

Company registration number 07465343 (England and Wales)

**GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

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# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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### Members

J Flynn (Chair)  
K Brennan (appointed 12 December 2022)  
P Cocker  
C Midgley

### Trustees

C Midgley (Chair)  
A Bennett (Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer)  
A Birt (Resigned 7 December 2023)  
E Brooke  
J Fryer  
K Inwood (Chair of Standards Committee)  
I Jaffar  
J Nellis  
J Midgley (Chair of Finance and Premises Committee)  
J Power

### Executive management team

A Bennett - Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer  
J Firth - Chief Operating Officer  
A Rawson - Chief Finance Officer  
D Worthington - Executive Principal, Carlinghow Academy and Director of School Improvement  
R Wood-Ives - Deputy Director of School Improvement, Secondary (appointed 1 September 2022)  
A Midgley - Principal, Raynville Academy and Director of Governance  
H Crowther - Principal, The Greetland Academy and Strategic Lead of English Hub

**Company registration number** 07465343 (England and Wales)

**Registered office** School Street  
Greetland  
Halifax  
HX4 8JB

### Academies operated

Bowling Green Academy  
Carlinghow Academy  
Marsden Junior School  
Raynville Academy  
The Greetland Academy  
The Mirfield Free Grammar  
West Vale Academy

### Location

Stainland Road, Stainland, Halifax, HX4 9HU  
Ealand Road, Batley, West Yorkshire, WF17 8HT  
Manchester Road, Huddersfield, HD7 6EP  
Cross Aston Grove, Bramley, Leeds, LS13 2TQ  
School Street, Greetland, Halifax, HX4 8JB  
Kitson Hill Road, Mirfield, WF14 9EZ  
Stainland Road, Greetland, Halifax, HX4 8EG

### Principal

J Stuttard  
M Fishwick  
S Mansell  
A Midgley  
H Crowther  
A Fuller  
L Horsfall

### Independent auditor

Simpson Wood Limited  
Bank Chambers  
Market Street  
Huddersfield  
HD1 2EW

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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### **Bankers**

Lloyds Bank plc  
Commercial Street  
Halifax  
HX1 1BB

### **Solicitors**

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

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

The Academy Trust operates seven academies for pupils aged 2 – 18 in Calderdale, Leeds and Kirklees local authorities: Bowling Green Academy, Carlinghow Academy, Marsden Junior School, The Greetland Academy, The Mirfield Free Grammar, Raynville Academy and West Vale Academy.

Its academies, excluding Nursery, have a combined pupil capacity of 3,299 and had 2,949 on roll in the school census in October 2023. Nursery provision at Raynville Academy has a capacity of 78 and had 30 on roll; Carlinghow has a capacity of 52 and had 29 on roll; the numbers in Nursery increase over the year as admissions continue in the spring and summer terms.

During the year Marsden Junior School and The Mirfield Free Grammar joined the Trust on 1st February 2023.

#### **Structure, governance and management**

##### Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust.

The charitable company operates as Great Heights Academy Trust; it also has the following trading names:

Bowling Green Academy  
Carlinghow Academy  
Marsden Junior School (from 1st February 2023)  
The Greetland Academy  
The Mirfield Free Grammar (from 1st February 2023)  
Raynville Academy  
West Vale Academy  
AA Teamworks West Yorkshire SCITT  
Great Heights Research School  
The Greetland Academy English Hub

The trustees of Great Heights Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the Trustees who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

##### Members' liability

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

##### Trustees' indemnities

The Trust utilises the Education and Skills Funding Agency's Risk Protection Assurance (RPA) scheme. The RPA provides for unlimited indemnity cover. The total cost of RPA for the Trust within the period was £52,856; the cost of indemnity cover is not separately identifiable.

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

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

The total number of Trustees (including the CEO, if they choose to act as Trustee under Article 57) who are employees of the Academy Trust shall not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees. In recruiting new trustees, the Trust is mindful of the skill set of existing trustees and any skills gaps. Potential new trustees are interviewed prior to appointment by the Chair and CEO. Where necessary, reference to Governors for Schools supports the recruitment of trustees.

In circumstances where the Trustees have not appointed Local Governing Bodies where Parent Local Governors are represented (two Parent Local Governors on each established Local Governing Body) there shall be two Parent Trustees.

Parent Trustees and Parent Local Governors are elected by parents of registered pupils in the Trust; a Parent Trustee / Local Governor must be a parent of a pupil at one or more academies that are part of the Trust at the time when he / she is elected. The number of Parent Trustees / Local Governors required shall be made up by Parent Trustees / Local Governors appointed by the Trust Board if the number of parents standing for election is less than the number of vacancies. If appointing a Parent Trustee / Local Governor, the Trust Board will appoint a person who is a parent at one or more academies that are part of the Trust; or where it is not reasonably practical to do so, a person who is the parent of a child of compulsory school age.

#### Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend on their existing experience. An Induction Pack is provided to all new Trustees; this includes Trustees responsibilities, Committee Terms of Reference, Trustee and school expectations including a Code of Conduct. During the period, the Trust has obtained membership of the National Governors Association, which includes a weekly update on governance matters and is also a member of the Confederation of Schools Trust, which provides training for Trustees (utilised by the Chair), and at least twice weekly briefings. In addition, Trustees receive updates from academy senior leaders involved in national remits. All Trustees are provided with access to minutes, accounts, budgets, Trust development and Academy Improvement plans; risk assessments, plus any other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustee. Trustees are given access to the Trust document sharing system 'Trello', which contains all key Trust documentation.

Induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual, as there are normally only a few new appointments each year.

#### Organisational structure

The management structure of Great Heights Academy Trust consists of four levels: the Trustees, the Core MAT team, the Executive Team and the local academy management teams led by the Principals. The aim of the organisational structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Trust Board establishes the overall scheme of delegation for the governance within the Trust and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of Local Governing Bodies, Executive Team and other bodies / committees. The Trust Board hold ultimate legal accountability for all aspects of operational delivery, as well as being responsible for Trust policy and decision making. The Trustees oversee the management and administration of the Trust and the academies. They delegate authority and responsibility to others, including executive officers, school leadership teams and leaders of entities who undertake the day-to-day management of the academies and entities. Key matters reserved for the Trust Board include: strategic direction; vision and values; and approval of the Trust Business Plan, policies and educational targets.

The Core MAT team consists of the Chief Executive Officer, the Director of School Improvement, the Director of Governance, the Chief Operating Officer and the Chief Finance Officer. The Core MAT team is responsible for the strategic planning of the organisation at Trust level.

The Executive Team is comprised of the Core MAT team along with appointed Executive Leaders. The Executive Team is responsible for the operational running of the organisation at Trust level and supporting Trust academies with academy level operational matters.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is the Accounting Officer.

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

Decisions regarding pay and remuneration take account of the Department of Education's framework "School teachers' pay and conditions document and guidance on school teachers' pay and conditions"; the complexities of the Trust's operation in relation to this guidance; reference to independent advice on pay and remuneration to ensure recruitment and retention of appropriately qualified and experienced key management personnel.

The Performance Management Committee (comprising the Chair of Trustees and an independent School Improvement Consultant) determine arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive Officer determines the arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of the remaining senior management team with reference to the Chair of Great Heights Academy Trust.

#### Trade union facility time

##### *Relevant union officials*

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	3
Full-time equivalent employee number	3.00

##### *Percentage of time spent on facility time*

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	2
1%-50%	1
51%-99%	-
100%	-

##### *Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time*

Total cost of facility time	1,026
Total pay bill	13,225,842
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	-

##### *Paid trade union activities*

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	100%
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#### Engagement with employees

The commitment and ability of the Trust's employees are key factors in achieving the Trust's objectives. The Trust has a dedicated HR Team whose role encompasses all aspects of recruiting and retaining our most important asset. Employment policies are based on the provision of appropriate training, whilst annual personal appraisals support skill and career development. The Trust encourages management feedback at all levels. The Trust academies seek to keep their employees informed on all matters affecting them through regular meetings and communications, including a Leadership Update Bulletin. Staff surveys are undertaken at least annually, the results of the surveys feed directly back to the Trust Core Team and a summary of findings are shared with each academy and used to offer the best support to staff and make changes happen where possible.

All employees have access to the Trust's employee assistance programme which includes a 24 hour helpline, counselling, life & wellness coaching.

The Trust works with employee trade unions and professional associations and engages in consultation, as required, to ensure that all aspects of the Trust affecting its employees, including financial and economic factors, are discussed, conveyed and consulted on with them.

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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The Trust is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all who learn and work at the Trust. We respect and value positively differences in race, gender, sexual orientation, ability, class and age. We strive vigorously to remove conditions which place people at disadvantage and we actively combat bigotry.

The Trust considers all applications forms from disabled persons, bearing in mind aptitudes of the individuals concerned. Where an existing employee becomes disabled every effort is made to ensure that employment at the Trust continues. The Trust's policy is to provide training, career development and opportunities for promotion which are, as far as possible, identical to those for other employees.

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

Delivering the Trust's strategy requires strong mutually beneficial relationships with:

- Customers (pupils and their parents or carers)
- The wider community in which the Trust's academies are located, including local authorities and other public sector organisations
- The Trust's regularity agencies (the DfE and ESFA) and other partners, which may include non-government grant funders
- Suppliers

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining collaborative and transparent relationships with appropriate members of the DfE and the ESFA. The CEO and several members of the Executive Team work closely and participate in various working groups with the DfE and ESFA, including within the period the CEO and CFO contributing to the ESFA's 'Simplification Project'.

The Accounting Officer and Chief Finance Officer are responsible for overseeing the Trust's procurement strategy and practice. When engaging with suppliers, the Trust recognises the importance of open and co-operative relationships with its suppliers whilst also seeking value for money in the spending of public funds.

#### Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The Greetland Academy was designated as a SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training) by the Department of Education on 1st September 2016. The collaborating partners for the SCITT are schools across the region and The University of Huddersfield. In the reporting period, 22 students across primary and secondary phases of education were trained and deployed in schools within the surrounding area.

Additionally, the Trust has operated a National Research School since 1st September 2017, which is funded by the Education Endowment Foundation. During the period the Research School concluded a two year partnership project with 36 local Calderdale schools to improve literacy; worked with 12 primary schools on an Early Stage Development project; worked with a number of organisations to deliver continuous professional development opportunities. In addition we were successfully reaccredited for a further 3 year period and supported our associate research school to get full research school status.

C Midgley and J Midgley have a related party connection with A Midgley, the Principal of Raynville Academy and Director of Governance. Details of related party transactions can be found in note 26 to the financial statements.

#### **Objectives and activities**

##### Objects and aims

The principal object and activity of the charitable company is the operation of Great Heights Academy Trust to provide education for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 2 and 18.

The Academy Trust's main strategy is encompassed in its vision and values statement, which is:

Great Heights Academy Trust strives to always provide an inspirational, positive and welcoming environment where there is a sense of pride and fun and where everyone works together with confidence, enthusiasm and mutual respect. We aim to nurture academic, personal, spiritual and social development in a caring and professional manner so that all achieve their full potential and all can reach great heights.



# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### Objectives, strategies and activities

The Trust's objectives and strategies for the year ended 31 August 2023 are detailed below.

- To enable continuous educationally focused conversations alongside continuous coaching and mentoring support to ensure all leaders are contributing to building educational quality across our trust academies
- To support the continuous development of curriculum leadership within all academies to ensure proactive responses, at pace to lost learning
- To strengthen further lines of communication with Local Governing Bodies and the Trust Board to ensure locality, placed based priorities are considered
- To align reporting formats to enable support and challenge at all levels and to celebrate successes
- To plan and deliver scaling up and aligning of central services for the new 2-18 Trust offers.
- To continue to grow our Trust, sharing our expertise and capacity offers to other schools who may benefit from our trust team.
- Teacher workload and staff well-being, including that of senior leaders, is addressed effectively – making the trust a place where people want to work.
- To consider and embrace environmentally sustainable choices as part of developments and initiatives to address the Government's policy paper April 22.

The above objectives have been achieved during the period via our dedicated 'Continuous Quality Improvement' offer (CQI). Within this offer we conduct a forensic analysis of need in each academy and link a differentiated approach to support based on the varying stages of an academy's improvement journey.

The Trust CQI offer is led by the Trust's Director of School Improvement who works with academy leaders in understanding need, leading a culture of improvement and building capacity for improvement. This process ensures each academy's curriculum is ambitious in design and matched to meet the needs of the pupils in order to prepare them for their next stage of learning. The School Improvement Team provide quality assurance of senior and middle leader accuracy of judgements through joint termly monitoring known as 'typicality' weeks and also provides a coaching and mentoring offer to senior leaders.

Alongside our CQI offer the trust runs a 'Continuous Quality Assurance' (CQA) offer that quality assures the CQI processes and ensures leadership through moral purpose to gain an understanding of all academies both quantitatively and qualitatively. This process sees senior leaders held to account and provided with support, challenge and agreement with the academies self-evaluation form and academy improvement plans. It also ensures governance structure and skills retain focus on school improvement.

The English Hub Manager, Head of SCITT and Head of Research School were deployed effectively to support workforce development and enable academy staff to engage with evidence, make informed research decisions and create a culture of reflection to ensure teachers, managers and leaders are as good as they can be in what and how they teach.

Attendance has remained a key focus during the year, academies were monitored through the trust's School Organisational and Effectiveness meetings for their work on tracking and improving attendance with follow up discussions at Typicality visits.

During the reporting period, the Trust has experienced OFSTED visits in two of the academies with Bowling Green Academy remaining a good school status and achieving Outstanding in four out of the five areas. Raynville Academy following a section 8 visit continues to be a good school. Additionally, two new academies have joined the trust, Marsden Juniors and The Mirfield Free Grammar. Both schools are OFSTED graded good. So this along with the Inspections carried out this year sees the trust maintain a 100% 'good or better' schools' status.

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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In addition, the Trust has continued to provide support via the DfE's School Improvement Offer to support underachieving schools and staff in a number of settings. This responsibility has enabled the Trust to remain at the forefront of national DfE school improvement development, with our CEO invited to write the DfE's TSIO national guidance.

The English Hub designation continues to develop, it has offered a variety of medium and intensive level support to schools across Calderdale, Kirklees and Leeds including showcase events, conferences, in-school audits, resourcing support and in-school intensive support for Reading Leaders. The English Hub now has 15 Literacy Specialists providing tailored support to schools. The wider impact of the Hub movement was measured in a 2023 DfE review - schools supported intensively by the EHP (Partner schools) outperformed other schools by around 7 percentage points, when comparing the change in year 1 PSC results between pre-pandemic (2016/17 to 2018/19) and 2021/22. At the local level, local authorities in our area are now reporting an increase in their phonics data with Kirklees achieving in line with national averages for the first time.

The Trust's Strategic Lead for the English Hub sits on the English Hub Council providing a strategic overview to the national English Hub Programme and increasing our representations at a national level.

The year has seen the Research School become known as the Great Heights Research School: West Yorkshire and connects teachers, schools and MATs to evidence informed practice across the geographic area of West Yorkshire. This year has seen the conclusion of the Early Literacy programme across 36 schools in Calderdale. A new partnership agreement is now in place with the Cooperative MAT to offer evidence informed support across their 32 schools. Each academy within our MAT now has a Research Champion.

The SCITT also continued to operate successfully providing school to school support, continuous professional development programs and student teacher training across the local region. The SCITT operate from their own premises at the repurposed space underneath West Vale Academy.

The Core Trust team have continued to work well together developing and refining the Trust core offer to provide effective support and challenge across all of the academies, including at LGB level; designations; and to align central services to reflect the significant growth that has taken place during the period.

Environmental sustainability is now further embedded and is considered in procurement processes. This has been supported by 'energy audits' that have taken place during the year that have made recommendations which are being implemented and will further support environmentally friendly practice.

The Core Trust team operate from offices at Riverside Mills, which remains local to the three Calderdale academies. This strong core offer, which has included the expansion of our offer during the year to encompass years 2 – 18, thereby positioning Great Heights Academy Trust as a broader, stronger trust in West Yorkshire. Our record of 100% good or better schools has been further strengthened when The MFG Academy and Marsden Juniors transferred into The Great Heights Trust in 1st February 2023 and positions us well for further growth.

The objectives, strategies and activities of Bowling Green Academy for the year ended 31 August 2023 can be summarised as:

- To embed consistent speaking, listening and oracy teaching approaches to develop 'a joy in language'.
- To extend pre- and post-assessment opportunities, including retrieval practice, across the curriculum.
- To ensure all children can acquire the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life; enabling all to be prepared for the next stage in their education (vulnerable pupils focus for 2022-23 accounting for any delay or gaps in learning).

The objectives, strategies and activities of Carlinghow Academy for the year ended 31 August 2023 can be summarised as:

- To embed the foundation Curriculum (inc Assessment) to ensure pupils know more and remember more.
- To ensure pupils become confident and resilient mathematicians.
- To ensure pupils become confident and resilient in the use of SPAG and reading.
- To increase attendance and reduce persistence absences.

The objectives, strategies and activities of Raynville Academy for the year ended 31 August 2023 can be summarised as:

- To embed our foundations for success teaching & learning approach.
- Use of assessment to improve outcomes and inform a targeted support.
- To embed a consistent approach towards the teaching of speaking & listening to improve outcomes.

# **GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

### ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023***

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The objectives, strategies and activities of The Greetland Academy for the year ended 31 August 2023 can be summarised as:

- To continue to ensure all children receive excellent teaching and curriculum provision in maths and English to maintain the high standards of achievement at the end of KS1 and 2.
- To continue to develop the provision for SEND and vulnerable learners to ensure the best outcomes for all academically, socially and emotionally.
- To build a spiral of skills within our creative and performing arts curriculums that is coherently sequenced towards accumulative sufficient knowledge and skills for the next stage of their education.

The objectives, strategies and activities of West Vale Academy for the year ended 31 August 2023 can be summarised as:

- To improve and develop a consistent approach to behaviour across the school.
- To create and develop an ambitious curriculum to meet the needs of all learners.
- To improve standards, attainment and progress in Maths.

#### Public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the Trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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### Strategic report

#### Achievements and performance

The Trustees approve the Academy Improvement Plans of its constituent academies at the beginning of the year and receive regular reports on progress; the objectives and activities for year ended 31st August 2023 are detailed on pages 8 and 9. These have been successfully achieved as part of the ongoing development and experience provided for pupils in our Trust.

The work of the Academy Improvement Plans reference the end of Key Stage outcomes. The data below provides end of Key Stage Data for all of the academies.

During the period School Improvement Partner visits were maintained to ensure standards positioning and performance was monitored by the Trustees. These were carried out internally by the Director of School Improvement and the CEO and externally verified by the Trust's external School Improvement Partner (SIP). The summary of actions from this included:

**Bowling Green Academy:** Leaders have created coherence and consistency across the school and pupils are benefitting from effective teaching and consistent expectations. The developments with the curriculum in the creation of the threads documents is impressive. The continuing professional development for teachers and staff is aligned with the curriculum and develops teachers' content knowledge and teaching content knowledge so that they are able to deliver better teaching for pupils. This work is having impact as the pupils are confidently retrieving their knowledge and relating it to current thinking and learning.

**Carlinghow Academy:** Leaders have further developed the curriculum in response to OFSTED recommendations and pupils have the opportunity to develop detailed knowledge and skills across the full curriculum. The books show that children are achieving well across the full curriculum. The impact of CPD is evident, both for individual member of staff and whole school. Ensuring TA's have same CPD as teaching staff will continue to improve outcomes for pupils.

**Marsden Junior School:** There is coherence and consistency across the school and pupils benefit from effective teaching and consistent expectations as a result pupils are engaged and motivated and speak with such positivity about their school experiences. Pupils working collaboratively was a strength and a positive indicator that improvement planning is a strength at Marsden. However, as happens in many educational strategies, there needs to be a better balance of partner/group/independent work.

**Raynville Academy:** Behaviour for learning is good and the pupils speak positively of the school. Each subject leader has planned and sequenced a curriculum that allows pupils to develop knowledge and skills, building on what has been taught before. Subject leaders would now benefit from gaining confidence in articulating how their subjects connect with the Raynville curriculum. Leaders are open and responsive to feedback and are ensuring that Raynville continues to seek all available opportunities to further develop.

**The Greetland Academy:** Leaders are reflective and responsive to needs and adapt the curriculum well as a result. The pupils at Greetland really do benefit from a broad and balanced curriculum tailored to their interests and need to provide exposure to diversity. The quality in books and the capturing of learning journeys in floor books are a strength. Teaching is sequenced so that new knowledge and skills build on what has been taught before and pupils can work towards clearly defined end points and this is evident through the Greetland planning documentation.

**The Mirfield Free Grammar:** Leaders have a thorough and accurate understanding of the current position and required actions in relation to defining roles and responsibilities and developing and embedding the pupil premium strategy. They described the strategy as an 'add on' that is not integral to whole school improvement priorities. The new Principal attended the feedback, which enabled her to gain a detailed understanding of the current position of provision for vulnerable learners. There are pockets of excellent practice in some departments within the school, but a noticeable lack of connectivity between departments and leaders. The new Principal is keen to prioritise bringing everything together through a shared vision and expectations.

**West Vale Academy:** The curriculum has undergone some necessary changes and all pupils have access to a broad and ambitious curriculum. The curriculum is coherently planned and sequenced towards cumulatively sufficient knowledge. It was particularly pleasing to see the impact of developments identified on the previous typicality visit. Leaders have a clear and ambitious vision for providing high-quality education to all pupils and have achieved this through strong, shared values, policies and practice.

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### **Bowling Green Academy 2023 data performance:**

End of KS2 outcomes 2023 (2022):

- 91% (77%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in reading
- 82% (78%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in writing
- 86% (83%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in mathematics
- 91% (78%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in GP&S
- 77% (72%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in combined reading, writing & mathematics.  
The school therefore performed significantly above the National Average of 59%

End of KS1 outcomes 2023:

- 75% (67%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in reading, writing & mathematics. The school therefore performed well above the National Average of 57%

Year 1 Phonics 2023:

- 90% (92%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in phonics. The school therefore performed significantly above the National Average of 80%

EYFS 2023:

- 71% (67%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected good level of development in the EYFS goals. The school therefore performed above the National Average of 68%

#### **Carlinghow Academy 2023 data performance:**

End of KS2 outcomes 2023 (2022):

- 67% (52%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in reading
- 73% (72%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in writing
- 82% (43%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in mathematics
- 78% (50%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in GP&S
- 55% (37%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in combined reading, writing & mathematics.  
The school therefore performed slightly lower than the National Average of 59%

End of KS1 outcomes 2023:

- 60% (68%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in reading, writing & mathematics. The school therefore performed slightly above the National Average of 57%

Year 1 Phonics 2023:

- 87% (74%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in phonics. The school therefore performed above the National Average of 80%

EYFS 2023:

- 70% (72%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected good level of development in the EYFS goals. The school therefore performed slightly above the National Average of 68%

#### **Marsden Junior School 2023 data performance:**

End of KS2 outcomes 2023 (2022):

- 60% (75%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in reading
- 76% (76%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in writing
- 78% (78%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in mathematics
- 67% (86%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in GP&S
- 56% (69%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in combined reading, writing & mathematics.  
The school therefore performed slightly lower than the National Average of 59%

#### **Raynville Academy 2023 data performance:**

End of KS2 outcomes 2023 (2022):

- 77% (80%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in reading
- 71% (65%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in writing
- 88% (87%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in mathematics
- 79% (80%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in GP&S
- 71% (59%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in combined reading, writing & mathematics.  
The school therefore performed significantly above the National Average of 59%

End of KS1 outcomes 2023:

- 40% (34%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in reading, writing & mathematics. The school therefore performed below the National Average of 57%

Year 1 Phonics 2023:

- 84% (84%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in phonics. The school therefore performed slightly above the National Average of 80%

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### EYFS 2023:

- 71% (68%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected good level of development in the EYFS goals. The school therefore performed slightly above the National Average of 68%

#### **The Greetland Academy 2023 data performance:**

The standards of attainment continued to be very high at The Greetland Academy, which is supported by:

##### End of KS2 outcomes 2023 (2022):

- 90% (88%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in reading
- 92% (86%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in writing
- 100% (93%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in mathematics
- 92% (76%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in GP&S
- 87% (81%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in combined reading, writing & mathematics. The school therefore performed significantly above the National Average of 59%

##### End of KS1 outcomes 2023:

- 73% (78%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in reading, writing & mathematics. The school therefore performed significantly above the National Average of 57%

##### Year 1 Phonics 2023:

- 95% (92%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in phonics. The school therefore performed significantly above the National Average of 80%

#### EYFS 2023:

- 84% (84%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected good level of development in the EYFS goals. The school therefore performed significantly above the National Average of 68%

#### **The Mirfield Free Grammar 2023 data performance:**

- 0.04 (national 0.01) Progress 8 (KS4)
- 35.8% (national 38.2%) EBacc entry rate
- 4.26 (national 4.05) EBacc APS (KS4)
- 26.1/C- (national 2022 38.87/B) Average Point Score/Equivalent Grade (KS5) - Academic
- 31.93/Distinction- (31.98/ Dist-) Average Point Score/Equivalent Grade (KS5) – Applied General

#### **West Vale Academy 2023 data performance:**

##### End of KS2 outcomes 2023 (2022):

- 74% (68%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in reading
- 74% (60%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in writing
- 77% (54%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in mathematics
- 71% (72%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in GP&S
- 58% (50%) of pupils met the expected standard in combined reading, writing & mathematics. The school therefore performed slightly lower than the National Average of 59%

##### End of KS1 outcomes 2023:

- 80% (68%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in reading, writing & mathematics. The school therefore performed significantly above the National Average of 57%

##### Year 1 Phonics 2023:

- 92% (80%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in phonics. The school therefore performed significantly above the National Average of 80%

#### EYFS 2023:

- 64% (70%) of pupils met or exceeded the expected good level of development in the EYFS goals. The school therefore performed below the National Average of 68%

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

### Key performance indicators

In addition to academic performance, Trustees also monitor several key performance indicators, as detailed on the DfE's School Resource Self-Assessment Management Tool, which focuses on several financial performance and benchmarking analyses. Of specific focus have been the following Key Performance Indicators:

	<b>Bowling Green Academy</b>	<b>Carlinghow Academy</b>	<b>Marsden Junior School</b>	<b>Raynville Academy</b>	<b>The Greetland Academy</b>	<b>The Mirfield Free Grammar</b>	<b>West Vale Academy</b>
Ofsted Grade	Good	Good	Good	Good	Outstanding	Good	Good
Comment:	100% of academies 'good' or above – the Trust is pleased with this position						
Pupil Numbers (Oct 23 Census)	151 (PAN 161)	269 (PAN 371) Nursery: 29 (PAN 52; aut term lower)	179 (PAN 240)	400 (PAN 420) Nursery: 29 (PAN 78; aut term lower)	398 (PAN 420)	Yr7 – Yr 11 1152 (PAN 1105) 6 <sup>th</sup> Form: 299 (PAN 400)	101 (PAN 182)
Comment:	Reception intake over-subscribed and taken additional pupils. In-year vacancies	Declining intake; significant vacancies. Trust aware of the risk	Declining intake due to low birth rates. Trust aware of the risk	Declining intake due to low birth rates. Trust aware of the risk	Declining intake due to low birth rates. Trust aware of the risk	Over-subscribed Yr7-Yr11. Change of 6 <sup>th</sup> Form entry requirements Sept 23 has reduced numbers. Trust aware of the risk.	Declining intake; significant vacancies. Trust aware of the risk
Attendance (Oct 23 Census based on summer term 23)	95.81%	91.38%	94.72%	94.24%	95.09%	91.00%	93.65%
Comment:	The national attendance figure for primary schools as at 17.07.23 was 92.5% and, with the exception of Carlinghow, all settings were above this. Attendance has been tracked throughout the year and in most cases schools are exceeding the national average. Those that are below/dip have weekly tracking in place. The national attendance figure for secondary schools as at 17.07.23 was 85.3%. Our secondary academy's attendance was above this.						
Persistent absence (Oct 23 based on summer term 23)	10.57%	28.38%	15.51%	21.14%	16.62%	21.06%	20.83%
Comment:	Across the Academic Year 22/23 the Persistent Absentee percentage was 17.2% in primary schools. With the exception of Bowling Green most schools still have issues in this area although they are all achieving at least pre-pandemic (2019) figures which was the government's target. There is a constant focus on these pupils and the impact on their learning and this is reflected in school improvement and action plans. The 22/23 Persistent Absentee percentage was 28.3% in secondary schools. Our secondary academy's persistent absence was below this.						

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Staff costs as a % to income	84.8%	69.9%	88.2%	76.4%	73.8%	84.5%	76.7%
Comment:	Above 80% - risk due to school improvement drive – Trust aware	At 70-75% ESFA best practice; however staff costs are low due to PFI impact	Above 80% - risk due to historic recruitment plans	Above 70-75% ESFA best practice; but below 80% sustainability risk	Within 70-75% ESFA best practice	Above 80% - risk due to historic recruitment plans but mitigated for future periods	Above 70-75% ESFA best practice; but below 80% sustainability risk
In year balance as a % of total income	£36.7k deficit 3.78% of revenue income	£24.5k surplus; 1.15% of revenue income	£35.7k deficit; 5.84%	£26.2k surplus; 0.98% of revenue income	£45.1k surplus; 1.93% of revenue income	£190.9k deficit; 3.3% of revenue income	£3.4k surplus; 0.36% of revenue income
Comment:	High risk for 22/23; brought forward reserves enable balanced budget	Good position; low risk for 22/23 but Trust aware of future falling NOR	High risk for 22/23; brought forward reserves enable balanced budget	Good position; low risk	Good position; low risk	High risk for 22/23; brought forward reserves enable balanced budget	Good position; low risk for 22/23 but Trust aware of future falling NOR

### 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, the board of trustees continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

### Promoting the success of the Academy Trust

Under Section 172 of the Companies Act the Trustees must always act in a way to promote the success of the organisation. Trustees and the Executive Team recognise that good governance is fundamental to the success of the Trust, its employees and the achievement of its pupils and students and in doing so have regard to:

- The likely consequences of any decision in the long term
- The interests of the Trust's employees
- The need to foster the Trust's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others
- The impact of the Trust's operations on the community and the environment
- The desirability of the Trust maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct
- The need to act fairly as between members of the Trust

Actions the Trustees have taken to achieve the success of the Trust have been identified in earlier sections of the Report. The success of the Trust is demonstrated by how successfully it achieves its charitable purpose: to advance the education in the UK for the public benefit. All our academies are rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted, with two of our academies moving from 'special measures' to 'good' in their most recent inspections.

### **Financial review**

Most of the Trust's income is obtained from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes to support the objects of Great Heights Academy Trust. These grants continued to be received in full during the period and therefore the majority of the Trust's income was not adversely affected by the pandemic during the period. The grants received from the ESFA during the period ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

The Trust 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.



# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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The Trust held fund reserve balances at 31 August 2023 of £34,045,196 comprising £1,262,439 of restricted funds, £1,292,275 of unrestricted general funds, £31,207,482 restricted fixed asset fund and a pension reserve surplus of £283,000. The pension deficit has decreased significantly from £329,000 at 31 August 2022, which is due to major economic turbulence and changes to government bond yields. The Trust reviews the pension contribution triennially and a decreased pension contribution came into effect in April 2023 of 18.8%.

On 1st February 2023 academies The Mirfield Free Grammar and Marsden Junior School joined the Trust. As a consequence of the increase to seven academies within the period, plus the changed pension position, the overall fund value for the Trust has significantly increased from £21,327,655 as at 31 August 2022; a significant aspect of this relating to the combined assets on conversion of £11,818,171. All financial activities of the new academies are reported within the Annual Accounts from 1st February 2023.

During the period ended 31 August 2023, total restricted fund expenditure of £15,669,216 (excluding pension movement) was covered by recurrent grant funding from the ESFA together with other incoming resources. The excess of expenditure over income for the period (excluding restricted fixed asset funds, pension deficit and funds introduced on transfer in of new academies) was £432,538.

Most of the Trust's income is obtained from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes to support the objects of Great Heights Academy Trust. These grants continued to be received in full during the period. The grants received from the ESFA during the period ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

With regard to ongoing Covid 19 funding, academies utilised the School Led Tutoring grant made available from the DfE to deliver tutoring to specific groups of pupils, as a response to the pandemic, to enable pupils to 'catch up'. The DfE funded 60% of these costs (£59,549) and academies funded the remaining 40% either from their Pupil Premium funding or from reserves. In addition, academies received £96,966 Recovery Premium, which was combined with their Pupil Premium funding to support targeted intervention strategies, as detailed on academies' pupil premium plans.

The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned. As at 31 August 2023 the net book value of fixed assets was £31,039,582 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 13 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Trust.

Great Heights Academy Trust has one bank account in which it holds all its reserves. Great Heights Academy Trust has no other investments. The total held in the Trust's bank account as at 31 August 2023 was £2,611,432 and is sufficient to provide for outstanding creditors and accruals of £795,200.

The Trust's vision is for it to continue to grow and to bring new academies into the Trust; this will be realised with Colne Valley High School, due to join Great Heights Academy Trust early 2024 and Nields Junior, Infant and Nursery School due to join towards the end of the 2023-24 academic year. It is therefore anticipated that the financial income and associated expenditure will again increase significantly in 2023-24. The funds the Trust currently hold will enable it to: support new schools, as required, when they join; support the schools in the Trust that currently have reduced numbers on roll due to historically poor Ofsted inspections and the lagged impact on pupil admissions (Carlinghow Academy and West Vale Academy), plus academies impacted by nationally low birth rates; maintain central support structures for school improvement.

#### Reserves policy

The Trust's Reserves Policy requires all entities to hold one month's expenditure in reserves or work towards this if not currently achieved. The reserves of the Trust are considered as part of the monthly management accounts. Academies and designations are able to utilise their reserves following specific request and approval by the Core MAT team.

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The levels of reserves are detailed below:

Entity	Unrestricted Reserves (including School Fund, if applicable)	Restricted Reserves (excluding GAG)	Nature of Restricted Reserve (excluding GAG)
Central MAT (including Research School & SCITT)	£349,104	£19,455	£12,009 EEF grants £7,446 SCITT Mosaic
Bowling Green Academy	£12,744	-	
Carlinghow Academy	£214,935	-	
Marsden Junior School	£26,448	-	
Raynville Academy	£263,292	£14,675	£14,675 Erasmus grant
The Mirfield Free Grammar	£202,859	-	
The Greetland Academy	£149,785	-	
West Vale Academy	£73,108	-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,292,275</b>	<b>£34,130</b>	

Great Heights Academy Trust had a total of £1,262,439 restricted reserves (including General Annual Grant, excluding pension and capital). Details of these funds are provided above and at note 18. The Trust will use the restricted reserves, in line with their intended purpose, in 2023-24.

At 31st August 2023, all entities, with the exception of Bowling Green Academy and Marsden Junior School, are in excess of the reserves policy of retaining one month's expenditure. Reserve positions are discussed with Principals at Finance Review meetings with plans reported to Core MAT Team and Trustees, a summary of which is:

	Reserves Policy Position	Comment
Bowling Green Academy	Significantly below	Utilising its reserves to support its school improvement journey
Carlinghow Academy	Above	Three 'utilisation of reserves' requests to provide temporary staff contracts were approved in 2022/23. Forward NOR reductions may require use of reserves.
Marsden Junior School	Significantly below	New school in 2023; budget positions are being discussed with the Principal
Raynville Academy	Significantly above	Expenditure planned for 2022/23 will now occur in 2023/24. Two 'utilisation of reserves' requests to support academy improvement plans have been approved for 2023/24.
The Mirfield Free Grammar	Just above	New school in 2023; July 23 budget planning approved a balanced budget.
The Greetland Academy	Significantly above	The academy has made improvements to the school site in 2022/23. Quotes are pending on a new roof requirement in 2023/24.
West Vale Academy	Above	A 'utilisation of reserves' request was approved in 2022/23 to provide temporary staff capacity. Forward NOR reductions may require use of reserves.

The total balance of restricted general funds (excluding pension) and unrestricted funds as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 is £2,554,714.

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023*

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#### Investment policy

Great Heights Academy Trust has one bank account for each of the different entities in which it holds all its cash balances; these being required to fund its operational activity. Great Heights Academy Trust takes into account social, environmental and ethical considerations with regard to its investments and therefore has chosen a bank of national repute.

#### Principal risks and uncertainties

Great Heights Academy Trust's income is obtained from the ESFA in line with the Funding Agreement of the Academy. As such, the Trust's exposure to financial risks is limited to cash flow and liquidity risks; at 31 August 2023 the Academy Trust had £795,200 owed to creditors (including accruals), which was fully funded by the bank balance of £2,611,432.

Great Heights Academy Trust has a pension surplus of £283,000 relating to the LGPS defined benefit pension scheme, which is a decrease from the deficit of £329,000 at 31st August 2023. The £612,000 reduction in pension liability is largely due to a gain of £1,437,000 due to changes in actuarial assumptions linked to the current economic turbulence and change in Government Bond yields; offset by a current service cost increase. The actuarial review took place during 2023 which decreased employer contributions in April 2023 from 19.1% to 18.8%; this will then decrease to 18.6% in April 2024 and to 18.3% in April 2025. Although the next actuarial review is due in 2025 the Trust has been discussing with West Yorkshire Pension Fund having an additional review of the pension contribution rate due to the impact of the three The Mirfield Free Grammar Trust schools joining Great Heights Academy Trust; this will be further assessed once the remaining school, Colne Valley High School joins in early 2024.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those relating to the teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the Trust, and its finances, all of which are detailed in the Risk Register (further information below). The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the school faces, especially in operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance as evidenced by School Resource Management Self-Assessment Checklist. Where significant financial risk remains, they have ensured that they have adequate insurance cover. The Trust has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement. The Trust is aware of the requirement to ensure that the Trust's estate is safe, well maintained and complies with relevant regulations; during the period this has been evidenced by: energy audits; health and safety audits; fire risk assessments; RAAC (none of the academies have RAAC) and Radon checks; condition surveys; safeguarding audits; cyber security plans; and termly reviews of risk registers and emergency management plans.

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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The Trust has a Risk Register that is reviewed regularly by the Trustees. The principal risks, other than the financial risks detailed above, come under the headings of: political; strategic/reputational; social; technological; legislative/regulatory; environmental; operational; managerial; legal; and physical. A summary of the key risks is shared with Trustees. During the period, the following high risks were identified:

In the year to 31st August 2023 all school sites have identified a risk in pricing with regard to the energy crisis and the significant increase in energy bills. The Trust has used an energy broker to source the best contracts and sought advice on the length of contracts due to the fluctuating markets.

#### **Bowling Green Academy:**

- Budget risk: The school is becoming increasingly popular (particularly since its very successful Ofsted in the Summer Term 23) and numbers are rising, however the size of the classrooms is an issue as this causes restrictions to the number of pupils the site can educate. A feasibility study has been commissioned this year to look at options to expand the school. If the school can be expanded this will be a much improved picture going forward. The central MAT is supporting the school to ensure it has a balanced budget and does not have a cash flow problem whilst numbers increase.

#### **Carlinghow Academy:**

- Budget risk / fluctuating rolls: Pupil recruitment continues to be lower than the Published Admissions Number (PAN) for the academy and reflects the regional position. The CFO is liaising with the Principal to adjust the budget plans to reflect the reduction in grant funding.
- Exam results: Carlinghow had improved pupil outcomes in 2023, particularly those of disadvantaged children, where the gap has been closed significantly when compared to 2022. In some instances, disadvantaged children have outperformed their non-disadvantaged peers. KS2 Reading overall (67% expected) was slightly below national (73% expected), which impacted on combined and will continue to be a focus of school improvement 2023-24.
- Attendance/Persistent Absentees (PA): Attendance Summer Term 91.38% (National Average 92.5%) PA 25.38% (National Average 17.2%). The school are relentless in their drive to improve on these figures but face a lot of challenges.

#### **Marsden Junior School:**

- Budget risk / fluctuating rolls: Pupil recruitment continues to be lower into Year 3 than the PAN for the academy, reflecting falling pupil numbers locally. The CFO is working with the Principal and Director of School Improvement to plan for class structure re-organisation.
- Budget risk / cash flow: The academy has insufficient income to cover its expenditure in 2023-24. The CFO has worked with the academy to enable them to better understand their budget and future forecast plans. The 2023-24 budget has been impacted by leadership staff long-term absence not covered by staff absence insurance. The absence has been mitigated via secondment of a staff member elsewhere in the Trust; this additional cost is being funded by Trust central reserves to enable the academy to achieve a balanced budget. Scrutiny of future years' budget plans will continue in 2023-24.

#### **Raynville Academy:**

- Persistent Absentees: PA over the summer term was 21.14% (national Average 17.2%). Too many disadvantaged pupils miss school regularly. The school have a focus on the implementation of the pupil premium plan and robust data analysis to monitor the progress of children with PA at termly assessment points.

#### **The Greetland Academy:**

- No high risks identified.

#### **The Mirfield Free Grammar:**

- Student recruitment: Sixth Form entry requirements have been re-assessed in order to ensure quality of education and provision; as a result, recruitment into the sixth form is lower than usual for September 2023. The CFO and Deputy Director of School Improvement, Secondary, is working with the Principal to ensure budget and integrated curriculum led financial planning is adjusted accordingly.

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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### West Vale Academy:

- Student recruitment: Despite the school having a good Ofsted report, pupil numbers continue to decline. Classes have been merged to reduce costs and Nursery options have been explored, but there was insufficient interest to pursue this further. The school has offered toddler/parent sessions to try and gain interest in the school and whilst these are popular and well attended there has been no increase in numbers. This continues to be monitored by the Core MAT team and the Principal
- Budget risk / fluctuating rolls: Due to a decrease in pupil numbers on roll, the ESFA grants linked to pupil numbers have reduced. Split classes have allowed a reduction in staffing costs but may well need to be further reviewed. The CFO is liaising with the Principal to adjust the budget plans to reflect the reduction in grant funding.
- Access for visitors/SCITT: the academy is aware of the uneven surface of unadopted roads and in the car park.

### SCITT:

- Student recruitment: Reduced ITT student recruitment into teaching is a national as well as local issue. The marketing approach has been reviewed. There are good local and regional networks in place, which have been further developed. From September 2024 a review of ITT provision nationally should result in an increase in SCITT student applications to the Trust.

### Financial and risk management objectives and policies

#### **Fundraising**

The Trust has a Fundraising Policy, which is available on the Trust website. This outlines the rationale for fundraising activities, which are for the benefit of the Trust and also for fundraising to benefit others less fortunate.

The Trust works with the parent associations of its academies to fund raise on behalf of the individual academies.

The Fundraising Policy clearly defines the level of fundraising activity that is to take place during each academic year, which is monitored by the Chief Operations Officer.

All fundraising activities and contributions are entirely voluntary. During the Corona Virus pandemic fundraising activities were curtailed, but due to the majority of the Trust's income is in the form of recurrent grants, there has been no adverse effect on the finances of the Trust.

#### **Streamlined energy and carbon reporting**

As a large organisation that consumes over 40,000 kWh of energy annually, we must report the following information:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>kWh</b>	<b>kWh</b>
<i>Energy consumption</i>		
Aggregate of energy consumption in the year		
- Gas combustion	1,641,330	999,327
- Fuel consumed for transport	22,339	14,339
- Electricity purchased	845,334	525,399
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,509,003	1,539,065
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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	2023	2022
	metric tonnes	metric tonnes
<i>Emissions of CO2 equivalent</i>		
Scope 1 - direct emissions		
- Gas combustion	299.64	182.42
- Fuel consumed for owned transport	2.18	1.84
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	301.82	184.26
Scope 2 - indirect emissions		
- Electricity purchased	175.05	62.92
Scope 3 - other indirect emissions		
- Fuel consumed for transport not owned by the Academy Trust	2.98	1.68
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total gross emissions	479.85	248.86
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
<i>Intensity ratio</i>		
Tonnes CO2e per pupil	0.17	0.22
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

### *Quantification and reporting methodology*

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

### *Intensity measurement*

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2 equivalent per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

### *Measures taken to improve energy efficiency*

- The Trust has commissioned energy audits in our academies this year. Recommended outcomes implemented to date include: fitting of new doors; LED lighting installed.
- Staff have used technology to conduct meetings to reduce the need for staff travel.
- In its choice of electricity supplier the Trust is mindful of measuring their renewable energy use for environmental sustainability.

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### Plans for future periods

The Trust's plans for future periods are detailed below, followed by the individual school development targets. These have been developed following review of the performance of the trust and its academies and its ambition to 'reach great heights'.

#### Trust priorities for 2023-24:

- To align trust board reporting with the DfE Trust Descriptors and five pillars to report on the quality of our offers within these descriptor areas and better inform growth opportunities.
- Enhancement of our 'Recruitment and Retention Strategy' to align professional development, workload and well-being, as well as performance management to utilise on in-house workforce development offers and further shape our talent management offers for all staff.
- To strengthen our secondary curriculum trust offers, further developing joint quality assurance and sharing of expertise.
- Revisit our vision and values as a new 2-18 MAT, clarifying our expected culture.
- To finalise our 2-18 capital strategy with special reference to our digital infrastructure and technology.
- Attendance / behaviour engagement at secondary level with the Behaviour Hubs.

#### The Academy Improvement Plan for Bowling Green Academy has the following key priorities for 2023-24:

- To provide children with a rich set of character-enhancing experiences in school and beyond.
- To improve task design and skill progression in identified subjects.
- To raise the independence and tenacity of all children, particularly those with SEND in English and Mathematics.

#### The Academy Improvement Plan for Carlinghow Academy has the following key priorities for 2023-24:

- To further develop high quality first teaching through fully embedding responsive and adaptive teaching strategies to improve pupil engagement and outcomes
- Reading- To further develop the children's love of reading so a higher percentage choose to read outside of the classroom.
- To support student's attainment within each subject area by increasing their ability to articulate ideas, develop understanding and engage with others through academic language.

#### The Academy Improvement Plan for Marsden Junior School has the following key priorities for 2023-24:

- To effectively embed the introduction of a systematic phonics scheme into the reading curriculum.
- To re-visit the writing curriculum to ensure it is securely embedded across school.
- To develop and refine a bespoke curriculum for the foundation subjects which allows for the flexibility to move to mixed age classes.

#### The Academy Improvement Plan for Raynville Academy has the following key priorities for 2023-24:

- To develop and further embed robust quality assurance processes across the curriculum.
- To improve the outcomes of writing.

#### The Academy Improvement Plan for The Greetland Academy has the following key priorities for 2023-24:

- To continue to ensure all children receive excellent teaching and curriculum provision in English to maintain the high standards of achievement at the end of KS1 and 2.
- To continue to ensure all children receive excellent teaching and curriculum provision in Maths to maintain the high standards of achievement at the end of KS1 and 2.
- To further enhance all curriculum areas to empower and develop future leaders.

#### The Academy Improvement Plan for The Mirfield Free Grammar has the following key priorities for 2023-24:

- To develop quality first teaching so it is adaptative and responsive to meet all the needs of all individual students.
- To develop reading through:
  - a) Quality first teaching within curriculum areas
  - b) Targeted academic support with early intervention in KS3
  - c) Wider strategies which aim to develop the love of reading across the school.
- To embed the use of tier 2 and 3 vocabulary across the curriculum.

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023*

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The Academy Improvement Plan for West Vale Academy has the following key priorities for 2023-24:

- To embed a consistent approach to spelling and handwriting across school.
- To improve quality first teaching of Maths across school.
- To further develop an inspiring, engaging and ambitious curriculum, focussing on design technology, art and music.

#### **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.

An auditor tender has taken place in the autumn 2023. The responses will be considered by the Finance and Premises Committee meeting on 18th December 2023 and a recommendation will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 18 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

C Midgley

**Chair**



# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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### Scope of responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring the Trust has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate 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 Trust Board has delegated day to day responsibility to Amanda Bennett, Chief Executive Officer, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Great Heights Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for the reporting to the Trust Board any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

### Governance

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

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
C Midgley (Chair)	3	6
A Bennett (Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer)	6	6
A Birt (Resigned 7 December 2023)	6	6
E Brooke	3	6
J Fryer	4	6
K Inwood (Chair of Standards Committee)	6	6
I Jaffar	3	6
J Nellis	6	6
J Midgley (Chair of Finance and Premises Committee)	6	6
J Power	4	6

The Trust Board has received at each of its meetings reports on the performance of the Trust from the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer. The scope of these reports has included: performance against trust objectives including growth plans and offers; attendance focus; admissions information; school improvement assessments; Ofsted assessment; notable risks including safeguarding; health and safety; ICT plans; sustainability and climate change strategy; financial performance, including management accounts; statutory compliance and audit actions; HR activities and performance management.

The Trust Board also receive correspondence and guidance updates from the ESFA such as Academy Trust Handbook; correspondence from the Chair of the ESFA.

In addition to attendance at Trust Board meetings, Trustees have further engaged with the Trust to inform their view of the Trust via the shadowing, for context, the School Improvement Partner visits; meetings with the CEO, COO, CFO on particular aspects of focus e.g. standards reporting; management accounts reporting including budget setting. The management accounts are sent to the Chair and Chair of Finance Committee each month.

### Conflicts of interest

Great Heights Academy Trust has robust processes to manage conflicts of interest, which are underpinned by annual updates to the register of interests that are completed by all Trustees and staff. At each Trust Board meeting, committee meeting, or local governing body meeting, any declarations of interest are requested and recorded in the minutes. A statement of pecuniary interests is reported on the website of Great Heights Academy Trust.

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### **Governance reviews**

The Trust Board reconstituted on 25th January 2018 to align with the requirements of the Articles of Association as the Trust moved from a single academy trust to a multi academy trust on 1st March 2018. In addition, the Members and Trustees have continued to review their structures, including that of the Local Governing Bodies. As a result, in the autumn term 2018, the Trust increased the number of Member positions to five and restructured membership at Member and Trustee level to introduce separation of representation across the two levels, in accordance with Academy Trust Handbook best practice. Parental governor membership is provided by each Local Governing Body; the structure of each Local Governing Body is: two community governors, two staff governors and two parent governors.

During the 2022-23 period, the membership of the Trust Board has been stable with no changes in its constitution, which remains at ten, which is the maximum number of trustees allowed under the Articles of Association. K Brennan was appointed as Member in December 2022 to take the number of Members to four; there remains a Member vacancy.

During 2022-23 governance review focus, led by the Director of Governance, has been on local governing body (LGB) development and constitution, particularly for the two new academies to the Trust. Developments have included: re-formed and recruited LGB members; Director of Governance attendance at LGB meetings to quality assure; academy visits policy updates; trust board to LGB development, including LGB connectivity and sharing of good practice; common formats for LGB reporting.

The Trust Scheme of Delegation has been reviewed during the year to reflect the expansion to 2-18 provision.

A self-review of Trustees took place in the summer term 2022; it is planned that there will be an external review of the Trust in the summer term 2024. In addition, there will be a LGB governor skills audit and self-review in the spring term 2024.

As detailed on page 1 the reference and administrative information provides the changes that were made to the Trustees during 2022-23.

In order to help fulfil its duties, the Board has appointed a Finance and Premises Committee; a Standards Committee; and Local Governing Bodies at each of the constituent academies.

The purpose of the Finance and Premises Committee is to assist the decision making of the Trust Board, by enabling more detailed consideration of the Trust's responsibility to ensure sound management of the Trust's finances, premises and resources, including proper planning, monitoring, probity and compliance with the latest version of the Academy Trust Handbook.

In addition, the Finance and Premises Committee fulfils the responsibilities of the Audit Committee, as determined by the ESFA's Academy Trust Handbook, which includes to:

- Review the risks to internal financial control at the Trust, agreeing a programme of work to address, and provide assurance on, those risks;
- Recommend to Members the appointment or reappointment of the external auditors of the academy; and, to the Trust Board, the arrangements for all other assurance provision in line with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook;
- Review the external auditor's annual planning and approve the planned audit approach, ensuring that staff are available to meet the external audit requirements;
- Review the Trust's financial statements and reports to ensure that they reflect best practice and that they are filed in accordance with the Companies Act, ESFA and Charity Commission requirements;
- Consider all relevant reports by the Comptroller and Auditor General or the appointed external auditor, monitor the implementation of audit recommendations;
- Ensure that all allegations of fraud or irregularity are managed and investigated properly;
- The outcome of the committee's work should inform the governance statement that accompanies the Trust's annual accounts, and, so far as is possible, provide assurance to external auditors.

J Midgley, who is a qualified accountant and Director at a large international audit firm, is Chair of the Finance and Premises Committee.

The Finance and Premises Committee has considered at its meetings: strategic financial priorities; the Management Accounts; three year budget setting; audit and internal control reports; funding updates; key performance indicators.

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
C Midgley (Chair)	1	3
A Bennett (Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer)	3	3
E Brooke	1	3
J Fryer	2	3
J Midgley (Chair of Finance and Premises Committee)	3	3
J Power	2	3

#### Review of value for money

As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved, as well as estates safety management, in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

- There have been a further two successful Ofsted visits within the year (one at the start of the autumn term 2023) enabling the Trust to maintain 100% of our academies being judged as good or better, which evidences the ongoing improvements made for our pupils and staff.
- Integrated Curriculum Led Financial planning has been re-launched at The Mirfield Free Grammar summer 2023. This has enabled a more efficient teaching staff plan for September 2023.
- One Business Support Officer for the central team now has a designated focus on contract reviews and negotiating Trust wide offers. This has included central contracts for H&S support; MIS system; electricity and gas contracts; maintenance of fire and alarm systems. This helps demonstrate how the Trust continues to ensure that the Trust's estate is safe, well maintained and complies with regulations.
- In addition our IT infrastructure Manager has aligned contracts for Broadband, Microsoft Licensing and Firewall management reducing the cost of these services in the first year by over £22k across the Trust, as well as improving the provision.
- Utilising the expertise of our leadership and teaching staff to support the development of other schools. Whilst impacting positively on the schools receiving the support it has also enabled academies within the Trust to receive additional income and also have a positive impact upon the personal and professional development of the Trust staff e.g. Leadership support to West Vale Academy; delivery of the English Hub offer to supported schools.
- The work to review service level agreements and contracts across the Trust is ongoing, particularly with newer schools to the Trust. The Business Support Officer within the Central Team has secured reduced contract prices for the two new schools by including them in central procurement processes for: energy; security; MIS Arbor; Access finance and budget software; Health & Safety; engineering inspection and minibus insurance.
- DfE frameworks are always considered when seeking best value for new contracts. During the period the IT Infrastructure Manager has utilised the DfE's JISC framework to purchase Microsoft Licences.
- In managing the estate, best value concepts are always at the forefront to ensure effective use of resources, avoidance of waste and extravagance, prudent and economical administration. The Trust utilises specialist consultancy companies to run tendering processes for large capital projects and obtains quotations/uses CPC frameworks on smaller projects in line with the Trust's financial procedures.

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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### **The purpose of the system of internal control**

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

### **Capacity to handle risk**

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

### **The risk and control framework**

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

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

The Trustees have considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. In the autumn term 2022 Trustees reviewed the external scrutiny processes of the Trust. For 2022-23, Simpson Wood were appointed to audit the annual accounts; Wheawill and Sudworth were appointed to undertake a programme of internal scrutiny. This segregation of review provides a more robust risk and control framework and is compliant with the requirements of FRC Ethical Standards for auditors.

There have been no material control issues identified as a result of audit monitoring that has taken place, which included the testing of:

- Procurement and financial procedures policy; including:
  - a) Ordering of goods and services; including quotations and tendering
  - b) Value for Money
  - c) Ethical and Social Governance (ESG) in relation to procurement (new)
  - d) Contracts and leases
  - e) Related Party Transactions
- Electronic banking including supplier maintenance
- An assessment of assurance controls to include compliance with ESFA and Academy Trust Handbook; including:
  - a) a review of the qualification and experience of the CFO (new)
  - b) review financial reporting procedures, forward forecasting and contingency planning (new)
  - c) review of Reserves and Investments Policy (new)
  - d) staff redundancy / severance payments
- Payroll including HR department control procedures

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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Simpson Wood report to the Board in the autumn term on the annual audit checks.

On a biennial basis (spring and summer terms), the Wheawill & Sudworth auditor reports to the board of Trustees, through the Finance and Premises Committee, 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. The schedule of checks was carried out as planned during 2022-23, which included new areas of review as indicated above.

### **Review of effectiveness**

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

- the work of the external auditor;
- the work of the internal (externally sourced) auditor;
- the school resource management self-assessment checklist;
- the work of the Chief Finance Officer within the academy trust who has responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 18 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

C Midgley  
**Chair**

A Bennett  
**Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer**

# **GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST**

## **STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023***

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

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

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

A Bennett  
**Accounting Officer**

18 December 2023

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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

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

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 18 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

C Midgley  
**Chair**

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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### Opinion

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

In our opinion the accounts:

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

### Basis for opinion

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

### Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

### Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.



# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Responsibilities of Trustees**

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

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts**

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

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

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the academy, including Companies Act 2006, Charities SORP 2019, the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, taxation legislation, data protection and anti-bribery legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the academy's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations and.
- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships. This was done as part of the completion stage once a set of draft statutory accounts were available to scrutinise against the prior year.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions.
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias and;
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions. CIF funding and additional support regarding Covid-19 was particularly scrutinised

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the governors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

# **GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023***

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

### **Use of our report**

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

**Daniel McAllister FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of Simpson Wood Limited**

18 December 2023

**Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor**

Bank Chambers  
Market Street  
Huddersfield  
HD1 2EW

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 9 December 2021 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Great Heights Academy Trust during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

### **Respective responsibilities of Great Heights Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Great Heights Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 17 December 2010 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

### **Approach**

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting 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 to our conclusion includes:

- Consideration of the evidence supporting the Accounting Officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance which may include review and corroboration of the most recent Financial Management and Governance Evaluation or equivalent.
- Evaluation of the general control environment of the academy trust, extending the procedures required for financial statements to include regularity.
- Assessment and testing of a sample of the specific control activities over regularity of a particular activity.
- When performing sample testing of expenditure, consider whether the activity is permissible within the academy trust's framework of authorities.

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

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

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023*

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### **Conclusion**

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

### **Reporting Accountant**

Simpson Wood Limited  
Bank Chambers  
Market Street  
Huddersfield  
HD1 2EW

Dated: 18 December 2023

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	160,789	30,544	154,462	345,795	584,734
Donations - transfer of existing academy into the trust		162,113	386,564	11,889,604	12,438,281	-
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	94,715	14,663,839	-	14,758,554	8,308,137
- National school improvement provision unrestricted	4	225,023	-	-	225,023	307,135
- National school improvement provision restricted	4	-	837,613	-	837,613	608,997
Other trading activities	5	1,414,090	-	-	1,414,090	709,815
Investments	6	573	-	-	573	308
<b>Total</b>		<u>2,057,303</u>	<u>15,918,560</u>	<u>12,044,066</u>	<u>30,019,929</u>	<u>10,519,126</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	7	249,886	17,753	-	267,639	372,968
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	9	1,670,925	15,030,752	658,665	17,360,342	10,018,932
- National school improvement provision unrestricted	9	269,696	-	-	269,696	257,091
- National school improvement provision restricted	9	-	841,712	-	841,712	616,572
<b>Total</b>	7	<u>2,190,507</u>	<u>15,890,217</u>	<u>658,665</u>	<u>18,739,389</u>	<u>11,265,563</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		(133,204)	28,343	11,385,401	11,280,540	(746,437)
Transfers between funds	18	(6,316)	(144,988)	151,304	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	-	1,437,000	-	1,437,000	6,274,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>(139,520)</u>	<u>1,320,355</u>	<u>11,536,705</u>	<u>12,717,540</u>	<u>5,527,563</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward		<u>1,431,795</u>	<u>225,084</u>	<u>19,670,777</u>	<u>21,327,656</u>	<u>15,800,092</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>1,292,275</u>	<u>1,545,439</u>	<u>31,207,482</u>	<u>34,045,196</u>	<u>21,327,655</u>

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2022	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
		funds	General	Fixed asset	2022
		£	£	£	£
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and capital grants	3	33,672	-	551,062	584,734
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	114,864	8,193,273	-	8,308,137
- National school improvement provision unrestricted	4	307,135	-	-	307,135
- National school improvement provision restricted	4	-	608,997	-	608,997
Other trading activities	5	709,815	-	-	709,815
Investments	6	308	-	-	308
<b>Total</b>		<u>1,165,794</u>	<u>8,802,270</u>	<u>551,062</u>	<u>10,519,126</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	7	358,038	14,930	-	372,968
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	9	440,809	9,111,837	466,286	10,018,932
- National school improvement provision unrestricted	9	257,091	-	-	257,091
- National school improvement provision restricted	9	-	616,572	-	616,572
<b>Total</b>	7	<u>1,055,938</u>	<u>9,743,339</u>	<u>466,286</u>	<u>11,265,563</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		109,856	(941,069)	84,776	(746,437)
Transfers between funds	18	(7,412)	(176,346)	183,758	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	-	6,274,000	-	6,274,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		102,444	5,156,585	268,534	5,527,563
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		1,329,349	(4,931,500)	19,402,243	15,800,092
Total funds carried forward		<u>1,431,793</u>	<u>225,085</u>	<u>19,670,777</u>	<u>21,327,655</u>

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	13		31,039,582		19,571,672
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stock	14	7,808		1,778	
Debtors	15	1,375,442		480,742	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,611,432		2,262,819	
		<u>3,994,682</u>		<u>2,745,339</u>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(1,272,068)		(660,356)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>2,722,614</u>		<u>2,084,983</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension asset/(liability)</b>			33,762,196		21,656,655
Defined benefit pension scheme asset/(liability)	20		<u>283,000</u>		<u>(329,000)</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>			<u>34,045,196</u>		<u>21,327,655</u>
<b>Funds of the Academy Trust:</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>	18				
- Fixed asset funds			31,207,482		19,670,777
- Restricted income funds			1,262,439		554,085
- Pension reserve			<u>283,000</u>		<u>(329,000)</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>			<u>32,752,921</u>		<u>19,895,862</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	18		<u>1,292,275</u>		<u>1,431,793</u>
<b>Total funds</b>			<u>34,045,196</u>		<u>21,327,655</u>

The accounts on pages 36 to 63 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 18 December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

C Midgley  
Chair

Company registration number 07465343 (England and Wales)



# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Net cash used in operating activities	21	(294,652)		(179,749)	
Cash funds transferred on conversion		802,643		-	
		<u>507,991</u>		<u>(179,749)</u>	
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		573		308	
Capital grants from DfE Group		143,755		470,426	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		<u>(303,706)</u>		<u>(864,137)</u>	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<u>(159,378)</u>		<u>(393,403)</u>	
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		348,613		(573,152)	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		<u>2,262,819</u>		<u>2,835,971</u>	
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year</b>		<u><u>2,611,432</u></u>		<u><u>2,262,819</u></u>	

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### 1 Accounting policies

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

##### 1.1 Basis of preparation

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

##### 1.2 Going concern

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

##### 1.3 Income

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

###### Grants

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

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

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

###### Sponsorship income

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

###### Donations

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

###### Other income

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

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

---

#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### Donated goods, facilities and services

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

##### Donated fixed assets

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

##### Transfer of assets on conversion

Where assets and liabilities are received on the transfer of an existing academy into the Academy Trust, the transferred net assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the Academy Trust. Income equal to the net assets transferred is recognised within donations and capital grant income.

##### Agency arrangements

The academy trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the academy trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The academy trust can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the statement of financial activities. The funds received and paid, and any balances held are disclosed in note 27.

#### 1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

##### Expenditure on raising funds

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

##### Charitable activities

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

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### 1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £ 3,000 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. 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 such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the Academy Trust's depreciation policy. 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, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Land and buildings	2% straight line
Computer equipment	33% straight line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	15% 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.

No depreciation is provided in respect of freehold land.

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

##### 1.6 Liabilities

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

##### 1.7 Leased assets

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

##### 1.8 Financial instruments

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

###### Financial assets

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

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

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

---

#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### Financial liabilities

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

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

#### 1.9 Stock

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

#### 1.10 Taxation

The Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Therefore potentially have a tax liability to pay.

#### 1.11 Pensions benefits

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

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

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

#### 1.12 Fund accounting

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

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the Education Funding Agency/Department for Education/sponsor/other funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received and include grants from the Education Funding Agency/Department for Education.

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

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

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### 2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

#### Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 20, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

#### Critical areas of judgement

No critical areas of judgement have been identified which would have a significant impact on the valuation of assets and liabilities within the accounts.

### 3 Donations and capital grants

	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>Restricted funds £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>
Donated fixed assets	-	4,698	4,698	20,600
Capital grants	-	149,764	149,764	530,462
Other donations	160,789	30,544	191,333	33,672
	<u>160,789</u>	<u>185,006</u>	<u>345,795</u>	<u>584,734</u>

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 4 Funding for the Academy Trust's charitable activities

Educational operations	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	10,816,567	10,816,567	6,518,814
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- UIFSM	-	163,243	163,243	158,682
- Pupil premium	-	819,051	819,051	599,303
- DfE English Hub	-	639,096	639,096	419,542
- Others	-	1,957,038	1,957,038	197,376
	-	14,394,995	14,394,995	7,893,717
<b>Other government grants</b>				
Local authority grants	-	751,425	751,425	533,550
<b>COVID-19 additional funding</b>				
<b>DfE/ESFA</b>				
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	156,515	156,515	96,476
<b>Non-DfE/ESFA</b>				
Coronavirus job retention scheme grant	-	-	-	400
Other COVID-19 funding	-	-	-	37,935
	-	156,515	156,515	134,811
<b>Other incoming resources</b>	94,715	-	94,715	165,601
<b>Total funding for educational operations</b>	94,715	15,302,935	15,397,650	8,727,679
<b>National school improvement provision unrestricted</b>	225,023	-	225,023	307,135
<b>National school improvement provision restricted</b>	-	198,517	198,517	189,455
<b>Total funding</b>	319,738	15,501,452	15,821,190	9,224,269

Included within unrestricted income National school improvement provision is:

- Research School income of £25,708 (2022: £51,420) from other sources
- SCITT income of £199,315 (2022: £255,715) from other sources

Included within restricted income National school improvement provision is:

- Research School income of £184,317 (2022: £187,455) from other sources
- SCITT income of £14,200 (2022: £2,000) from the DfE/ESFA

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Hire of facilities	113,901	-	113,901	33,404
Catering income	783,316	-	783,316	393,053
Consultancy	187,928	-	187,928	15,550
Out of school activities	179,111	-	179,111	156,138
Other income	149,834	-	149,834	111,670
	<u>1,414,090</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,414,090</u>	<u>709,815</u>

### 6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Short term deposits	573	-	573	308
	<u>573</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>573</u>	<u>308</u>

### 7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure		Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
		Premises £	Other £		
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	181,505	-	86,134	267,639	372,968
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	10,435,169	-	1,121,449	11,556,618	6,379,642
- Allocated support costs	2,673,066	1,841,504	1,289,154	5,803,724	3,639,290
National school improvement provision unrestricted					
- Direct costs	117,114	-	88,282	205,396	195,770
- Allocated support costs	34,990	2,410	26,900	64,300	61,321
National school improvement provision restricted					
- Direct costs	278,729	-	441,909	720,638	549,285
- Allocated support costs	74,583	481	46,010	121,074	67,287
	<u>13,795,156</u>	<u>1,844,395</u>	<u>3,099,838</u>	<u>18,739,389</u>	<u>11,265,563</u>



# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

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

### 7 Expenditure (Continued)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:	2023	2022
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	63,712	49,192
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	658,665	466,286
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	10,650	13,000
- Other services	12,575	3,800
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	15,000	95,000
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

### 8 Central services

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

- educational support services;
- human resources;
- financial services;
- others as arising.

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

- 6% as determined by the trust board.
- 4% for Marsden Junior School and The Mirfield Free Grammar from February to August 2023.

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:	2023	2022
	£	£
Bowling Green Academy	-	-
Carlinghow Academy	89,563	89,209
Marsden Junior School	20,333	-
Raynville Academy	119,421	115,910
The Greetland Academy	104,583	111,489
The Mirfield Free Grammar	193,943	-
West Vale Academy	42,311	44,372
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	<u>570,154</u>	<u>360,980</u>

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

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

### 9 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Direct costs</b>				
Educational operations	564,668	10,991,950	11,556,618	6,379,642
National school improvement provision unrestricted	205,396	-	205,396	195,770
National school improvement provision restricted	-	720,638	720,638	549,285
<b>Support costs</b>				
Educational operations	1,106,257	4,697,467	5,803,724	3,639,290
National school improvement provision unrestricted	64,300	-	64,300	61,321
National school improvement provision restricted	-	121,074	121,074	67,287
	1,940,621	16,531,129	18,471,750	10,892,595

	NSIP restricted £	NSIP unrestricted £	Educational operations £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Analysis of support costs</b>					
Support staff costs	86,732	35,432	2,697,628	2,819,792	1,826,089
Depreciation	-	-	658,665	658,665	466,286
Technology costs	2,245	1,968	160,652	164,865	142,519
Premises costs	481	2,410	1,182,839	1,185,730	706,228
Legal costs	-	-	36,610	36,610	8,372
Other support costs	30,966	23,840	1,039,117	1,093,923	600,915
Governance costs	650	650	28,213	29,513	17,489
	121,074	64,300	5,803,724	5,989,098	3,767,898

Of the £926,034 direct costs of the National school improvement provision, costs were as follows:

- English Hub £572,736 (2022: £379,809)
- Research School £168,241 (2022: £148,852)
- SCITT £185,057 (2022: £216,394)

Of the £185,374 support costs of the National school improvement provision, costs were as follows:

- English Hub £66,360 (2022: £39,733)
- Research School £53,669 (2022: £27,554)
- SCITT £65,345 (2022: £61,321)

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

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

### 10 Staff

#### Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	10,248,507	5,591,771
Social security costs	963,724	500,630
Pension costs	2,177,415	1,857,460
	<u>13,389,646</u>	<u>7,949,861</u>
Staff costs - employees	13,389,646	7,949,861
Agency staff costs	361,458	207,309
Staff restructuring costs	44,052	-
	<u>13,795,156</u>	<u>8,157,170</u>
Staff development and other staff costs	282,134	188,295
	<u>14,077,290</u>	<u>8,345,465</u>
Total staff expenditure	<u>14,077,290</u>	<u>8,345,465</u>
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Redundancy payments	<u>44,052</u>	<u>-</u>

#### Staff numbers

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

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
Teachers	113	60
Administration and support	247	161
Management	34	27
	<u>394</u>	<u>248</u>

The number of persons employed, expressed as a full time equivalent, was as follows:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
Teachers	103	52
Administration and support	159	93
Management	34	26
	<u>296</u>	<u>171</u>

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 10 Staff

(Continued)

#### Higher paid staff

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£60,000 - £70,000	10	1
£70,000 - £80,000	4	2
£80,000 - £90,000	2	-
£90,000 - £100,000	-	2
£100,000 - £110,000	4	-
£140,000 - £150,000	-	1
£160,000 - £170,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

#### Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the executive management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £853,849 for 7 members of staff (2022: £1,472,981 - 19 members of staff).

### 11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

The Principal and Staff Governors only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Principal and staff and not in respect of their services as Trustees. Other Trustees did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the academy trust in respect of their role as Trustees. During the year, travel and subsistence payments totalling £566 (2022: £346) were reimbursed to 2 Trustees (2022: 2 Trustees)

The value of Trustees' remuneration including pension costs was as follows:

A Bennett (CEO)	Remuneration	£160,000 - £165,000 (2022: £145,000 - £150,000)
	Pension costs	£35,000 - £40,000 (2022: £30,000 - £35,000)

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

### 12 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

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

### 13 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 September 2022	20,563,414	303,953	841,662	21,709,029
Transfer of school joining	11,372,763	160,660	284,748	11,818,171
Additions	114,122	46,594	147,688	308,404
	<u>32,050,299</u>	<u>511,207</u>	<u>1,274,098</u>	<u>33,835,604</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 September 2022	1,420,720	224,117	492,520	2,137,357
Charge for the year	434,256	103,371	121,038	658,665
	<u>1,854,976</u>	<u>327,488</u>	<u>613,558</u>	<u>2,796,022</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 August 2023	<u>30,195,323</u>	<u>183,719</u>	<u>660,540</u>	<u>31,039,582</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>19,142,694</u>	<u>79,836</u>	<u>349,142</u>	<u>19,571,672</u>

### 14 Stock

	2023 £	2022 £
Catering stock	7,808	1,778
	<u>7,808</u>	<u>1,778</u>

### 15 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	96,108	181,995
VAT recoverable	142,645	33,613
Prepayments and accrued income	1,136,689	265,134
	<u>1,375,442</u>	<u>480,742</u>

### 16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	443,580	88,839
Other taxation and social security	156,320	-
Accruals and deferred income	672,168	571,517
	<u>1,272,068</u>	<u>660,356</u>

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### 17 Deferred income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	320,548	222,059
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	222,059	322,490
Released from previous years	(222,059)	(322,490)
Resources deferred in the year	320,548	222,059
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	320,548	222,059
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance for Universal Income Free School Meals, school led tutoring, English Hub, ITT and 16-19 bursaries, Children's Centre and parental contributions.

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 18 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	509,943	11,807,131	(10,949,525)	(139,240)	1,228,309
UIFSM	-	163,243	(163,243)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	819,051	(819,051)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	156,515	(156,515)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	1,957,038	(1,951,290)	(5,748)	-
Other government grants	-	751,425	(751,425)	-	-
National school improvement provision restricted	23,554	837,613	(841,712)	-	19,455
Other restricted funds	20,587	30,544	(36,456)	-	14,675
Pension reserve	(329,000)	(604,000)	(221,000)	1,437,000	283,000
	<u>225,084</u>	<u>15,918,560</u>	<u>(15,890,217)</u>	<u>1,292,012</u>	<u>1,545,439</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited on conversion	17,229,216	-	(268,396)	-	16,960,820
DfE group capital grants	2,033,146	12,039,368	(298,193)	-	13,774,321
Capital expenditure from GAG	179,424	-	(44,588)	139,240	274,076
Other government grants	91,118	-	(32,362)	-	58,756
Other restricted funds	10,205	-	(5,422)	5,748	10,531
Unrestricted funds	127,668	4,698	(9,704)	6,316	128,978
	<u>19,670,777</u>	<u>12,044,066</u>	<u>(658,665)</u>	<u>151,304</u>	<u>31,207,482</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>19,895,861</u>	<u>27,962,626</u>	<u>(16,548,882)</u>	<u>1,443,316</u>	<u>32,752,921</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	1,168,843	1,832,280	(1,920,811)	73,684	1,153,996
National school improvement provision unrestricted	262,952	225,023	(269,696)	(80,000)	138,279
	<u>1,431,795</u>	<u>2,057,303</u>	<u>(2,190,507)</u>	<u>(6,316)</u>	<u>1,292,275</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>21,327,656</u>	<u>30,019,929</u>	<u>(18,739,389)</u>	<u>1,437,000</u>	<u>34,045,196</u>

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023*

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### 18 Funds

(Continued)

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

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

Restricted fixed assets were funded by government grants and transfer from predecessor school.

Other restricted funds carried forward is in relation to Erasmus fund, Mosaic grant and Research School grants.



# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

#### 18 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	826,945	6,518,814	(6,663,839)	(171,976)	509,944
UIFSM	-	158,682	(158,682)	-	-
Pupil premium	8,671	599,303	(607,974)	-	-
Catch-up premium	2,000	-	(2,000)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	96,476	(96,476)	-	-
Coronavirus job retention scheme grant	-	400	(400)	-	-
Other Coronavirus funding	-	37,935	(37,935)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	19,900	197,376	(212,906)	(4,370)	-
Other government grants	-	533,550	(533,550)	-	-
National school improvement provision restricted	-	608,997	(616,572)	31,129	23,554
Teaching school restricted	36,858	-	-	(36,858)	-
Other restricted funds	126	50,737	(36,005)	5,729	20,587
Pension reserve	(5,826,000)	-	(777,000)	6,274,000	(329,000)
	<u>(4,931,500)</u>	<u>8,802,270</u>	<u>(9,743,339)</u>	<u>6,097,654</u>	<u>225,085</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited on conversion	17,497,612	-	(268,396)	-	17,229,216
DfE group capital grants	1,636,835	530,462	(122,521)	(11,630)	2,033,146
Capital expenditure from GAG	26,300	-	(30,482)	183,606	179,424
Other government grants	104,119	20,600	(33,601)	-	91,118
Other restricted funds	5,677	-	(3,525)	8,053	10,205
Unrestricted funds	131,700	-	(7,761)	3,729	127,668
	<u>19,402,243</u>	<u>551,062</u>	<u>(466,286)</u>	<u>183,758</u>	<u>19,670,777</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>14,470,743</u>	<u>9,353,332</u>	<u>(10,209,625)</u>	<u>6,281,412</u>	<u>19,895,862</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	896,094	858,659	(798,847)	212,935	1,168,841
Teaching school unrestricted	433,255	-	-	(433,255)	-
National school improvement provision unrestricted	-	307,135	(257,091)	212,908	262,952
	<u>1,329,349</u>	<u>1,165,794</u>	<u>(1,055,938)</u>	<u>(7,412)</u>	<u>1,431,793</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>15,800,092</u>	<u>10,519,126</u>	<u>(11,265,563)</u>	<u>6,274,000</u>	<u>21,327,655</u>

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

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

### 18 Funds

(Continued)

#### Total funds analysis by academy

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:		
Bowling Green Academy	12,744	50,310
Carlinghow Academy	257,434	230,975
Marsden Junior School	26,448	-
Raynville Academy	414,754	391,402
The Greetland Academy	380,578	335,517
The Mirfield Free Grammar	933,878	-
West Vale Academy	160,320	163,004
Central services	368,558	814,670
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	2,554,714	1,985,878
Restricted fixed asset fund	31,207,482	19,670,777
Pension reserve	283,000	(329,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds	<u>34,045,196</u>	<u>21,327,655</u>

#### Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff	Other support staff costs	Educational supplies	Other costs excluding depreciation	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bowling Green Academy	657,634	153,372	18,469	163,025	992,500	921,772
Carlinghow Academy	1,206,350	337,241	52,081	536,240	2,131,912	2,062,192
Marsden Junior School	454,752	86,728	9,191	100,199	650,870	-
Raynville Academy	1,766,829	308,705	47,743	447,674	2,570,951	2,501,549
The Greetland Academy	1,270,397	489,222	74,343	433,147	2,267,109	1,992,458
The Mirfield Free Grammar	3,343,540	1,548,221	147,679	923,582	5,963,022	-
West Vale Academy	583,252	161,226	31,034	188,533	964,045	975,378
Central services	883,147	841,675	396,184	419,309	2,540,315	2,345,929
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>10,165,901</u>	<u>3,926,390</u>	<u>776,724</u>	<u>3,211,709</u>	<u>18,080,724</u>	<u>10,799,278</u>

Included within Central services' fund balance are the net costs of operating the defined benefit pension scheme and amounts totalling £157,734 (2022: £286,506) relating to Research School and SCITT activities.

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General      Fixed asset £                      £		Endowment Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:</b>					
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	31,039,582	-	31,039,582
Current assets	1,380,540	2,446,242	167,900	-	3,994,682
Current liabilities	(88,265)	(1,183,803)	-	-	(1,272,068)
Pension scheme asset	-	283,000	-	-	283,000
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>1,292,275</u>	<u>1,545,439</u>	<u>31,207,482</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,045,196</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General      Fixed asset £                      £		Endowment Funds £	Total Funds £
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:</b>					
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	19,571,672	-	19,571,672
Current assets	1,459,392	1,186,842	99,105	-	2,745,339
Current liabilities	(27,599)	(632,757)	-	-	(660,356)
Pension scheme liability	-	(329,000)	-	-	(329,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>1,431,793</u>	<u>225,085</u>	<u>19,670,777</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,327,655</u>

### 20 Pension and similar obligations

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

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2019.

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or the end of the financial year.

#### Teachers' Pension Scheme

##### Introduction

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

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

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

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

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### 20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

#### Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £771,153 (2022: £797,460).

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

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

#### Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 18.8% for employers and 5.5 to 12.5% for employees. The estimated value of employer contributions for the forthcoming year is £645,000.

As described in note the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Academy Trust, being the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who joined 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.

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

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

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

### 20 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

Total contributions made	2023 £	2022 £
Employer's contributions	630,000	378,000
Employees' contributions	218,000	124,000
	<u>848,000</u>	<u>502,000</u>

Principal actuarial assumptions	2023 %	2022 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.85	3.95
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.60	2.70
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.00	4.10
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.60	2.70
Revaluation of pension accounts	2.60	2.70
	<u>2.60</u>	<u>2.70</u>

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

	2023 Years	2022 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.0	21.8
- Females	24.1	24.6
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.2	22.5
- Females	25.1	25.7
	<u>25.1</u>	<u>25.7</u>

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

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Discount rate + 0.1%	(295)	(202)
Discount rate - 0.1%	295	221
Mortality assumption + 1 year	(351)	(236)
Mortality assumption - 1 year	351	236
Salaries +0.1%	42	34
Salaries - 0.1%	(42)	(34)
	<u>(42)</u>	<u>(34)</u>

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

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

### 20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2023 Fair value £	2022 Fair value £
Equities	11,632,000	6,475,000
Bonds	1,561,000	868,000
Property	487,000	316,000
Other assets	645,000	446,000
	<u>14,325,000</u>	<u>8,105,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £368,000 (2022: £132,000).

#### Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Current service cost	836,000	1,060,000
Interest income	(468,000)	(132,000)
Interest cost	483,000	227,000
	<u>851,000</u>	<u>1,155,000</u>

#### Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations

	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 September 2022	8,434,000	13,383,000
Transferred in on existing academies joining the Academy Trust	5,817,000	-
Current service cost	836,000	1,060,000
Interest cost	483,000	227,000
Employee contributions	218,000	124,000
Actuarial gain	(1,537,000)	(6,274,000)
Benefits paid	(209,000)	(86,000)
	<u>14,042,000</u>	<u>8,434,000</u>

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

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

<b>20</b>	<b>Pension and similar obligations</b>		<b>(Continued)</b>
	<b>Changes in the fair value of the Academy Trust's share of scheme assets</b>		
		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	At 1 September 2022	8,105,000	7,557,000
	Transferred in on existing academies joining the Academy Trust	5,213,000	-
	Interest income	468,000	132,000
	Actuarial loss	(100,000)	-
	Employer contributions	630,000	378,000
	Employee contributions	218,000	124,000
	Benefits paid	(209,000)	(86,000)
		<u>14,325,000</u>	<u>8,105,000</u>
	At 31 August 2023	<u>14,325,000</u>	<u>8,105,000</u>
<b>21</b>	<b>Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities</b>		
		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
		<b>Notes</b>	
	Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	11,280,540	(746,437)
	Adjusted for:		
	Net surplus on transfer of academy in the trust	<b>28</b> (12,438,281)	-
	Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(154,462)	(551,062)
	Investment income receivable	<b>6</b> (573)	(308)
	Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	<b>20</b> 206,000	682,000
	Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	<b>20</b> 15,000	95,000
	Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	658,665	466,287
	(Increase)/decrease in stocks	(6,030)	32
	(Increase) in debtors	(888,691)	(35,193)
	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	611,712	(90,068)
	Stocks, debtors and creditors transferred on conversion	421,468	-
		<u>(294,652)</u>	<u>(179,749)</u>
	<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	<u>(294,652)</u>	<u>(179,749)</u>
<b>22</b>	<b>Analysis of changes in net funds</b>		
		<b>1 September</b>	<b>Cash flows</b>
		<b>2022</b>	<b>31 August</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Cash	<u>2,262,819</u>	<u>348,613</u>
		<u>2,262,819</u>	<u>2,611,432</u>

# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

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

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### 23 Long-term commitments

#### Operating leases

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts due within one year	74,863	48,010
Amounts due in two and five years	75,235	101,802
	<u>150,098</u>	<u>149,812</u>

### 24 Capital commitments

	2023 £	2022 £
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	52,820	94,975
	<u>52,820</u>	<u>94,975</u>

The above relates to ICT improvements.

### 25 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the Academy Trust's operations and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which Trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Academy Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

The following related party transactions took place in the period of account:

Dr A Birt who is a trustee of Great Heights Academy Trust is also a trustee of The Crossley Heath School Academy trust. During the year Great Heights distributed funding for student placement and SCITT programme delivery amounting to £6,175 (2022: £7,400).

J Nellis who is a trustee of Great Heights Academy Trust is also a trustee of The Polaris MAT. During the year Great Heights distributed funding for SCITT programme delivery amounting to £900 (2022: nil).

We have also identified the following transactions which whilst not meeting the definition of related party transactions we have decided to disclose the basis but not the amounts involved:

A Midgley, who is employed by the Trust as Principal at Raynville Primary School, is the son of Trustee C Midgley and brother of Trustee J Midgley. A Midgley was employed by the school as headteacher prior to it joining the Trust and TUPE to the Trust on the terms and conditions that had been set by the Governors of the previous school. A Midgley is employed on the Leadership scale within the Teachers Pay & Conditions document and receives no special treatment as a result of his relationship to trustees.

J Nuttall who is employed by the Trust as a finance apprentice is the daughter of key management personnel D Worthington. J Nuttall is employed on the support staff scale and receives no special treatment as a result of her relationship to key management personnel.



# GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

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

### 26 Members' liability

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

### 27 Agency arrangements

Bursaries totalling £45,229 (2022: £82,500) have been paid to students and other agency payments of £nil (2022: £85,128) have been paid to local authorities in the year.

The Academy Trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2023 the academy trust received £32,678 and disbursed £13,064 from the fund. An amount of £16,547 was refunded back to the ESFA in October 2023 which included the amount not spent. There are no comparatives for the accounting period ending 31 August 2022.

### 28 Transfer of existing academies into the Academy Trust

#### The Mirfield Free Grammar

	Transfer in recognised £
<b>Net assets acquired</b>	
Freehold land and buildings	10,118,295
Other tangible fixed assets	379,321
Cash and cash equivalents	747,342
Total net assets	<u>11,244,958</u>

There were no fair value adjustments required to the values reported by the transferring trust.

#### Marsden Junior School

	Value reported by transferring trust £	Fair value adjustments £	Transfer in recognised £
<b>Net assets acquired</b>			
Leasehold land and buildings	-	1,254,467	1,254,467
Other tangible fixed assets	-	66,087	66,087
Cash and cash equivalents	-	55,301	55,301
Total net assets	<u>-</u>	<u>1,375,855</u>	<u>1,375,855</u>