	4.3%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.8%	2.9%

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

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

Sensitivity analysis

	Sensitivity 1	Sensitivity 2	Sensitivity 3	Sensitivity 4
Central £000	+0.1% pa discount rate £000	+0.1% pa inflation £000	+0.1% pa pay growth £000	1 year inc in life expectancy £000
Liabilities	4,214	3,867	4,399	4,233
Assets	(5,949)	(5,949)	(5,949)	(5,949)
Surplus	(1,735)	(2,082)	(1,550)	(1,644)
Projected service cost	128	109	139	128
Projected net interest	(96)	(125)	(86)	(91)

Dunstone Education Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

26 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

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

	Fair value at 31st August 2023	Fair value at 31st August 2022
Equities	2,879	2,484
Government bonds	24	-
Other bonds	-	232
Property	565	574
Cash and other liquid assets	36	84
Other	2,445	1,889
Total market value of assets	5,949	5,263

The actual return on scheme assets was £120,000 (2022: £371,000).

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Current service cost (net of employer contributions)	(103)	(280)
Interest income	228	84
Interest expense	(186)	(106)
Benefit changes, gain/(loss) on curtailment and gain/(loss) on settlement	-	-
Admin expenses	(5)	(5)
Total operating charge	(66)	(307)

Dunstone Education Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

26 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

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

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
At 1st September	4,321	6,316
Current service cost	193	385
Interest cost	186	106
Employee contributions	52	56
Actuarial gain	(471)	(2,344)
Benefits paid	(67)	(198)
At 31st August	<u>4,214</u>	<u>4,321</u>

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

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
At 1st September	5,263	4,935
Interest income	228	84
Actuarial gain	388	286
Administration expenses	(5)	(5)
Employer contributions	90	105
Employee contributions	52	56
Benefits paid	(67)	(198)
At 31st August	<u>5,949</u>	<u>5,263</u>

Dunstone Education Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st August 2023

27 Related Party Transactions

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

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