

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 2024**

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

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GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

J Flynn (Chair)
K Brennan (resigned 12 September 2024)
P Cocker
C Midgley
A Fisher (appointed 1 January 2024)

Trustees

C Midgley (Chair)
A Bennett (Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer)
A Birt (Resigned 7 December 2023)
E Brooke (Resigned 31 December 2023)
J Fryer (Resigned 15 February 2024)
K Inwood (Chair of Standards Committee)
I Jaffar
J Nellis (Resigned 22 October 2024)
J Midgley (Chair of Finance and Premises Committee)
J Power
M McManus (Appointed 1 September 2024)
V Stoneman (Appointed 1 September 2024)
D Purdon (Appointed 1 September 2024)

Executive management team

A Bennett - Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer
J Firth - Chief Finance and Operating Officer
A Rawson - Chief Finance Officer (resigned 31 August 2024)
D Worthington - Director of School Improvement
R Wood-Ives - Deputy Director of School Improvement, Secondary
A Midgley - Executive Principal of Raynville Academy and Director of Governance
H Crowther - Principal of The Greetland Academy, Executive Principal of West Vale and Strategic Lead of Trust Designations
J Priestley - Deputy Chief Finance Officer (appointed 3 June 2024)
J Sayles - Executive Principal of Performance and Outcomes
J Christian - Executive Principal of Secondary Provision
J Stuttard - Executive Principal of Bowling Green and Marsden

Company registration number 07465343 (England and Wales)

Registered office School Street
Greetland
Halifax
HX4 8JB

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Academies operated	Location	Principal
Raynville Academy	Cross Aston Grove, Bramley, Leeds, LS13 2TQ	A Midgley
The Greetland Academy	School Street, Greetland, Halifax, HX4 8JB	H Crowther
The Mirfield Free Grammar	Kitson Hill Road, Mirfield, WF14 9EZ	A Fuller
West Vale Academy	Stainland Road, Greetland, Halifax, HX4 8EG	H Crowther
Bowling Green Academy	Stainland Road, Stainland, Halifax, HX4 9HU	J Stuttard
Carlinghow Academy	Ealand Road, Batley, West Yorkshire, WF17 8HT	M Fishwick
Marsden Junior School	Manchester Road, Huddersfield, HD7 6EP	J Stuttard
Colne Valley High School	Gillroyd Lane, Linthwaite, HD7 5SP	J Christian
Nields Academy	Nields Road, Slaitwaite, HD7 5HT	D Mahon
Independent auditor	Simpson Wood Limited Bank Chambers Market Street Huddersfield HD1 2EW	
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 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the accounts and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

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

Its academies, excluding Nursery, have a combined pupil capacity of 4,826 and had 4,585 on roll in the school census in October 2024. This includes the capacity at two schools that joined the Trust during the year, Colne Valley High School joined on 1st January 2024 and Nields Academy joined on 1st April 2024.

Nursery provision at Raynville Academy has a capacity of 78 and had 29 on roll; Carlinghow Academy has a capacity of 52 and had 25 on roll; Nields Academy has a capacity of 16 and had 6 on roll; as at the October 2024 census date. The numbers in Nursery can fluctuate over the year as admissions and leavers continue throughout the year.

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
Colne Valley High School (from 1st January 2024)
Marsden Junior School
Nields Academy (from 1st April 2024)
Raynville Academy
The Greetland Academy
The Mirfield Free Grammar
West Vale Academy
AA Teamworks West Yorkshire SCITT
Great Heights Research School West Yorkshire
Great Heights English Hub
Great Heights Partner Provision

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 £98,038; the cost of indemnity cover is not separately identifiable.

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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. The Trust has 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. The Trust also has membership with the National College, which is utilised for all governor statutory training in addition to a library of courses and webinars which trustees have full access to. 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 via Teams, 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.

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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 Exec 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 consisted of the Chief Executive Officer, the Director of School Improvement, the Director of Governance, the Chief Operating Officer and the Chief Finance Officer up until 31 August 2024 with the COO and CFO responsibility being combined in to the CFOO up to the date of signing . 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.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Decisions regarding pay and remuneration take account of the Department of Educations' 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.

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	4
Full-time equivalent employee number	3.00

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	4
1%-50%	-
51%-99%	-
100%	-

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	-
Total pay bill	24,000,307
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	-
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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.

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.

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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 up to 31 August 2024 contributing to the work of the ESFA's Academies Financial and Assurance Steering Group.

The Accounting Officer and Chief Operations Officer and Chief Finance Officer were responsible for overseeing the Trust's procurement strategy and practice up to 31 August 2024 with the COO and CFO responsibility being combined in to the CFOO up to the date of signing . 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, 25 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 engaged in an exploration partnership with a Multi Academy Trust comprising of 42 schools alongside work with a number of organisations to deliver continuous professional development opportunities.

C Midgley and J Midgley have a related party connection with A Midgley, the Executive Principal of Raynville Academy and Director of Governance. Details of related party transactions can be found in note 25 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 2024

Objectives, strategies and activities

The Trust's objectives and strategies for the year ended 31 August 2024 are detailed below.

- To align trust board reporting with the DfE Trust Descriptors and 5 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 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. Trust board reports have been aligned with the DfE Trust Descriptions and use the five pillars to report on the quality of our offers. Growth this year has seen a second secondary school join us in January 2024 and a sponsor primary school join in April 2024.

Our designations of the English Hub, Research School, SCITT and Medical Needs provision are central to our internal SI offer delivering high quality CPD and bespoke offers of support in addition to meeting their commissioned KPI's.

Investment in talent spotting and succession planning is a key element of the trust's recruitment and retention strategy. During this reporting period we have seen the promotion of three principals into Executive Principal roles, two deputies and two assistant principals promoted to Head of School roles. This has allowed for the promotion of middle leaders into senior leader positions. The success of our SCITT was confirmed with Ofsted in March 2024 receiving 'good' in all areas including comments on the collaborative approach to programme delivery.

"Leaders have developed a high-quality training programme that successfully serves both the needs of trainees and of the wider local area. Leaders' long-established vision to nurture excellent teachers is tangible. It is a shared mission, reflected in the course programme, which has been co-constructed with partner schools, the trust's English hub and the trust's research school."

OFSTED March 2024

Secondary academies have been supported by GHAT to develop their own ambitious, broad and balanced, knowledge-rich curriculum that is underpinned by the national curriculum and age-related expectations. The GHAT secondary quality assurance strategy has been implemented in phases to ensure sustained improvement. There is a five- or seven-year overview for each subject with core concept mapping and assessment frameworks. Typically monitoring checks the curriculum is coherently planned and sequenced from KS2 to KS4 (KS5 where appropriate) and meets the needs of all students. Expertise is shared across the school coordinated by our Deputy Director of School Improvement and has this year seen the appointment of a Director of Maths working across both schools.

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The annual leadership conference provided the opportunity to revisit our vision and values. Working collaboratively with our academy leaders, designation leaders and core trust leaders has strengthened our commitment to a 'one trust' culture. All leaders are committed to sharing the responsibility for improving outcomes and life chances for pupils across all the academies. Our 2 – 18 offer has been enhanced with collaborative working between primary and secondary academies. Art, DT and MFL subject leaders have utilised the expertise of secondary colleagues to enhance and refine primary curriculums.

Attendance has been an ongoing focus across all academies monitored through school organisational effectiveness meetings and reported to LGB and Trust Board meetings. An attendance working party was established with representatives from each academy working in partnership with the trust's research school to learn from each other and be proactive in improving attendance.

This year has seen the Trust move from Condition Improvement Funding (CIF) to School Allocation Fund (SFA). A full review of estates was commissioned in order to set our 5 year condition priority strategy. This will be in place for 24/25.

A key focus during the year has been digital infrastructure and technology. Meetings with stakeholders, assessment of sites and curriculum needs has been undertaken alongside visits and meetings with MATs of a similar size to review the appropriate roadmap for digital structure. Remote support platform has been deployed. A review of anti-virus and email security has taken place. Optimisation of contracts and licenses for our newest schools has been undertaken resulting in cost savings.

These are the priorities for 24-25:

- To promote GHAT academy school collaborations, networking and alignment of financial positioning and associated partnership working in order to improve outcomes for all pupils.
- To further develop organisational accountability measures; People Strategy development; Improved digital infrastructure offers and feedback from stakeholders; development of reporting systems of governance against trust description expectations.
- To reset and promote GHAT cultural behaviour expectations, identifying audience promotions and to seek further stakeholder engagement promotions.
- To deliver a 2-18 'performance and outcomes strategy' with specific support for our most vulnerable schools.
- To design and activate a GHAT communication strategy during 24-25.

The objectives, strategies and activities of Bowling Green Academy for the year ended 31 August 2024 can be summarised as:

Target 1: to provide children with a rich set of character-enhancing experiences in school and beyond.

Target 2: to improve task design and skill progression in identified subjects.

Target 3: to raise the independence and tenacity of all children, particularly those with SEND in English and Mathematics.

The objectives, strategies and activities of Carlinghow Academy for the year ended 31 August 2024 can be summarised as:

Target 1: To further develop high quality first teaching through fully embedding responsive and adaptive teaching strategies to improve pupil engagement and outcomes

Target 2: Reading- To further develop the children's love of reading so a higher percentage choose to read outside of the classroom.

Target 3: 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 objectives, strategies and activities of Colne Valley High for the year ended 31 August 2024 can be summarised as:

Targets established since academy joined GHAT 1 January 2024:

Target 1: To ensure all safeguarding policies, strategies and delivery are compliant and effective.

Target 2: To ensure that the academy is accurately identifying, assessing and meeting the needs of pupils with SEND

Target 3: To engage with support from a DfE approved behaviour hub to develop a strategic plan to improve behaviour across the academy.

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The objectives, strategies and activities of Marsden Junior School for the year ended 31 August 2024 can be summarised as:

Target 1: To effectively embed the introduction of a systematic phonics scheme into the reading curriculum.

Target 2: To re-visit the writing curriculum to ensure it is securely embedded across school.

Target 3: To develop and refine a bespoke curriculum for the foundation subjects which allows for the flexibility to move to mixed age classes.

The objectives, strategies and activities of Nields Academy for the year ended 31 August 2024 can be summarised as:

Targets established since academy joined GHAT 1 April 2024 set in line with OFSTED priorities :

Target 1: To ensure the curriculum in all subjects prepares pupils for the next steps in their education.

Target 2: To ensure that the staff understand pupils' individual needs and provide learning activities that help them to make rapid progress.

Target 3: To provide the curriculum and approach to learning in the early years so that pupils develop the knowledge and skills they need to flourish.

Target 4: To ensure the PSHE curriculum is taught regularly to ensure pupils have sufficient learning opportunities to fully embed and apply this important learning.

The objectives, strategies and activities of Raynville Academy for the year ended 31 August 2024 can be summarised as:

Target 1: To develop and further embed robust quality assurance processes across the curriculum.

Target 2: To improve the outcomes of writing.

The objectives, strategies and activities of The Greetland Academy for the year ended 31 August 2024 can be summarised as:

Target 1: 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.

Target 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.

Target 3: To further enhance all curriculum areas to empower and develop future leaders.

The objectives, strategies and activities of The Mirfield Free Grammar for the year ended 31 August 2024 can be summarised as:

Target 1: To develop quality first teaching so it is adaptative and responsive to meet all the needs of all individual students.

Target 2: To develop reading through:

- Quality first teaching within curriculum areas
- Targeted academic support with early intervention in KS3
- Wider strategies which aim to develop the love of reading across the school.

Target 3: To embed the use of tier 2 and 3 vocabulary across the curriculum.

The objectives, strategies and activities of West Vale Academy for the year ended 31 August 2024 can be summarised as:

Target 1: To embed a consistent approach to spelling and handwriting across school.

Target 2: To improve quality first teaching of Maths across school.

Target 3: To further develop an inspiring, engaging and ambitious curriculum, focussing on design technology, art and music.

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 2024

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 2024 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 Deputy Director of School Improvement. These are quality assured by the CEO and externally verified by the Trust's external School Improvement Partner (SIP). The summary of actions from this included:

Bowling Green Academy: The SLT have effectively summarised progress within the 2023 to 2024 academic year and are accurate in their judgements and are clear about the strong position of the school. They are now at the stage of maintaining the high-quality offer with minor changes to ensure progression and innovation. The school has excellent capacity and expertise to ensure continuous improvement. The SLT clearly work hard to ensure all staff, across all areas of the school, are provided with opportunities to share practice and understand individual needs, including those of children with SEND. There is a commitment to high ambition for all.

Carlinghow Academy: Leaders have focused on embedding responsive and adaptive teaching strategies, leading to more tailored learning experiences that boost pupil engagement and overall achievement. Leaders have ensured efforts to nurture a love of reading have been successful, with a notable increase in the percentage of students choosing to read beyond the classroom environment. Carlinghow has strengthened students' academic language skills, enabling them to articulate ideas more confidently, deepen their understanding, and engage more effectively with their peers across all subject areas.

Colne Valley High School: The school joined GHAT on 1 January 2024 during scoping exercises, due diligence and initial audits the school was identified to be at risk of retaining its current grading of good, with particular concern around safeguarding, SEND and behaviour. The trust acted by appointing an IEB to ensure effective challenge and support, commissioning external support SEND and engagement work commenced with the DfE behaviour hub. A change team from GHAT was introduced to ensure improvements in these areas were made at pace.

Marsden Junior School: This year has seen strong achievements in advancing Marsden's curriculum through targeted initiatives. Leaders have integrated a systematic phonics scheme into the reading curriculum, greatly supporting early literacy development and enhancing children's reading skills across all year groups. Leaders and managers have thoroughly reviewed and embedded the writing curriculum, ensuring consistency and alignment in teaching approaches across the school. Leaders have further developed and refined a bespoke curriculum for foundation subjects, allowing for flexibility to adapt to mixed-age classes, further personalising learning to meet the diverse needs of the children.

Nields Academy: The school joined GHAT on 1 April 2024 Nields received an inadequate judgement from Ofsted in November 2023, following this and in the absence of the substantive headteacher the Trust provided executive leadership and wider support to the school prior to the school joining in April 2024. The priorities were to focus on the OFSTED priority areas of improving the curriculum, SEND, Early Years and a specific focus on the PSHE element of the curriculum. Expertise from across the trust primary schools were deployed to support the interim leadership team in improving standards in these priority areas. The academy now has a full curriculum in place, the Early years have invested in new resources and have an improved learning environment and an external review of SEND was commissioned.

Raynville Academy: Leaders have focused on curriculum improvements and pupil outcomes including those who are disadvantaged. Leaders have developed and embedded rigorous quality assurance processes, ensuring consistent high standards across all subject areas and facilitating regular evaluations that drive curriculum improvements.

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Raynville achieved measurable success in maintaining and improving writing outcomes, with end-of-year assessments showing increase in the number of children meeting or exceeding age-related expectations in writing compared to the previous year in many year groups. This improvement reflects the effective implementation of targeted support strategies and curriculum adjustments, significantly enhancing children's writing skills and confidence.

The Greetland Academy: Leaders were able to demonstrate a high level of confidence and accuracy in their end of year position including successfully achieving all priorities. The leadership teams work has impacted positively to achieving anticipated outcomes. Children's behaviour for learning throughout all ages and groups is impressive, supported by a motivated and highly skilled staff team. This is underpinned with a high-quality curriculum offer tailored to individual needs and interests. All staff are eager to contribute to the continuous improvement journey, impacting positively on the academic and pastoral outcomes of all children.

The Mirfield Free Grammar: The new Principal commenced her position at the academy on 1 September 2024 and worked alongside trust leaders to establish her vision and values. A new teaching and learning model was introduced via a carefully constructed implementation plan to further develop quality first teaching so it is adaptative and responsive to meet all the needs of all individual students. This year has seen a sharp focus on the teaching of reading working alongside the trust's English Hub. This has resulted in a targeted academic support with early intervention across KS3 and wider strategies introduced across the whole academy in developing the love of reading. With support from the Trust's Research School leaders and teachers have had access to high quality CPD on the teaching of tier 2 and 3 vocabulary across the curriculum. This is now becoming embedded practice as observed through quality assurance visits.

West Vale Academy: Leaders have embedded a coherent and consistent approach to identified 23-24 priorities across school. Developments in spelling and handwriting have impacted positively and are reflected in the improvements to outcomes within this subject area. Outcomes have also increased across all subjects and year groups with children reaching the expected standard above all National Averages. The continuous professional development for staff has been focussed on the delivery of an ambitious and knowledge rich curriculum which is delivered by a skilled teaching team. Pupils are confident in their current knowledge and can accurately link this to prior learning.

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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:

	Bowling Green Academy	Carlinghow Academy	Colne Valley High School	Marsden Junior School	Nields Academy
Ofsted Grade	Good	Good	Good	Good	N/A
Comment:	100% of academies 'good' or above – the Trust is pleased with this position				
Pupil Numbers (Oct 24 Census)	161 (PAN 161)	289 (PAN 371) - Nursery: 25 (PAN 52; aut term lower)	1437 (PAN 1447)	168 (PAN 240)	151 (PAN 210) Nursery 6 (PAN 16)
Comment:	Reception intake over-subscribed and taken additional pupils. In-year vacancies	Declining intake; significant vacancies. Trust aware of the risk	Stable pupil numbers.	Declining intake due to low birth rates. Trust aware of the risk	Declining intake due to low birth rates. Trust aware of the risk
Attendance (Oct 24 Census based on summer term 24)	94.04%	88.07%	81.61%	93.11%	93.69%
Comment:	The national attendance figure for primary schools as at 17 July 2023 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 July 2023 was 85.3%. Attendance is a priority at Colne Valley High School for the Trust's school improvement team.				
Persistent absence (Oct 24 based on summer term 24)	19.53%	38.71%	28.61%	22.40%	17.76%
Comment:	Across the Academic Year 23/24 the Persistent Absentee percentage was 14.7% in primary schools and 23.9% in secondary schools. Improving attendance across the academy's has become a Trust wide priority and a significant focus for the leaders in the School Improvement team				
Staff costs as a % to income	86.91%	69.90%	77.32%	80.35%	82.95%
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 70-75% ESFA best practice. Should be in line or better than benchmarks due to PFI.	Above 80% - risk due to historic recruitment plans	Above 70-75% ESFA best practice and above 80% sustainability risk.

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

In year balance as a % of total income	£58.2k deficit - 5.53% of revenue income	£81.8k surplus - 3.37% of revenue income	£525k deficit - 7.77% of revenue income	£49.9k surplus - 4.35% of revenue income	£16.7k deficit - 3.5% 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	Deficit due to one-off costs such as ICT investment.	High risk for 22/23; brought forward reserves enable balanced budget	Small deficit but is being mitigated against in future years.

	Raynville Academy	The Greetland Academy	The Mirfield Free Grammar	West Vale Academy
Ofsted Grade	Good	Outstanding	Good	Good
Comment:	100% of academies 'good' or above – the Trust is pleased with this position			
Pupil Numbers (Oct 24 Census)	409 (PAN 420) Nursery: 29 (PAN 78; autumn term lower)	397 (PAN 420)	Yr7 – Yr 11 1151 (PAN 1105) - 6th Form: 173 (PAN 400)	84 (PAN 182)
Comment:	Declining intake due to low birth rates. Trust aware of the risk	Declining intake due to low birth rates. Trust aware of the risk	Oversubscribed Yr7-Yr11. Change of 6th Form entry requirements Sept 23 has reduced numbers. Trust aware of the risk.	Declining intake; significant vacancies. Trust aware of the risk
Attendance (Oct 24 Census based on summer term 24)	93.07%	95.18%	86.30%	93.69%
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%. Attendance is a priority at Colne Valley High School for the Trust's school improvement team.			
Persistent absence (Oct 24 based on summer term 24)	26.76%	16.62%	28.70%	22.11%
Comment:	Across the Academic Year 23/24 the Persistent Absentee percentage was 14.7% in primary schools and 23.9% in secondary schools. Improving attendance across the academy's has become a Trust wide priority and a significant focus for the leaders in the School Improvement team			

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Staff costs as a % to income	75.90%	75.79%	81.66%	73.37%
Comment:	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	£71.1k surplus - 2.51% of revenue income	£39.2k deficit - 1.57% of revenue income	£31.7k deficit - 0.3% of revenue income	£33.4k surplus - 3.65% of revenue income
Comment:	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

MFG KS4	MFG Unvalidated (2024)	MFG Validated (2023)	Kirklees Validated (2023)	National Validated (2023)
Progress 8	-0.29	-0.03	0.11	-0.03
Attainment 8	46.13	49	46.5	46.2
Grade 7 or above in English and Maths (%)	7.00%	12.40%		
Grade 5 or above in English and Maths (%)	46.70%	57.00%	46%	45%
Grade 4 or above in English and Maths (%)	69.60%	70.60%	66.00%	65.00%
Ebacc entry (%)	29.00%	33.00%	34.00%	39.00%
Ebacc average point score	3.97	4.23	4.02	4.05

MFG A Level

Measure	MFG Unvalidated (2024)	MFG Validated (2023)	Kirklees (2023)	National (2023)
Students included in A Level Cohort	135	107		
A Level Average Points per Entry	23.12	27.22	38.42	68.87
A Level Average Grade	D+	C-	B	B

MFG Vocational

Measure	MFG Unvalidated (2024)	MFG Validated (2023)	Kirklees 2023	National 2023
Students included in Applied General Cohort	98	99		
Applied General Average Points per Entry	30.94	32.06	32.68	31.98
Applied General Average Grade	Dist-	Dist-	Dist-	Dist-
% of students retained to the end of their main course of study		90.10%	89.10%	87.20%

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

CVHS KS4

	CVHS Unvalidated (2024)	CVHS Validated (2023)	Kirklees (2023)	National (2023)
Attainment 8	40.27	43.94	46.5	46.2
Grade 7 or above in English and Maths (%)	6.30%	5.70%		
Grade 5 or above in English and Maths (%)	34.40%	37.00%	46%	45%
Grade 4 or above in English and Maths (%)	58.90%	64.50%	66.00%	65.00%
Ebacc entry (%)	25.60%	11.10%	34.00%	39.00%
Ebacc average point score	3.61	3.65	4.02	4.05

Primary Data

GLD EARLY YEARS RESULTS 2024			YEAR 1 PHONICS RESULTS 2024		
Academy	2024	2023	Academy	2024	2023
	Result	Result		Result	Result
BGA	65%	71%	BGA	88%	90%
CA	67%	70%	CA	82%	87%
NA	53%	60%	NA	64%	73%
RA	64%	71%	RA	84%	85%
TGA	81%	83%	TGA	95%	95%
WVA	67%	64%	WVA	91%	92%
National	67% (2023)		National	80%	79%
Average			Average		

Year 6 Results 2024

Academy	READING				WRITING			
	Expected +		Above		Expected +		Above	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
BGA	82%	91%	41%	36%	94%	81%	24%	27%
CA	63%	67%	11%	21%	73%	73%	13%	15%
MJR	83%	60%	22%	18%	81%	76%	10%	20%
NA	46%	74%	14%	-	46%	59%	4%	-
TGA	88%	90%	35%	48%	88%	92%	21%	20%
RA	75%	77%	20%	23%	72%	71%	13%	14%
WVA	85%	74%	20%	13%	80%	74%	25%	10%
National Average	74%	73%	29% (2023)		72%	72%	13% (2023)	

Academy	MATHEMATICS				COMBINED			
	Expected +		Above		Expected +		Above	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
BGA	94%	86%	35%	46%	82%	77%	12%	17%
CA	70%	82%	13%	15%	54%	55%	2%	6%
MJR	76%	78%	16%	9%	62%	56%	8%	9%
NA	64%	70%	11%	-	36%	56%	4%	-
TGA	92%	100%	38%	33%	83%	87%	17%	11%
RA	82%	71%	13%	5%	60%	71%	0%	5%
WVA	85%	77%	20%	3%	75%	58%	10%	0%
National Average	73%	73%	24% (2023)		61%	59%	8% (2023)	

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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 of our 3 year plus academies remain at good or outstanding including the two original sponsor schools. However, with the addition of Niels Academy (1st April 2024) joining as a sponsor school with an inadequate grading our good and outstanding percentage across all schools drops to 89%.

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 2024 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Trust held fund reserve balances at 31 August 2024 of £49,654,953 (2023 £34,045,195) comprising £2,294,194 (2023 £1,262,439) of restricted funds, £1,819,012 (2023 £1,292,275) of unrestricted general funds, £45,541,747 (2023 £31,207,480) restricted fixed asset fund and a pension reserve of £0 (2023 £283,000).

On 1st January 2024, Colne Valley High School and 1st April 2024 Nields Academy joined the Trust. As a consequence of the increase to nine academies within the period, plus the changed pension position, the overall fund value for the Trust has significantly increased from £34,045,196 as at 31st August 2023. A significant aspect of this relating to the combined assets on conversion of £13,761,424. All financial activities of the new academies are reported within the Annual Accounts from 1st January 2024 for Colne Valley High School and 1st April 2024 for Nields Academy

During the period ended 31 August 2024, total expenditure of £29,019,388 was covered by recurrent grant funding from the ESFA together with other incoming resources. The income exceeded expenditure with an overall surplus of £2,261,486 excluding pension and fixed asset fund, the generation of this surplus was largely a result of a balance transferred in figure of £2,053,188 for Colne Valley High School and Nields Academy.

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 2024 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 (£65,601) and academies funded the remaining 40% either from their Pupil Premium funding or from reserves. In addition, academies received £196,292 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 2024 the net book value of fixed assets was £44,758,241 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 2024 was £5,493,744 and is sufficient to provide for outstanding creditors and accruals of £1,428,879.

The Trust's vision is for it to continue to grow and to bring new academies into the Trust; this has been realised with Colne Valley High School joining Great Heights Academy Trust autumn 2023 and Nields Junior, Infant and Nursery School joining towards the end of the 2023-24 academic year. The financial income and associated expenditure has therefore increased significantly in 2023-24. The Trust's long-term plan is to grow by two schools per year with a view to establishing clusters in each LA. However, due to a change in government, the Trust has been through a stabilising phase and therefore growth has slowed with no new schools planned in 24/25.

The funds the Trust currently hold will enable it to: support new schools, as required, 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,

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Deficit recovery

Bowling Green academy is carrying a net deficit on the GAG fund of £77,059 due to the Trust's commitment to school improvement and the need for additional resources in the short to medium term.

Nields Academy is carrying a net deficit on the GAG fund of £28,899 due to an inherited staffing structure that is being reviewed and low school numbers as a result of a historic poor Ofsted outcome in 2023.

The Trust is taking the following steps to return the academies to a surplus:

- In Bowling Green, close monitoring of the school improvement to enable a reduction in resourcing as the school moves through its improvement journey.
- In Nields, the Trust is focusing on improving the public perception of the school to improve student numbers and reviewing the staffing structure with a view to creating an efficient structure that does not impact on the quality of the education.

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.

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)
Great Heights Academy Trust (including research school, SCITT, and Medical)	£ 477,861	£ 126,921	£7,446 - SCITT £119,474 - Medical Needs
Bowling Green Academy	£ 31,001		
Carlinghow Academy	£ 249,163		
Colne Valley High School	£ 194,120		
Marsden Junior School	£ 47,257		
Nields Academy	£ 13,869		
Raynville Academy	£ 352,763	£ 20,641	
The Greetland Academy	£ 131,230		
The Mirfield Academy	£ 268,467		
West Vale Academy	£ 59,189		
	£ 1,824,921	£ 147,562	£ -

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Great Heights Academy Trust had a total of £2,294,192 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 2024-25.

At 31st August 24, 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	Below	Negative reserves supported by the Trust for school improvement.
Carlinghow Academy	Above	Healthy reserves supporting a 24/25 deficit budget position.
Colne Valley High	Above	Healthy reserves position despite significant ICT investment in the 23/24 financial year.
Marsden Junior School	Below	A surplus position has increased the closing reserves but still remains low.
Nields Academy	Below	New school in April 2024. The central team are working with the school to improve the reserve position.
Raynville Academy	Above	A healthy reserve position with no immediate plans to utilise the reserves.
The Greetland Academy	Above	<i>A healthy reserve position with no immediate plans to utilise the reserves</i>
The Mirfield Free Grammar	Above	Reasonable reserves but the academy requires investment in estates and ICT which will need to be managed effectively using capital funding where possible.
West Vale Academy	Above	<i>A healthy reserve position with no immediate plans to utilise the reserves.</i>

The total balance of restricted general funds (excluding pension) and unrestricted funds as of 31st August 2024 is £4,113,206.

Investment policy

Great Heights Academy Trust has one bank account 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.

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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 2024 the Academy Trust had £1,428,879 owed to creditors (including accruals), which was fully funded by the bank balance of £5,493,744.

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.

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 24 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 budget is stabilising as pupil numbers increase and staffing structures have been reviewed. Support continues to be required due to the lag in funding.
- Building capacity: Net Capacity assessments show that the classroom sizes in all year groups (with the exception of Reception are below DFE BB103 requirements. As the school is popular and over subscribed there is a basic need for expansion.

Carlinghow Academy:

- Budget risk / fluctuating rolls: The academy has worked hard in 23/24 to improve its financial position. Due to declining pupil numbers on roll and increasing cost of PFI contract the current level of reserves mitigate the future years in-year deficit.
- Poor Student Recruitment: Admission levels are monitored throughout the year alongside implications to the budget. Low birth rate in all areas causing low numbers in primary schools. Numbers continue to decline.
- Attendance/Persistent Absentees (PA): Attendance and Persistent Absentism is higher than the national average. School employs an attendance officer and EWO for 3 hrs per week and full tracking is in place for all pupils under 90% attendance. Attendance is an area of the AIP. Tracking system is a working document. The Trust has an attendance working party focussing on barriers. The school are struggling with support from LA who are not actioning penalty notice/court summons.

Colne Valley High:

- Recruitment: It has been difficult to recruit in some key areas. The Trust ensures that there is a broad level of expertise across the curriculum and appoints staff accordingly.

Marsden Junior School:

- Budget risk / fluctuating rolls: There is a low birth rate in Kirklees for this and the next few years resulting in lower numbers. The school are currently considering opportunities to become a 1 form entry primary school.

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Nields Academy:

- Budget risk: The school joined the Trust with little reserves and an unsustainable operating model. The Trust has worked with the school to ensure that it works towards a sustainable staffing model.
- Pupil numbers: There is a low birth rate in Kirklees for this and the next few years resulting in lower numbers in reception. The school is currently reviewing the viability of the Nursery.

Raynville Academy:

- No high risks identified.

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 2024. The DCFO and Deputy Director of School Improvement, Secondary, is working with the Principal and Executive Principal to ensure budget and integrated curriculum led financial planning is adjusted accordingly.

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.
- 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.
- Access for visitors/SCITT: School aware of uneven surface of unadopted road and car park. Emphasised since the SCITT opened at the rear of the building and more students on site.

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

A monthly cashflow is produced each month and reserves for each school are expected to be at least one month's expenditure. A monthly check is done to ensure that there is enough cash in the bank to cover the full creditors figure.

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 Finance and 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:

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	2024	2023
<i>Energy consumption</i>	kWh	kWh
Aggregate of energy consumption in the year		
- Gas combustion	2,490,590	1,641,330
- Fuel consumed for transport	55,127	22,339
- Electricity purchased	1,167,612	845,334
	<u>3,713,329</u>	<u>2,509,003</u>
	2024	2023
<i>Emissions of CO2 equivalent</i>	metric tonnes	metric tonnes
Scope 1 - direct emissions		
- Gas combustion	454.64	299.64
- Fuel consumed for owned transport	2.49	2.18
	<u>457.13</u>	<u>301.82</u>
Scope 2 - indirect emissions		
- Electricity purchased	228.55	175.05
Scope 3 - other indirect emissions		
- Fuel consumed for transport not owned by the Academy Trust	10.51	2.98
	<u>696.19</u>	<u>479.85</u>
Total gross emissions		
	<u>696.19</u>	<u>479.85</u>
<i>Intensity ratio</i>		
Tonnes CO2e per pupil	0.16	0.17
	<u>0.16</u>	<u>0.17</u>

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 2024 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

- Obtained grant funding of £282k and fitted new LED lighting during the summer.
- 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 2024

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 2024-25:

- 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 2024-25:

Target 1: To further enhance, empower and develop future leaders.

Target 2: To improve targeted support and wider strategies for all children particularly pupil premium.

The Academy Improvement Plan for Carlinghow Academy has the following key priorities for 2024-25:

Target 1: To improve of attendance of those children identified through data analysis.

Target 2: To increase opportunities for high quality oracy across the curriculum to impact outcomes in English and Maths.

Target 3: To ensure rigorous high quality teaching of Reading is taking place across school bridging phonics, fluency and comprehension following year 1 outcomes.

Target 4: To enhance our cultural capital offer through the Arts to improve pupil outcomes, pupil and parent engagement.

The Academy Improvement Plan for Colne Valley High has the following key priorities for 2024-25:

Target 1: The curriculum and COLNEV model are consistently implemented to meet the needs of all learners resulting in improved outcomes for all students.

Target 2: The attendance of all pupils improves and has a positive impact on outcomes.

Target 3: Behaviour systems and process are consistently implemented by all staff.

The Academy Improvement Plan for Marsden Junior School has the following key priorities for 2024-25:

Target 1: To foster a love of learning through embedding a revised curriculum.

Target 2: To embed a culture of good behaviour so all pupils are prepared for later learning and life in modern Britain.

Target 3: To strengthen consistent teaching and learning in writing (and Spoken English).

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Academy Improvement Plan for Niels Academy has the following key priorities for 2024-25:

Target 1: To develop self-regulation and learning behaviours for all our pupils particularly those who are vulnerable.

Target 2: To develop staff to secure better outcomes for all children.

Target 3: To improve English outcomes for all groups of pupils from EYFS through to Year 6.

The Academy Improvement Plan for Raynville Academy has the following key priorities for 2024-25:

Target 1: To improve the attendance of those children identified through data analysis.

Target 2: To develop and further embed robust quality assurance processes across the Curriculum.

Target 3: To further improve the outcomes of writing through focused work on oracy and transcription.

The Academy Improvement Plan for The Greetland Academy has the following key priorities for 2024-25:

Target 1: 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 KS2.

Target 2: To continue to ensure excellent teaching for all through adaptive teaching to meet the needs of all learners and narrow the gap.

Target 3: To further enhance all curriculum areas to empower and develop future leaders at Greetland and within the trust.

The Academy Improvement Plan for The Mirfield Free Grammar has the following key priorities for 2024-25:

Target 1: Adaptive and responsive teaching – meeting the needs of all students especially SEND.

- Subject specific Quality First Teaching Model.

- Assessment formative and summative assessment.

Target 2: Literacy.

- Communicating (Reading, writing, speaking) like a subject specialist- focus on vocabulary).

- Communicating (reading writing and speaking) the MFG way – focus on oracy.

Target 3: Communication with family and community support.

- Direct learning support.

- Increase perception that the students and their families are valued by the school.

- Receive and response to feedback, as well as being sensitive and aware to wider community issues.

The Academy Improvement Plan for West Vale Academy has the following key priorities for 2024-25:

Target 1: To ensure all children receive excellent teaching and curriculum provision in English to enable high standards of achievement at the end of KS1 and 2.

Target 2: To ensure excellent provision for all through adaptive teaching to meet the needs of all learners and narrow the gap.

Target 3: To further develop West Vale's reading offer beyond phonics to enable high standards of achievement at the end of KS1 and 2 .

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.

A resolution proposing that Simpson Wood Limited be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company will be put to the members.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 16 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

C Midgley
Chair



GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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 five 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)	4	5
A Bennett (Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer)	5	5
A Birt (Resigned 7 December 2023)	0	1
E Brooke (Resigned 31 December 2023)	0	2
J Fryer (Resigned 15 February 2024)	2	2
K Inwood (Chair of Standards Committee)	5	5
I Jaffar	5	5
J Nellis (Resigned 22 October 2024)	5	5
J Midgley (Chair of Finance and Premises Committee)	4	5
J Power	5	5
M McManus (Appointed 1 September 2024)	0	0
V Stoneman (Appointed 1 September 2024)	0	0
D Purdon (Appointed 1 September 2024)	0	0

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 receives 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.

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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.

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.

The membership of the Trust Board remains at ten, which is the maximum number of trustees allowed under the Articles of Association. A Fisher was appointed as a Member in January 2024 to take the number of Members to the full complement of five. Three Trustees resigned mid-year for personal reasons, they have all been successfully replaced and the new appointees attended the July 2024 Board meetings as a way of introduction. They took up their positions from 1 September 2024.

During 2023-24 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 continued to be reviewed during the year to reflect

- the GHAT leadership structures of Executive Principals, Head of Schools and the appointment of DCFO
- feedback from TIAA internal audit with regard to being clearer on approval of contracts where these are being extended
- inclusion of Medical Needs provision
- review of the approval levels needed for budget virements and non-staff budget expenditure; disposal of assets

A skills audit of Trustees took place in the summer term 2021 and a self-review of Trustees took place in the summer term of both 2021 and 2022. There was also a Trust Board Leadership Review in June 2022. During 2023-24, there was an Assurance Review of Governance Strategic Control carried out as part of the Internal Audit. It is planned that there will be an external review of the Trust in the summer term 2025. In addition, there will be a LGB governor skills audit and self-review in the spring term 2025.

As detailed on page 1 the reference and administrative information provides the changes that were made to the Trustees during 2023-24.

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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. From Sept 2024 the Trust have moved to a different committee structure comprising of: Estates Management Committee; Finance Committee; School Improvement Committee and Workforce Committee

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, was Chair of the Finance and Premises Committee up to 31 August 2024, this position was replaced by David Purdon, a big four trained accountant from 1 September 2024.

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.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
C Midgley (Chair)	2	2
A Bennett (Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer)	2	2
E Brooke (Resigned 31 December 2023)	0	1
J Fryer (Resigned 15 February 2024)	1	1
J Midgley (Chair of Finance and Premises Committee)	2	2
J Power	2	2

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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 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 or by using a framework where appropriate. 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.

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 2023 to 31 August 2024 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 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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 2023 Trustees reviewed the external and internal scrutiny processes of the Trust. For 2023-24, Simpson Wood were appointed to complete the external audit of the annual accounts and for specific grant audits; TIAA 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.

- Follow up of previous year external and internal audit undertaken by the previous provider
- Student Population and Absentism including:
 - a) Policy/strategy documents
 - b) Details of the attendance recording process
 - c) Methods of collection and storage of data
 - d) Protocols for ensuring data protection compliance
 - e) Details of any data verification checks or similar QA activity in this area
 - f) Performance or update reports provided to Board and/or Senior Management Team
 - g) Actions plans/strategy in relation to poorly performing schools
- Governance Strategic Control including:
 - a) The framework and structure of the Board and Committees
 - b) Board roles, responsibilities and accountability
 - c) Declaration of interests
 - d) Meetings and proceedings of the Board
 - e) Meeting minutes demonstrate debate, appropriate scrutiny and clarity around decision
 - f) Authorities and responsibilities are clearly defined and clarify the accountability structure of the Trust
 - g) Clerking arrangements are clearly defined, and papers are provided in a timely manner to allow for sufficient pre-meeting review
- Health & Safety including:
 - a) The policy and procedures for the health and safety arrangements
 - b) Risks surrounding health and safety and appropriate mitigating controls are identified and operated
 - c) The arrangements are appropriately resourced in terms of personnel and financial commitment
 - d) Appropriate records are maintained to demonstrate compliance with legislation and policies
 - e) Training is provided to the required level for all employees, contractors and visitors to Trust sites

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

TIAA 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 2023-24, which included new areas of review as indicated above.

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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.

Conclusion

Based on the advice of the audit and risk committee and the accounting officer, the board of trustees is of the opinion that the Academy Trust has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 16 December 2024 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 2024

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 2023, 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 2023.

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



A Bennett
Accounting Officer

16 December 2024

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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 2023 to 2024 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 2023 to 2024;
- 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 16 December 2024 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 2024

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Great Heights Academy Trust for the year ended 31 August 2024 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 2023 to 2024 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 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- 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 2023 to 2024.

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 2024

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 2024

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 2023 to 2024, 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.

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

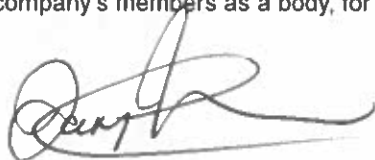
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

16 December 2024

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 2024

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 2023 to 2024, 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 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to 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 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance, and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

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

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

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

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

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.

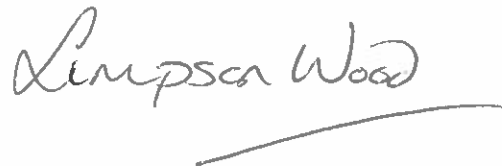
GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

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 2024

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 2023 to 31 August 2024 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Simpson Wood". Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Reporting Accountant

Simpson Wood Limited
Bank Chambers
Market Street
Huddersfield
HD1 2EW

Dated: 16 December 2024

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General Fixed asset £ £		Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	94,279	43,638	1,003,962	1,141,879	345,795
Donations - Transfer of school joining	28	18,451	-	1,661,031	1,679,482	-
Donations - transfer of existing academy into the trust	28	292,027	1,742,709	12,152,361	14,187,097	12,438,281
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	57,548	28,046,129	-	28,103,677	14,758,554
- National school improvement provision unrestricted	4	125,213	-	-	125,213	225,023
- National school improvement provision restricted	4	-	921,660	-	921,660	837,613
Other trading activities	5	2,521,906	-	-	2,521,906	1,414,090
Investments	6	6,861	-	-	6,861	573
Total		3,116,285	30,754,136	14,817,354	48,687,775	30,019,929
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	14,461	5,253	-	19,714	267,639
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	9	2,398,397	27,981,468	1,186,080	31,565,945	17,360,342
- National school improvement provision unrestricted	9	176,690	-	-	176,690	269,696
- National school improvement provision restricted	9	-	933,667	-	933,667	841,712
Total	7	2,589,548	28,920,388	1,186,080	32,696,016	18,739,389
Net income		526,737	1,833,748	13,631,274	15,991,759	11,280,540
Transfers between funds	18	-	(702,993)	702,993	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	-	1,778,000	-	1,778,000	1,437,000
Adjustment for restriction on pension assets	20	-	(2,160,000)	-	(2,160,000)	-
Net movement in funds		526,737	748,755	14,334,267	15,609,759	12,717,540
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		1,292,275	1,545,439	31,207,480	34,045,194	21,327,656
Total funds carried forward		1,819,012	2,294,194	45,541,747	49,654,953	34,045,196

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2023	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
		funds £	General £	Fixed asset £	2023 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	160,789	30,544	154,462	345,795
Donations - transfer of existing academy into the trust	28	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
- National school improvement provision unrestricted	4	225,023	-	-	225,023
- National school improvement provision restricted	4	-	837,613	-	837,613
Other trading activities	5	1,414,090	-	-	1,414,090
Investments	6	573	-	-	573
Total		<u>2,057,303</u>	<u>15,918,560</u>	<u>12,044,066</u>	<u>30,019,929</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	249,886	17,753	-	267,639
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	9	1,670,925	15,030,752	658,665	17,360,342
- National school improvement provision unrestricted	9	269,696	-	-	269,696
- National school improvement provision restricted	9	-	841,712	-	841,712
Total	7	<u>2,190,507</u>	<u>15,890,217</u>	<u>658,665</u>	<u>18,739,389</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		(133,204)	28,343	11,385,401	11,280,540
Transfers between funds	18	(6,316)	(144,988)	151,304	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	-	1,437,000	-	1,437,000
Net movement in funds		<u>(139,520)</u>	<u>1,320,355</u>	<u>11,536,705</u>	<u>12,717,540</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		1,431,795	225,084	19,670,777	21,327,656
Total funds carried forward		<u>1,292,275</u>	<u>1,545,439</u>	<u>31,207,482</u>	<u>34,045,196</u>

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		44,758,238		31,039,582
Current assets					
Stock	14	15,952		7,808	
Debtors	15	1,489,053		1,375,442	
Cash at bank and in hand		5,494,021		2,611,432	
			6,999,026		3,994,682
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(2,102,311)		(1,272,068)	
Net current assets			4,896,715		2,722,614
Net assets excluding pension asset			49,654,953		33,762,196
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	20		-		283,000
Total net assets			49,654,953		34,045,196
Funds of the Academy Trust:					
Restricted funds	18				
- Fixed asset funds			45,541,747		31,207,482
- Restricted income funds			2,294,194		1,262,439
- Pension reserve			-		283,000
Total restricted funds			47,835,941		32,752,921
Unrestricted income funds	18		1,819,012		1,292,275
Total funds			49,654,953		34,045,196

The accounts on pages 40 to 69 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 16 December 2024 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 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	21		339,432		(294,652)
Cash funds transferred on conversion	28		2,609,602		802,643
			<u>2,949,034</u>		<u>507,991</u>
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		6,861		573	
Capital grants from DfE Group		788,225		143,755	
Capital funding received from sponsors and others		281,782		-	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,143,313)		(303,706)	
			<u>(66,445)</u>		<u>(159,378)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities					
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			<u>2,882,589</u>		<u>348,613</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			<u>2,611,432</u>		<u>2,262,819</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			<u><u>5,494,021</u></u>		<u><u>2,611,432</u></u>

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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 2023 to 2024 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Going concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, 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 Conversion to an academy trust

The conversion from a state maintained school to an academy trust involved the transfer of identifiable assets and liabilities and the operation of the school for £nil consideration. The substance of the transfer is that of a gift and it has been accounted for on that basis as set out below.

The assets and liabilities transferred on conversion from Nields Junior, Infant and Nursery School to the academy trust have been valued at their fair value. The fair value has been derived based on that of equivalent items. The amounts have been recognised under the appropriate balance sheet categories, with a corresponding amount recognised in Donations – transfer from local authority on conversion in the Statement of Financial Activities and analysed under unrestricted funds, restricted general funds and restricted fixed asset funds. Land and buildings have been transferred in at fair value in line with the most recent valuation undertaken in 2021. Further details of the transaction are set out in note 28.

1.4 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.

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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.

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.

1.5 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.

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

1.6 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, with a full year of depreciation charged in the year of acquisition, 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.

1.7 Liabilities

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

1.8 Leased assets

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

1.9 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.

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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.

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.

1.10 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.

1.11 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.

1.12 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.

1.13 Fund accounting

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

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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.

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 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement

The pension asset recognised to the extent the Trust is able to recover the surplus through reduced contributions in the future, or through refunds from the scheme. The actuary has calculated an asset ceiling of £nil for the Trust, therefore, a nil surplus has been recognised within the financial statements. If the pension surplus was not restricted then the asset recognised would be £2,160,000.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Donated fixed assets	-	-	-	4,698
Capital grants	-	722,180	722,180	149,764
Other donations	94,279	325,420	419,699	191,333
	<u>94,279</u>	<u>1,047,600</u>	<u>1,141,879</u>	<u>345,795</u>

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

4 Funding for the Academy Trust's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Educational operations				
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	20,646,264	20,646,264	10,816,567
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- UIFSM	-	182,487	182,487	163,243
- Pupil premium	-	1,204,427	1,204,427	819,051
- DfE English Hub	-	815,649	815,649	639,096
- Others	-	3,698,416	3,698,416	1,957,038
	-	26,547,243	26,547,243	14,394,995
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	2,078,877	2,078,877	751,425
COVID-19 additional funding				
DfE/ESFA				
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	235,658	235,658	156,515
Other incoming resources	57,548	-	57,548	94,715
Total funding for educational operations	57,548	28,861,778	28,919,326	15,397,650
National school improvement provision unrestricted	125,213	-	125,213	225,023
National school improvement provision restricted	-	106,011	106,011	198,517
Total funding	182,761	28,967,789	29,150,550	15,821,190

Included within unrestricted income National school improvement provision is:

- Research School income of £14,765 (2023: £25,708) from other sources
- SCITT income of £110,448 (2023: £199,315) from other sources

Included within restricted income National school improvement provision is:

- Research School income of £85,509 (2023: £184,317) from other sources
- SCITT income of £20,502 (2023: £14,200) from the DfE/ESFA

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Hire of facilities	202,746	-	202,746	113,901
Catering income	1,387,017	-	1,387,017	783,316
Consultancy	275,469	-	275,469	187,928
Out of school activities	183,709	-	183,709	179,111
Other income	472,965	-	472,965	149,834
	<u>2,521,906</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,521,906</u>	<u>1,414,090</u>

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Short term deposits	6,861	-	6,861	573
	<u>6,861</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,861</u>	<u>573</u>

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure		Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
		Premises £	Other £		
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	-	-	19,714	19,714	267,639
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	20,266,661	-	1,844,483	22,111,144	11,556,618
- Allocated support costs	3,645,857	3,765,098	2,043,846	9,454,801	5,803,724
National school improvement provision unrestricted					
- Direct costs	69,034	-	52,284	121,318	205,396
- Allocated support costs	31,323	2,837	21,212	55,372	64,300
National school improvement provision restricted					
- Direct costs	317,329	-	496,924	814,253	720,638
- Allocated support costs	91,692	1,500	26,222	119,414	121,074
	<u>24,421,896</u>	<u>3,769,435</u>	<u>4,504,685</u>	<u>32,696,016</u>	<u>18,739,389</u>

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

7 Expenditure (Continued)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:	2024	2023
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	101,187	63,712
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,186,080	658,665
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	12,000	10,650
- Other services	18,000	12,575
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	(39,000)	15,000

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.

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:	2024	2023
	£	£
Raynville Academy	119,973	119,421
The Greetland Academy	109,899	104,583
The Mirfield Free Grammar	540,646	193,943
West Vale Academy	40,660	42,311
Bowling Green Academy	42,451	-
Carlinghow Academy	80,637	89,563
Marsden Junior School	(89,927)	20,333
Colne Valley High School	338,947	-
Nields Academy	(82,375)	-

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

9 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Direct costs				
Educational operations	462,705	21,648,439	22,111,144	11,556,618
National school improvement provision unrestricted	121,318	-	121,318	205,396
National school improvement provision restricted	-	814,253	814,253	720,638
Support costs				
Educational operations	1,935,692	7,519,109	9,454,801	5,803,724
National school improvement provision unrestricted	55,372	-	55,372	64,300
National school improvement provision restricted	-	119,414	119,414	121,074
	<u>2,575,087</u>	<u>30,101,215</u>	<u>32,676,302</u>	<u>18,471,750</u>

	NSIP restricted £	NSIP unrestricted £	Educational operations £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Analysis of support costs					
Support staff costs	93,707	32,701	3,796,131	3,922,539	2,819,792
Depreciation	-	-	1,186,080	1,186,080	658,665
Technology costs	506	3,306	294,120	297,932	164,865
Premises costs	1,500	2,837	2,579,018	2,583,355	1,185,730
Legal costs	-	-	-	-	36,610
Other support costs	20,801	15,778	1,565,579	1,602,158	1,093,923
Governance costs	2,900	750	33,873	37,523	29,513
	<u>119,414</u>	<u>55,372</u>	<u>9,454,801</u>	<u>9,629,587</u>	<u>5,989,098</u>

Of the £935,571 direct costs of the National school improvement provision, costs were as follows:

- English Hub £726,907 (2023: £572,736)
- Research School £85,636 (2023: £168,241)
- SCITT £123,028 (2023: £185,057)

Of the £174,786 support costs of the National school improvement provision, costs were as follows:

- English Hub £88,741 (2023: £66,360)
- Research School £25,568 (2023: £53,669)
- SCITT £60,477 (2023: £65,345)

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

10 Staff

Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	17,639,406	10,248,507
Social security costs	1,703,260	963,724
Pension costs	3,707,084	2,177,415
Staff costs - employees	23,049,750	13,389,646
Agency staff costs	1,372,146	361,458
Staff restructuring costs	-	44,052
	24,421,896	13,795,156
Staff development and other staff costs	400,841	282,134
Total staff expenditure	24,822,737	14,077,290

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy payments	-	44,052
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Staff numbers

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

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Teachers	193	113
Administration and support	349	247
Management	48	34
	590	394

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

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Teachers	177	103
Administration and support	243	159
Management	48	34
	468	296

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
£60,000 - £70,000	21	10
£70,000 - £80,000	9	4
£80,000 - £90,000	4	2
£90,000 - £100,000	2	-
£100,000 - £110,000	1	4
£110,000 - £120,000	2	-
£120,000 - £130,000	1	-
£160,000 - £170,000	-	1
£180,000 - £190,000	1	-

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 £986,889 for 11 members of staff (2023: £853,849 - 7 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 £816 (2023: £566) were reimbursed to 2 Trustees (2023: 2 Trustees)

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

A Bennett (CEO)	Remuneration	£180,000 - £185,000 (2023: £160,000-165,000)
	Pension costs	£50,000 - £55,000 (2023: £35,000 - £40,000)

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 2024

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 September 2023	32,050,299	511,207	1,274,098	33,835,604
Transfer on conversion	13,453,608	100,313	207,502	13,761,423
Additions	385,817	677,353	80,143	1,143,313
At 31 August 2024	45,889,724	1,288,873	1,561,743	48,740,340
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2023	1,854,976	327,488	613,558	2,796,022
Charge for the year	689,945	332,492	163,643	1,186,080
At 31 August 2024	2,544,921	659,980	777,201	3,982,102
Net book value				
At 31 August 2024	43,344,803	628,893	784,542	44,758,238
At 31 August 2023	30,195,323	183,719	660,540	31,039,582

14 Stock

	2024 £	2023 £
Catering stock	15,952	7,808

15 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	253,950	96,108
VAT recoverable	485,375	142,645
Other debtors	170,398	-
Prepayments and accrued income	579,330	1,136,689
	1,489,053	1,375,442

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	539,736	443,580
Other taxation and social security	76,080	156,320
Other creditors	270,340	-
Accruals and deferred income	1,216,155	672,168
	<u>2,102,311</u>	<u>1,272,068</u>

17 Deferred income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	<u>327,013</u>	<u>320,548</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	320,548	222,059
Released from previous years	(320,548)	(222,059)
Resources deferred in the year	<u>327,013</u>	<u>320,548</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	<u>327,013</u>	<u>320,548</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 2024

18 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,228,310	22,388,973	(20,800,484)	(670,169)	2,146,630
UIFSM	-	182,487	(182,487)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	1,204,427	(1,204,427)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	235,658	(235,658)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	1,604,816	(1,571,992)	(32,824)	-
Other government grants	-	2,078,877	(1,959,403)	-	119,474
National school improvement provision restricted	19,455	921,660	(933,667)	-	7,448
16-19 core education funding	-	2,093,600	(2,093,600)	-	-
Other restricted funds	14,674	43,638	(37,670)	-	20,642
Pension reserve	283,000	-	99,000	(382,000)	-
	<u>1,545,439</u>	<u>30,754,136</u>	<u>(28,920,388)</u>	<u>(1,084,993)</u>	<u>2,294,194</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	16,960,818	1,661,031	(276,064)	-	18,345,785
DfE group capital grants	13,774,321	12,874,541	(650,808)	(18,063)	25,979,991
Capital expenditure from GAG	274,076	-	(239,785)	721,056	755,347
Other government grants	58,756	-	(2,710)	-	56,046
Other restricted funds	10,531	281,782	(11,942)	-	280,371
Unrestricted funds	128,978	-	(4,771)	-	124,207
	<u>31,207,480</u>	<u>14,817,354</u>	<u>(1,186,080)</u>	<u>702,993</u>	<u>45,541,747</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>32,752,919</u>	<u>45,571,490</u>	<u>(30,106,468)</u>	<u>(382,000)</u>	<u>47,835,941</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	1,153,996	2,991,072	(2,412,858)	-	1,732,210
National school improvement provision unrestricted	138,279	125,213	(176,690)	-	86,802
	<u>1,292,275</u>	<u>3,116,285</u>	<u>(2,589,548)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,819,012</u>
Total funds	<u>34,045,194</u>	<u>48,687,775</u>	<u>(32,696,016)</u>	<u>(382,000)</u>	<u>49,654,953</u>

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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 2024.

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

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

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Restricted general funds					
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>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
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>
Total restricted funds	<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>
Unrestricted funds					
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>
Total funds	<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 2024

18 Funds (Continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 were allocated as follows:		
Raynville Academy	445,327	414,754
The Greetland Academy	173,348	380,578
The Mirfield Free Grammar	835,177	933,878
West Vale Academy	194,092	160,320
Bowling Green Academy	(46,058)	12,744
Carlinghow Academy	339,547	257,434
Marsden Junior School	72,580	26,448
Colne Valley High School	1,509,440	-
Nields Academy	(15,030)	-
Central services	604,783	368,558
	<u>4,113,206</u>	<u>2,554,714</u>
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve		
Restricted fixed asset fund	45,541,747	31,207,482
Pension reserve	-	283,000
	<u>49,654,953</u>	<u>34,045,196</u>
Total funds		

Bowling Green academy is carrying a net deficit on the GAG fund of £77,059 due to the Trust's commitment to school improvement and the need for additional resources in the short to medium term.

Nields Academy is carrying a net deficit on the GAG fund of £28,899 due to an inherited staffing structure that is being reviewed and low school numbers as a result of a historic poor Ofsted outcome in 2023.

The Trust is taking the following steps to return the academies to a surplus:

- In Bowling Green, close monitoring of the school improvement to enable a reduction in resourcing as the school moves through it's improvement journey.
- In Nields, the Trust is focusing on improving the public perception of the school to improve student numbers and reviewing the staffing structure with a view to creating an efficient structure that does not impact on the quality of the education.

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18 Funds

(Continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff	Other support staff costs	Educational supplies	Other costs excluding depreciation	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Raynville Academy	1,925,038	217,306	53,507	455,609	2,651,460	2,570,951
The Greetland Academy	1,445,243	472,514	51,227	465,601	2,434,585	2,267,109
The Mirfield Free Grammar	7,086,265	1,527,537	207,914	1,699,232	10,520,948	5,963,022
West Vale Academy	546,346	161,466	20,406	164,420	892,638	964,045
Bowling Green Academy	774,395	148,780	19,525	180,510	1,123,210	992,500
Carlinghow Academy	1,531,240	160,817	46,281	559,773	2,298,111	2,131,912
Marsden Junior School	778,007	149,463	18,736	182,088	1,128,294	650,870
Colne Valley High School	4,733,470	617,795	148,493	1,491,464	6,991,222	-
Nields Academy	384,567	47,655	6,132	78,857	517,211	-
Central services	1,448,453	627,381	32,911	843,512	2,952,257	2,540,315
	<u>20,653,024</u>	<u>4,130,714</u>	<u>605,132</u>	<u>6,121,066</u>	<u>31,509,936</u>	<u>18,080,724</u>

Included within Central services' fund balance are the net costs of operating the defined benefit pension scheme and amounts totalling £94,251 (2023: £157,734) relating to Research School and SCITT activities.

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds: General	Restricted funds: Fixed asset	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:					
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	44,758,238	-	44,758,238
Current assets	1,955,181	4,260,336	783,509	-	6,999,026
Current liabilities	(136,166)	(1,966,145)	-	-	(2,102,311)
Total net assets	<u>1,819,015</u>	<u>2,294,191</u>	<u>45,541,747</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>49,654,953</u>

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Endowment	Total
	Funds	General	Fixed asset	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:					
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
Total net assets	1,292,275	1,545,439	31,207,482	-	34,045,196

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

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.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies the level of future contributions.

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 27 October 2023, with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation outcome are:

- Employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy). This is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control result is such that no change in member benefits is needed.
- Total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million.

The result of this valuation will be implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2028.

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £2,715,677 (2023: £771,153).

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 is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan. Accordingly, the Academy Trust has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and 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 18.3% - 18.5% for employers and 5.5% - 12.5% for employees. The estimated value of employer contributions for the forthcoming year is £645,000.

As described in note 28 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.

Total contributions made	2024 £	2023 £
Employer's contributions	1,005,000	630,000
Employees' contributions	362,000	218,000
Total contributions	<u>1,367,000</u>	<u>848,000</u>

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions	2024 %	2023 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.75	3.85
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.50	2.60
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.90	5.00
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.50	2.60
Revaluation of pension accounts	2.50	2.60

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

	2024 Years	2023 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	20.8	21.0
- Females	24.0	24.1
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	21.7	22.2
- Females	24.7	25.1

Sensitivity analysis

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

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Discount rate + 0.1%	(469)	(295)
Discount rate - 0.1%	469	295
Mortality assumption + 1 year	(558)	(351)
Mortality assumption - 1 year	558	351
Salaries +0.1%	67	42
Salaries - 0.1%	-67	(42)

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

20 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2024 Fair value £	2023 Fair value £
Equities	19,418,000	11,632,000
Bonds	3,134,000	1,561,000
Property	661,000	487,000
Other assets	1,273,000	645,000
Total market value of assets	24,486,000	14,325,000
Restriction on scheme assets	(2,160,000)	-
Net assets recognised	22,326,000	14,325,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £2,036,000 (2023: £368,000).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2024 £	2023 £
Current service cost	945,000	836,000
Interest income	(970,000)	(468,000)
Interest cost	931,000	483,000
Total amount recognised	906,000	851,000

The net gain recognised on scheme assets has been restricted because the full pension surplus is not expected to be recovered through refunds or reduced contributions in the future.

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2024 £	2023 £
At 1 September 2023	14,042,000	8,434,000
Obligations acquired on conversion	7,304,000	-
Transferred in on existing academies joining the Academy Trust	-	5,817,000
Current service cost	945,000	836,000
Interest cost	931,000	483,000
Employee contributions	362,000	218,000
Actuarial gain	(712,000)	(1,537,000)
Benefits paid	(546,000)	(209,000)
At 31 August 2024	22,326,000	14,042,000

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2024	2023
	£	£
At 1 September 2023	14,325,000	8,105,000
Transferred in on existing academies joining the Academy Trust	7,304,000	5,213,000
Interest income	970,000	468,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	1,066,000	(100,000)
Employer contributions	1,005,000	630,000
Employee contributions	362,000	218,000
Benefits paid	(546,000)	(209,000)
At 31 August 2024	24,486,000	14,325,000
Restriction on scheme assets	(2,160,000)	-
Net assets recognised	<u>22,326,000</u>	<u>14,325,000</u>

21 Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024	2023
Notes	£	£
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	15,991,759	11,280,540
Adjusted for:		
Net surplus on conversion to academy	28 (1,679,482)	-
Net surplus on transfer of academy in the trust	29 (14,187,097)	(12,438,281)
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(1,003,962)	(154,462)
Investment income receivable	6 (6,861)	(573)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	20 (60,000)	206,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance (income)/cost	20 (39,000)	15,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,186,080	658,665
(Increase) in stocks	(8,144)	(6,030)
(Increase) in debtors	(179,657)	(888,691)
Increase in creditors	830,243	611,712
Stocks, debtors and creditors transferred on conversion	28 (504,447)	421,468
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>339,432</u>	<u>(294,652)</u>

22 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2023	Cash flows	31 August 2024
	£	£	£
Cash	<u>2,611,432</u>	<u>2,882,589</u>	<u>5,494,021</u>

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

23 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

At 31 August 2024 the total of the Academy Trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts due within one year	132,456	74,863
Amounts due in two and five years	326,788	75,235
	<u>459,244</u>	<u>150,098</u>

24 Capital commitments

	2024 £	2023 £
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	<u>46,514</u>	<u>52,820</u>

The financial commitments for 2024 relate to income received from Drax Foundation for the installation of LED lighting.

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:

R Wood-Ives who is a member of the Executive Management Team of Great Heights Academy Trust is also a governor of Calder Learning Trust. During the year Great Heights distributed funding for English Hub programme delivery amounting to £2,700 (2023: 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 2024

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

ITT bursaries totalling £10,500 (2023: £45,229) have been paid to students 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 2024 the academy trust received £52,105 and disbursed £52,105 from the fund. As at 31 August 2024, the cumulative unspent 16-19 bursary fund is £nil. Comparatives for the accounting period ending 31 August 2023 are £32,678 received, £13,064 disbursed, total cumulative unspent fund of £16,547 of which £16,547 was repayable to ESFA.

28 Conversion to an academy

On 1 April 2024 the Nields Junior, Infant and Nursery School converted to academy trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Great Heights Academy Trust from the Kirklees Local Authority for £nil consideration.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair values and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain in the statement of financial activities as donations – transfer from local authority on conversion.

The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the statement of financial activities.

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds:		Total 2024
	£	General	Fixed asset	£
Net assets transferred:		£	£	
Leasehold land and buildings	-	-	1,659,790	1,659,790
Cash	18,451	-	1,241	19,692
	<u>18,451</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,661,031</u>	<u>1,679,482</u>

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds:		Total 2024
	£	General	Fixed asset	£
Funds surplus/(deficit) transferred:		£	£	
Fixed assets funds	-	-	1,661,031	1,661,031
LA budget funds	18,451	-	-	18,451
	<u>18,451</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,661,031</u>	<u>1,679,482</u>

A lease of 125 years has been agreed for the leasehold land transferred in on conversion of the academy.

GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

29 Transfer of existing academies into the Academy Trust

Colne Valley High School

	Transfer in recognised £
Net assets acquired	
Leasehold land and buildings	11,793,819
Other tangible fixed assets	307,815
Cash and cash equivalents	2,589,910
Total net assets	<u>14,691,544</u>

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