

**THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

**THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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**THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	Bath and Wells DBE Trust - Jonquil Brooks John Penrose MP John Richardson James Heapey (appointed 27 January 2023)
Trustees	Katie Dominy, Chair of Trustees Ron Richards, Vice-Chair ^{2,3,4} Rod Sibley ^{1,2,3,4} Diane Davey ^{1,2,4} Michael Westlake ^{1,2} Lisa Jayne de Laune ⁴ Oluwagbenga Issac Adekola ^{1,4} Dean Taylor Sally Harvey ^{1,3} Ceri Morgan ¹ Resource Committee ² Pay Committee ³ Provisions and Outcomes Committee ⁴ Risk and Audit Committee
Company registered number	07698707
Company name	The Priory Learning Trust
Principal and registered office	Priory Community School Queensway St George's Weston-super-Mare Somerset BS22 6BP
Accounting Officer	William Roberts (appointed 1 September 2023) Mark Antoine (1 April 2023 to 31 August 2023) Nathan Jenkins (resigned 31 March 2023)
Strategic Central Leadership Team	Nathan Jenkins, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Accounting Officer (AO) until 31st March 2023 (resigned 31 August 2023) Mark Antoine, Chief Operations Officer (COO) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) until 31 March 2023 AO from 1st April to 31st August 2023 Helen Burge, Deputy COO (DCOO) and CFO from 1st April to 31st August 2023 Gregg Morrison, Director of Secondary Education & Standards (DoSE&S) Lisa Dadds, Director of Primary Education & Standards (DoPE&S) Danni Laing, Head of Human Resources (HR) Sarah Gibbon, Chief Data/Analytics Officer resigned July 2023 (resigned July 2023)

**THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

Independent auditors	Bishop Fleming LLP Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors 10 Temple Back Bristol BS1 6FL
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Plc High Street Worle Weston-super-Mare BS22 6JS
Solicitors	Veale Wasbrough Vizards LLP Narrow Quay House Narrow Quay Bristol BS1 4QA

**THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year ended 31st August 2023. The annual report serves the purpose of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

The Trust operates 9 academies across North Somerset and Somerset. East and West Huntspill Primaries in Somerset have one federated local governing body but are on two sites and are subject to separate OfSTED inspections with two URNs. This is unlike St Anne's, a church school, which has two sites but is one school with one inspection and one URN. Thus, the Trust has ten sites upon which it is delivering education to over 5,000 students. Berrow Primary Church Academy joined us on 1st August 2023.

Weston Hub	Phase	Capacity	NoR	URN
Priory Community School Academy (PCSA)	Secondary	1500	1474	137300
Worle Community School Academy (WCSA)	Secondary	1500	1339	143137
Castle Batch Primary School Academy (CBPSA)	Primary	420	405	145630
St Anne's Church Academy (SACA)	Primary	420	388	145631

Highbridge Hub	Phase	Capacity	NoR	URN
The King Alfred School Academy (TKASA)	Secondary	1375	1308	146439
Pawlett Primary School Academy (PPSA)	Primary	79	65	147015
East Huntspill Primary Academy (EHPA)	Primary	56	78	148023
West Huntspill Primary Academy (WHPA)	Primary	90	103	148531
Berrow Primary Church Academy (BPCA)	Primary	210	*150	149851

The October 2022 numbers are included for capacity and on roll (NoR), but exclude the pupils in any nursery provision across the Trust. Very successful 'Little Learners' nursery/pre-school provisions currently exist at CBPSA, SACA (West Wick site) and both EHPA and WHPA sites. *BPCA numbers as at 1st August 2023.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the governing documents of the Trust.

On 1st August 2016 Priory Community School, a single academy Trust - became a Multi Academy Trust and changed its name to The Priory Learning Trust (TPLT). Priory Community School Academy became part of TPLT.

On 1st April 2018 TPLT adopted new Articles of Association together with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to reflect the requirements of the Diocese of Bath and Wells when welcoming a Church of England school to become part of the Trust.

The Trustees of TPLT are also the Directors/Trustees of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

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

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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 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 and all schools are insured through the UK Government Risk Protection Arrangements (RPA). The Governors Liability section of the RPA will indemnify Trustees, members of the governing body or board of governors; employees of the Trust acting in a managerial capacity and any employee named as a co-defendant in a claim made against a Governor/Director/Trustee of the Trust, or a person who sits on a local governing body (a committee established for a school by the Trust in accordance with its Articles).

TRUSTEES

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

From 1st April 2018 new Articles of Association were adopted with, additionally, the MoU. These set out that the Multi-Academy Trust shall have up to 10 Trustees appointed by Members, with the Diocese of Bath and Wells requiring that 50% of Members and Trustees be appointed by them as 'Foundation Directors'. Following a Board decision in April 2022, future CEO appointments would not be a Trustee on the Board.

Trustees are appointed for a four-year period. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be re-appointed or re-elected. When appointing new Trustees, the Board considers the skills and experience mix of existing Trustees to ensure that the Board has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the Trust's development. New/potential Trustees are asked to provide biographical details including details of governance and other relevant experience – particularly where a skills gap has been identified. An interview is held with a minimum of two established Trustees (usually including the Chair or Vice Chair).

The start of the 2022/2023 year saw 4 new Trustee appointments successfully made for the first September Board meeting, maintaining the balance of Member and Diocese appointed Trustees, and securing 4 individuals from an education background. The Board has remained stable in this academic year.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend upon their existing experience but would always include an opportunity to visit the schools in the Trust and a chance to meet staff and students. All Trustees are provided with the 'Handbook' produced for TPLT Trustees and Academy Governors (AGs). This clearly states the expectations of a Trustee/AG with regard to attendance at meetings and support for the Trust or a school. This is updated annually to reflect, for example, the Academy Trust Handbook and changes in Safeguarding.

Working groups of Trustees meet for specific tasks to review annual policies, structures of governance and the Scheme of Delegation.

In addition, all Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need, to undertake their roles. As there are normally only one or two new Trustees a year, induction tends to be informal and is tailored specifically to the individual. Advantage is taken of specific courses offered by North Somerset and Somerset Local Authorities and other bodies.

TPLT signed up to support provided by The Key, iHASCO and the Confederation of School Trusts (CST). As the Trust has grown, all Trustees and AGs have undertaken more formal training in Prevent and Safeguarding annually.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

Organisational Structure

The Board of Trustees meets 7 times a year, of which 3 meetings are set to focus on strategy development and decision-making. To ensure alignment of the meeting calendar, meetings are timetabled a year in advance. This includes all Scrutiny Panels, Committees and Academy Councils (ACs) and AC Chairs meetings. Each year there is a review of structure, attendance and content to ensure that the order of meetings complements the next and to enable critical and core information to be shared, scrutinised, and ratified prior to Board meetings.

The Board establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Trust, membership, Terms of Reference and procedures of committees for ratification. It monitors the activities of the committees through the minutes of their meetings and verbal updates by Chairs of Committees at formal Board meetings.

This year, the Board introduced a new Audit and Risk Committee, following external guidance about committee structures by size of organisation. This Committee was chaired by Lisa De Laune, our Risk Management and Governance Trustee and whose membership consists of the Chairs of each committee as well as the Executive Team.

This committee has prioritised in this first year the Risk Register and Risk Management procedures, building a shared foundation for risk and audit in which to develop practice and procedures. Also this year, Katie Dominy commenced her third year as Chair of the Board. The Chair welcomed a new Vice Chair to the Board, as well as building relationships between new Trustees, the existing Board, the Executive Team and as required, created touch points throughout the year to ensure all Trustees were kept informed of organisational changes, as well as facilitating participation in key decisions such as CEO recruitment, and growth strategy.

The Chair focused time between supporting the development of the next 2 year strategy including working on a Board Framework to facilitate growth discussions, with a small Trustee working group, and completing a final year of governance review with a specialist contractor, whereby efficiency and effectiveness of committees, AC Chairs meetings, and policy and procedural reviews were completed. It also enabled a planned development of our Governance Professional in preparation for September 2023.

One of the most significant activities in the year was the change in CEO leadership following the departure at the end of the academic year of the September 2022 appointed CEO, an internal candidate stepping up into their first CEO post. The CEO decided in the Spring to return to the delivery and leadership of education within a school setting successfully securing a return to a Headship role commencing September 2023. Therefore, the Trustees had to recruit for this replacement. The Board has secured interim leadership from a neighbouring MAT (Will Roberts, CEO of Castle School Education Trust), with the support of the RDD and Diocese, enabling a smooth transition for both the Board and Executive Team ahead of a new appointment, which we had hoped to achieve for Autumn 2023. However, unable to recruit a substantive CEO in the Spring, for several reasons, we halted that process and have determined to go back out to the market in Winter 2023. This resulted in us extending our interim arrangements for one further academic year, bringing stability and maintaining strong leadership to the Trust.

The Interim CEO splits his time with 2.5 days in each Trust and has been developing school improvement links and sharing governance practice, which is proving mutually beneficial to both Trusts. The Board has a focused plan for the Interim CEO from September 2023. It is important to note that our Accounting Officer (AO) arrangements changed temporarily between Spring and Summer 2023 in response to the exiting CEO. We arranged for our COO to temporarily act up into this position to secure strong financial safeguarding of the Trust. This reverts to the Interim CEO from September 2023, with ESFA approval.

A final change in our Executive Team was the successful appointment of our new Director of Secondary Education & Standards (DoSE&S), Gregg Morrison, who joined in Spring 2023, backfilling the gap left when the internal appointment of the CEO took place in September 2022.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

During the year there were the following committees:

- Resources Committee – This meets three times per year (in Terms 1, 3 and 5) and is responsible for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing policy and performance in relation to financial management, compliance with reporting and regulatory requirements, receiving reports from the AO/CFO and receiving the draft annual budget including setting staffing levels. It also agrees site development priorities and plans.
- Pay Committee – This is a sub-committee of the Resources Committee. It meets when needed and annually to review and modify the Pay Policy (for example considering the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document). ACs receive and decide upon all pay recommendations made following the annual appraisal cycle by each Academy Principal. All pay scales will be determined by the Trustee pay committee. ACs will hear appeals against decisions made at school level. Consistency across the Trust will be assured by the Central Team. Regarding the salary of Academy Principals, this process will be undertaken by the CEO, delegated to the DoSE&S and DoPE&S, who will make recommendations to the Trustees' Pay Committee. The Trustees will continue to appraise the CEO.
- Provision and Outcomes Committee - This meets three times per year (in Terms 1, 3 and 5). Meetings follow two weeks after the Scrutiny Panels. Scrutiny Panels, comprising the DoSE&S or the DoPE&S and observed by a trustee, meet to hold to account the ACs of each school for the academic, behaviour & pastoral progress and outcomes & achievements of their school. The Scrutiny Panel's emphasis is on effective governance by the AC, whose main function is to hold the Principal to account for the progress and well-being of the children at the School. The notes from each Scrutiny Panel form the basis of discussion at the Provision & Outcomes Committee Meeting. This process underpins the Trust Board's monitoring of performance and may trigger a withdrawal of delegated authority from an individual AC, should the Board decide this is necessary.
- Scrutiny Panels – The new structure of DoSE&S, and DoPE&S alongside the scrutiny of Chair of ACs, with a linked Trustee observing proved to work well with the Academy Review and Improvement Plan (ARIP), which shows the priorities at an Academy level providing the foundation of scrutiny. Trustee observations are shared back to the P&O Committee as appropriate.
- Strategy Meetings – Held when required. These are held to ensure sufficient time for the Trust Board to consider a major change to the Trust, for example, the addition of another school. This year these were held to support development of the next two year strategy, particularly growth strategy, as well as leadership changes.

One further governance arrangement was agreed by the Board, to undertake an external governance review as is best practice every 3 years and was last completed in 2019/2020. Whilst this was delayed this year due to settling the CEO leadership position, the Confederation of School Trusts (CST) commenced in September 2023. This included 1:1 interviews with Trustees and Executive personnel, as well as observing Board and committee meetings in Terms 1 and 2, reporting back to the Board by December 2023.

The Scheme of Delegation sets out the limits of the responsibilities of the full organisational structure of TPLT including Members, Trustees, CEO, Central Team, Academy Councils and Academy Principals. This is reviewed annually.

The Trustees of TPLT have devolved the day-to-day management of the Trust to the CEO and Central Team including the COO. The day-to-day management of schools within the Trust is devolved to the school Principals and Leadership Teams. Line management of the school Principals is the responsibility of the CEO, delegated to the DoSE&S and DoPE&S.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

The Leadership Team at each School consists of the Principal/Vice Principals/Leadership Team staff and Academy Operations Manager (AOM). The Principal controls the school at a leadership level working under the direction of the Strategic Central Leadership Team of TPLT, implementing the policies laid down by the Trustees.

The COO and Head of Finance of TPLT, and the AOMs collectively oversee all operational and strategic financial and business matters.

The Chair of the Board, CEO, COO/DCOO and AOMs are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets; a summary of which is in the Scheme of Delegation. Some spending control is devolved to budget holders, which must be authorised in line with the Scheme of Delegation and the Financial Scheme of Delegation which prescribes the 'signing off' limits.

The CEO and Principals are responsible for the appointment of staff, through appointment panels. For leadership posts, the panels often include a Trustee or Governor.

Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

During the year, pay and remuneration was determined in accordance with the Pay Policy. This is reviewed annually. The process of review is started by the HR team in response to recommended changes by the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Review Body (STPCRB) and set out in the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD), usually annually in school each August. The amended Pay Policies are received by the Resource Committee via the Pay Committee for approval.

The Pay Policy follows the formulae of the STPCRB for determining the school grouping and from there the range for the Principals, Vice Principals and Assistant Principals. The Pay Committee applies these figures to current key management personnel.

The Trust Pay Committee receives a report on the outcomes of the appraisal system from the Head of HR/CEO in relation to the Central Team and school Principals. The Pay Committee separately conducts the appraisal of the CEO and makes appropriate recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding changes in remuneration.

The Chair of each AC and a member of the Central Team will have an annual appraisal/review meeting with the Principal to assess performance.

ACs also have responsibility, supported by the Central Team, for hearing pay appeals.

Trade Union Facility Time, 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
6	5.4

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	3
1%-50%	3
51%-99%	0
100%	0

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	£1,014
Total pay bill	£26.6m
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	0.00%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	7.55%
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Related parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

There are no related parties which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of TPLT. There are no sponsors or formal Parent Teacher Associations associated with the schools.

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The Executive Leadership Team plans all potential development changes for the Trust and works in partnership with all stakeholders which includes employees, unions, Local Academy Governors, Trustees and other key members of staff, to communicate and support the Trust and all workforce changes. Changes involving staff terms and conditions are dealt with in accordance with the HR policies in place.

Support for employees with disabilities is set out in the Equal Opportunities policy which can be found on our website (www.theplt.org.uk) or through our HR department. Where staff are disabled or become disabled, we encourage them to tell us about their condition so that we can consider what reasonable adjustments or support may be appropriate.

The Trust engages with their employees through many means and methods, including: Consulting with employees on key matters, including engaging the relevant union representatives/officials. Regular updates to all staff members, via termly updates and newsletters, including covering both financial and non-financial performance.

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

TPLT is committed to having, clear, transparent and mutually beneficial business and community relationships with suppliers, customers, the communities in which their schools operate and other stakeholders.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

Trustees and the Central Team, as public office-holders, are both servants of the public and stewards of public resources and are expected to act in accordance with the 7 principles of Public Life (also known as the Nolan Principles) detailed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-7-principles-of-public-life/the-7-principles-of-public-life--2>

- Trustees act in good faith to promote the success of the Trust and in doing so have regard to:
- The likely consequence of any decision in the long term
- The interests of the Trust employees
- The need to foster the company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others
- The impact of the Trusts operations on the community and the environment
- The desirability of the Trust maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct

Please see the **Public Benefit** section below with regard to community engagement.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and Aims

To advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice, to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum. To promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of North Somerset and Somerset the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants. At all our schools we aim to get the best for, and from, each child. We intend to enable each child to realise his or her full academic, creative and physical potential and to develop positive social and moral values. Each school is a community in which children, staff and parents should be part of a happy and caring environment.

The following is widely shared with all stakeholders across TPLT – The Priory Learning Trust is an educational charity. Our purpose is to advance education for public benefit. TPLT will facilitate knowledge building for all through professional development, with a determination to improve curriculum and pedagogy.

STUDENTS FIRST - CHERISHING STAFF - SERVING COMMUNITIES

STUDENTS FIRST

The mission of The Priory Learning Trust (TPLT) is to develop happy, confident and successful young people. Our underpinning values are respect for each other, creating an environment for successful learning and giving everyone the tools to maximise their potential. Our primary focus is providing great student outcomes whilst also thinking about the holistic welfare of our students.

CHERISHING STAFF

TPLT is committed to social equality and the principles of fair access and opportunity. The priority is local families and we will retain a local focus. TPLT values its employees. It is committed to staff development and to fair and transparent dealings with all employees. Our employees are precious and they must be deployed for maximum gain for our students and their welfare.

SERVING COMMUNITIES

TPLT intends to wisely grow its family of schools. There will be measured growth as we must maintain outstanding outcomes. Growth, therefore, will be intentionally designed. TPLT will extend business services to support great teaching and learning. All our schools will deliver a 'world class' modular curriculum that is relevant, dynamic, forward looking and balanced.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

The aims of the Trust during the year ended 31st August 2023 are summarised below:

- Promote happy school communities where students come first and all staff are valued and cherished and in which all children are developed into being successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.
- Sustaining and enhancing educational performance. We aim to be within the top 10% of all Trusts nationally on standard progress measures, such as Progress 8.
- Meet the needs of all learners with appropriate challenge for all through a broad and balanced curriculum. With a developing and planned approach to Alternative Provision (AP), which we refer to as Appropriate Provision.
- Fulfil our moral purpose by engaging and collaborating to help improve the life chances of all young people, locally, nationally and globally. This is done through working both as a Multi-Academy Trust and a Training School Alliance across the SW region with other schools and their leaders.
- Ensure wider aspects of schooling are valued and supported – sport, art, music and all co curricular activities.
- Develop each school site with enhanced and modern facilities through the wise use of our Schools Condition Allocation funding, built-up reserves and provide value for money for the funds expended.
- Improve the effectiveness of each school by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review. To engage further with Integrated Curriculum Financial Planning (ICFP).
- Maintain close links with industry and commerce through a centrally provided careers advice and guidance system.
- Further develop central capacity to manage change and provide a first-class educational experience at school level, whilst particularly supporting school leaders quickly and provide effective Human Resource and financial support to our schools.
- Conduct each school's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness as per the Nolan principles.
- To be the first choice for parents/carers and students in our hub regions.
- To be compliant with all appropriate statutory requirements, especially with regard to estates safety and management, in order to ensure we provide safe and secure facilities and environments that promote and encourage the highest standards of learning to achieve the best outcomes for our students.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

Our 2020-2023 Strategic Plan is in place to further develop governance, outcomes, limited growth, people and business services. We use the memorable mnemonic: GO PLT. We will provide our children with the very best education that meets their needs. Whilst economic wellbeing, which is enhanced by academic achievement, is paramount, we also value the development of our students as citizens equipped for life and work in the 21st Century. Key priorities for the year 2022-23 were contained in each School's Improvement Plan (SIP). The ARIPs (Academy Review and Improvement Plans) reflect TPLT Strategic Plan, which runs for a three-year period.

One key aim is for each secondary school to achieve great exam outcomes annually, thus enabling a positive Progress 8 score. Within our primary schools we aim to be well above national averages on all measures, at least 5% above national. We are always looking to improve and 2022-2023 was no different. Further analysis will take place of our Progress 8 measure and our primary progress measures. Everyone connected with TPLT should be very proud of the way in which the 'day-in-day out actions' of staff enable students to leave with good outcomes and a great educational experience in the Weston-super-Mare and Highbridge areas.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

More specifically and strategically we are developing the following:

- A 5-year capital plan prepared in line with the annual Schools Condition Allocation (SCA). This to sit alongside the pooling of General Annual Grant (GAG) model which has now been in place since September 2021.
- We will continue to improve literacy by alignment of policy across the Trust and through the embedding of a daily tutor reading programme for all in the secondary sector, Years 7-10.
- Further development of a marking and feedback policy alongside great presentation within books.
- Further curriculum alignment across the Trust, through a review of the newly launched assessment policy which has now been in place since Sept 2022.
- Further 'conduct and behaviour' policy alignment, especially with the use of 'managed moves' between schools and the development of 2 Appropriate Provision Centres (APCs) based at TKASA and PCSA.
- We will add to the wider system through our Training School Alliance regional work and through the training and accreditation of School Direct trainees in 2022-2023.
- The Director of Training School Alliance (TSA) will continue their strong work with further development of TPLT TSA. The TSA has moved seamlessly from being funded nationally to a self-sufficient model.
- Central school improvement staff, such as the Directors of Maths, English, Science and Careers employed centrally to lead teaching and learning development and achieve great outcomes. A key task will be the further embedding of the modular curriculum at all schools.
- Centralisation of services will continue, both in physical settings and in costings centrally. HR, ICT and Finance teams are all centralised.
- The continuation of the newly established School Improvement strategy and also the School Improvement Team, to sharply focus energy into the key areas of improving outcomes and pedagogy.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

The Trust aims to advance for the public benefit, education in North Somerset and Somerset and the surrounding areas. In particular, but without prejudice, to the generality of the forgoing by estimating, maintaining, managing and development of schools, offering a broad curriculum.

The Trust provides facilities for recreational and other leisure time occupation for the community at large in the interests of social welfare and with the interest of improving the life of the said community at our schools:

- Priory Community School Academy (PCSA)
- Worle Community School Academy (WCSA)
- Castle Batch Primary School Academy (CBPSA)
- St Anne's Church Academy (SACA)
- The King Alfred School Academy (TKASA)
- Pawlett Primary School Academy (PPSA)
- East Huntspill Primary Academy (EHPA)
- West Huntspill Primary Academy (WHPA)
- Berrow Primary Church Academy (BPCA) from 1 August 2023

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

STRATEGIC REPORT

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Outcomes across Early Years, KS1 and KS2

	Trust 2022	National 2023	Trust 2023
Early Years Foundation Stage Good Level of Development	74%		72%
Year 1 Phonics Screening Check	84%		78%
KS1 Reading Expected Standard	69%		68%
KS1 Writing Expected Standard	61%		63%
KS1 Mathematics Expected Standard	62%		73%
KS2 Reading Expected Standard	75%	73%	67%
KS2 Reading Greater Depth	22%		23%
KS2 Writing Expected Standard	72%	71%	69%
KS2 Writing Greater Depth	10%		6%
KS2 Mathematics Expected Standard	72%	73%	69%
KS2 Mathematics Greater Depth	13%		16%
KS2 Reading, Writing & Mathematics Combined Expected Standard	61%	59%	56%
KS2 Reading, Writing & Mathematics Combined Greater Depth	5%		5%
KS2 English Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling Expected Standard	63%	72%	69%
KS2 English Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling Greater Depth	21%		22%

SAT assessments for 2023

Early Years Foundation Stage	CBPSA	EHPA	PPSA	SACA	WHPA
Number of students	61	12	6	51	12
Good Level of Development	69%	67%	83%	76%	75%

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Key Stage 1	CBPSA	EHPA	PPSA	SACA	WHPA
Number of students	64	14	14	59	16
Reading Expected Standard	67%	71%	36%	76%	63%
Reading Greater Depth	20%	14%	7%	20%	15%
Writing Expected Standard	63%	57%	36%	73%	56%
Writing Greater Depth	6%	7%	0%	7%	0%
Maths Expected Standard	67%	86%	50%	80%	81%
Maths Greater Depth	17%	7%	14%	17%	6%

Key Stage 2	CBPSA	EHPA	PPSA	SACA	WHPA
Number of students	60	9	11	50	18
Reading Expected Standard	68%	67%	64%	76%	39%
Reading Greater Depth	25%	11%	0%	28%	22%
Writing Expected Standard	70%	67%	45%	84%	39%
Writing Greater Depth	2%	0%	0%	10%	17%
Maths Expected Standard	77%	56%	36%	82%	33%
Maths Greater Depth	20%	0%	0%	22%	6%
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling Expected Standard	75%	67%	73%	76%	29%
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling Greater Depth	30%	0%	9%	24%	6%
Reading, Writing & Maths combined Expected Standard	57%	44%	27%	74%	22%
Reading, Writing & Maths combined Greater Depth	2%	0%	0%	10%	6%

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Secondary outcomes – Key Stage 4

Headlines	The Priory Learning Trust	
	2022	2023
Number in cohort	741	807
English & maths 9-4	61%	54%
English & maths 9-5	39%	34%
Progress 8	-0.22	-0.21
Attainment 8	44.61	41.05
EBACC Points	3.74	3.42

Headlines	Priory		King Alfred		Worle	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Number in cohort	252	294	214	234	267	279
English & maths 9-4	60%	57%	61%	50%	64%	55%
English & maths 9-5	36%	38%	40%	30%	42%	32%
Progress 8	0.00	0.00	-0.26	-0.43	-0.41	-0.55
Attainment 8	47.08	44.56	44.27	40.24	43.31	38.03
EBACC Points	3.82	3.65	3.86	3.46	3.62	3.15

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Secondary Outcomes – Key Stage 5

Headlines	King Alfred	
	2022	2023
Number in cohort	73	74
Average Points per Entry	31.68	26.51
Average Grade	C+	C-
3 x A*-B	12%	13.51%
3 x A*-E	66%	70.27%
2 x A*-E	93	90.54%
Average Points Score	85.48	73.38
Overall A*-A	18%	9.22%
Overall A*-C	74%	54.85%
Overall A*-E	98%	95%

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

As funding is based on pupil numbers, we consider this to be the main KPI for the Trust. TPLT student numbers have grown from Autumn 2022 to Autumn 2023 as shown below:

Academy	2022 Autumn Census	2023 Autumn Census
Priory Community School Academy	1,518	1,506
Worle Community School Academy	1,356	1,343
The King Alfred School Academy	1,362	1,374
Castle Batch Primary School Academy	414	425
East Huntspill Primary Academy	85	77
Pawlett Primary School Academy	70	64
St Anne's Church Academy	391	385
West Huntspill Primary Academy	117	100
Berrow Primary Church Academy	N/A	150
Total	5,313	5,424

There has been an overall growth of 111 students across the Trust's schools due to the joining of Berrow Primary Church Academy on 1st August 2023. The shifting demographic and a reduced birth rate, may

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

ultimately impact on all schools, combined with some additional school capacity coming online within Weston-super-Mare are a challenge for WCSAs numbers going forward. Continuing housing development in both Hub areas may offset to some degree, but is not to be relied on.

We use the annual Kreston Academies Benchmarking Report to inform the Trusts performance against other medium sized MATs (3,001 – 7,500 pupils) nationally. This is produced in conjunction with our Auditors using data collated from their work to produce both the national and Trust personalised report. This is shared and discussed at the relevant Trustee Resources Committee meeting. The headline KPI data for 2021 and 2022 is as follows:

Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	2021		2022	
	TPLT	Trust average	TPLT	Trust average
Total Income per pupil (annualised)	£6,143	£5,715	£6,424	£6,625
Total GAG income per pupil (annualised)	£4,815	£4,281	£5,107	£4,997
GAG income ratio (period)	78%	75%	80%	76%
Capital income per pupil (annualised)	£281	n/a	£194	£264
Capital expenditure per pupil (period)	£358	£219	£412	£626
Staff cost per pupil (annualised)	£5,111	£4,554	£5,299	£5,186
Total costs per pupil (annualised)	£6,467	£5,832	£6,831	£7,067
Staff cost ratio (as % of total costs)(period)	79%	78%	78%	74%
Teaching staff salary per pupil (annualised)	£1,796	£1,974	£1,826	£2,443
Non-teaching staff salary per pupil (annualised)	£1,862	£1,402	£1,926	£1,447
Pupil to Teacher ratio (period)	20.8	23.2	20.94	19.4

Going Concern

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

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Most of the MAT's income is obtained from the DfE via the ESFA in the form of recurrent funding/grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The funding/grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31st August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. No funds are raised from the public.

The School also receives funding/grants for fixed assets from the DfE, which are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the Fixed Asset Fund. The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund balance reduced by annual depreciation charges over the useful life of the assets concerned, as defined in the School's accounting policies.

During the year ended 31st August 2023, total expenditure of £35,915,486 (excluding depreciation and LGPS movements) was covered by recurrent funding/grants from the DfE, together with other incoming resources, excluding SCA funding, of £35,530,427. The excess of expenditure over income for the year (excluding restricted fixed asset funds) was £385,059.

At 31st August 2023, the net book value of fixed assets was £69,044,042 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 15 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Schools.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

Key financial policies adopted or reviewed during the year include the Finance Policy which sets out the framework for financial management, including financial responsibilities of the Board, Principals, AOMs, Budget Holders and other staff, as well as delegated authority for spending. Other policies reviewed and updated included:

- Business Ethics
- Charging and Remissions
- Debt Recovery
- Fixed Asset and Disposal
- Members, Trustees and Governors Allowances
- Travel Expenses

Reserves policy

The Trustees review the reserve levels of the Trust annually as part of the budget setting process. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Trustees take into consideration the future plans of the Trust, any uncertainty over future income streams and other key risks identified during the risk review.

The Trustees aim to keep a minimum level of reserves (Unrestricted funds plus GAG) of £2,000,000 which ensures we can balance for the next two years and can fund our earmarked carry forwards. At the balance sheet date the level of these reserves was £3,513,654. The surplus of funds is being held by the Trustees to develop the Trust, support new initiatives, as well as to support any future expansion as TPLT grows as a Multi-Academy trust (MAT).

The defined benefit pension scheme reserve has a negative balance. The effect of the deficit position of the pension scheme is that the Trust is paying higher employers' pension contributions over a period of years. The higher employers' pension contributions will be met from the school's budgeted annual income. Whilst the deficit will not be immediately eliminated, there should be no actual cash flow deficit on the fund, nor any direct impact on the free reserves of the schools. Provision has been made in 2022/23 with the Avon Pension Fund (North Somerset) but not Peninsula (Somerset), to allow for the effect of the McCloud Judgement on eligible employees' entitlements which has still to be realised.

Investment policy

Trustees are committed to ensuring that all funds under their control are managed in such a way as to maximise return whilst minimising risk. During the year, day to day management of the surplus funds was delegated to the COO, Principals and AOMs within strict guidelines approved by the Board of Trustees.

The Trust's investment policy is to invest surplus cash reserves on deposit with banks with a high credit rating where the capital invested is guaranteed. Investment returns are reviewed during the year to ensure that returns are maximised whilst safeguarding the funds invested.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the major risks to which the MAT is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks.

Financial - The MAT has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA. In the last year 96% of the MAT's incoming resources were ultimately Government funded and whilst this level is expected to continue, there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms. The implications of National Fairer Funding will be carefully considered as the detail becomes clearer. Inflationary cost pressures, energy contract pricing and the potential for unfunded pay settlements are also considerations requiring further clarity.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

At the year end, the MAT had no significant liabilities arising from trade creditors or debtors that would have a significant or material effect on liquidity.

The Board of Trustees recognises that the defined benefit pension scheme deficit (Local Government Pension Scheme), which is set out in note 25 to the financial statements, represents a significant potential liability. However, as the Trustees consider that the MAT is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, the risk from this liability is minimised.

Failures in governance and/or management - The risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the MAT's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations, legislation and statutory returns, etc. This area of risk was heightened with the move to MAT status, the sponsor work that TPLT is undertaking and the potential growth in the number of academies within the group. The Trustees continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks.

Reputational - The continuing success of the MAT is dependent on continuing to attract applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk Trustees ensure that student success and achievement are closely monitored and reviewed, especially at WCSA.

Safeguarding and Child Protection - The Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, Health & Safety and discipline.

Staffing - The success of the MAT is reliant upon the quality of its staff and so the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning. It has been another year of disruption from sickness absence and recruitment challenges, but the MAT has reacted well and mitigated risks satisfactorily.

Fraud and mismanagement of funds - the MAT has appointed an AO and CFO to carry out checks on financial systems and records as required by the Academy Trust Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and develop their skills in this area.

The MAT has continued to strengthen its risk management process throughout the year by improving the process and ensuring staff awareness. A Trust risk register is maintained and reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

FUNDRAISING

The trust does not engage in any formal fundraising for its activities, although it does conduct lettings of its facilities as part of its community engagement. The trust makes charitable donations to annually nominated charities through individual staff and student fundraising such as 'non-uniform' days.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

STREAMLINED ENERGY AND CARBON REPORTING

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR) reporting annual energy usage and associated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for the period 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023. This report covers all premises controlled by the Trust along with vehicles used for business travel.

This report covers Scope 1 – emissions from school sites and company owned vehicles and Scope 2 – emissions associated with purchased electricity. Scope 3 analysis is limited to business travel in employee-owned vehicles only.

The electricity, natural gas, heating oil and transport consumption has been compiled from supplier invoices and mileage records. No estimates have been made.

Emissions were calculated using UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting 2022 version 2.0. Emissions are identified as 'tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent' (tCO₂e).

All values have been calculated by Clean Green Innovation Ltd to the best of their professional ability using data provided by the trust.

Breakdown of Energy Consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)

Mandatory Requirements:	2021/2022	2022/2023
Natural Gas	330,738	241,277
Heating Oil	14,580	35,700
Purchased electricity from the national grid	1,853,316	1,531,403
Transport fuel	42,026	30,450
Total Energy (mandatory)	2,240,660	1,838,830

Breakdown of Emissions with the reported energy use (tCO₂e)

Mandatory Requirements:	2021/2022	2022/2023
Scope 1 Natural Gas	73.25	57.14
Scope 1 Transport – Company owned vehicles	3.14	3.58
Scope 2 Purchased Electricity	0.00	0.00*
Scope 3 Business travel in employee-owned vehicles	5.35	3.92
Total Gross Emissions	73.25	61.06
Intensity Ratio for mandatory emissions Tonnes CO₂e per pupil	0.0140	0.0109

*NB: Scope 2 Purchased electricity via Powerful Allies, certified 100% renewable energy.

<https://www.powerfulallies.com/renewable-source-electricity/>

The primary intensity ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e (mandatory emissions) per pupil, which is the recommended ratio for the sector for consistency and comparability. Pupil numbers are based on the Autumn 2022 Census.

On 1st August 2023, Berrow School (150 pupils) joined the trust. Their data has not been included.

Strategies to Reduce Energy Consumption and Emissions

During the course of the 2022/23 academic year we received £226,348 of Energy Efficiency Funding from the DfE for all schools in the Trust (except BPCA).

School Name	Additional capital allocation
Priory Community School	£52,833
The King Alfred School an Academy	£51,349
Worle Community School	£51,103
Castle Batch Primary School Academy	£18,465
St Anne's Church Academy	£17,803
West Huntspill Primary Academy	£12,106
East Huntspill Primary Academy	£11,525
Pawlett Primary School Academy	£11,163
Total Funding	£226,348

We pooled this additional capital allocation and prioritised removing the oil boilers and oil storage tanks in two of our primary schools, PPSA and EHPA. We replaced the oil boilers and associated radiators with agile air conditioning units, which can act as heaters in the winter and coolers in the summer. We considered this was future proofing our schools for more extreme weather conditions. This also reduced our carbon footprint by removing oil as a source of energy. We have also continued to install LED lighting whenever upgrading rooms.

Our schools continue to engage with Energy Sparks, <https://energysparks.uk/>, an online energy analysis tool and energy education programme specifically designed to help schools reduce their electricity and gas usage. In 2023/24 we are continuing this engagement, receiving funding for three of our primaries to access the platform for free.

For 2023/24, we are planning a review with a local community interest company to establish the solar panel arrangements we could install across our estate. We have also commissioned a survey of our estates Building Management Systems (BMS) to identify where efficiencies could be realised. We have also ordered 6 new minibuses, whilst these are not EV, they are petrol driven and will be more efficient and cleaner than the current ageing diesel run minibus stock.

All of our schools, except BPCA, have been accredited the Eco School (Green Flag) Award.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

TPLT will continue to strive to provide outstanding education and improve the levels of performance of its students at all levels. It will continue to aim to attract high quality teachers and support staff in order to deliver its objectives.

It will continue to support and expand its initial teacher training function. TPLT will continue to work with partner schools to improve the educational opportunities for students in the wider community.

We plan, in the secondary schools, to maintain small class sizes where possible. We continue to wisely grow our hub model in Highbridge to support TKASA and assist primary outcomes in that region. As a result, BPCA joined TPLT on 1st August 2023, with an additional infant provision and one other primary electing to join the Trust, subject to Advisory Board approval and a robust Due Diligence process, in 2024.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

We opened the first Alternative Provision Centre in TKASA in 2021-22 and then opened a second centre in PCSA during 2022-23, part funded by North Somerset Council. We continue to focus on ensuring our Early Years provision is first rate. We have established one pre-school brand, 'Little Learners', across the majority of primary sites; which included the relocation of Priory Pre-School to CBPSA and which opened Sept 2022.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

The MAT and its Trustees do not act as the Custodian Trustees of any other Charity.

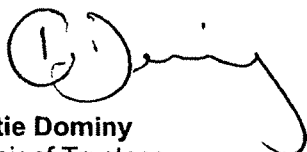
AUDITORS

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are 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 auditors are aware of that information.

The auditors, Bishop Fleming LLP, were reappointed by Members in 2022/23 to continue in office in accordance with the Academy Trust Handbook.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as company directors, on 14 December 2023 and signed on the board's behalf by:



Katie Dominy
Chair of Trustees

**THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day to day responsibility to the CEO, as AO, 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 TPLT and the Secretary of State for Education. The CEO is also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

GOVERNANCE

The information on governance included here, supplements that described in the Trustees' report and in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 7 times during the year. There were an additional 3 meetings held for wider strategic discussions. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Trustee	Resource	Pay Committee	Provisions and Outcomes	Risk and Audit
Katie Dominy	10/10	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
Ron Richards	8/10	0/0	3/3	2/3	3/3
Dean Taylor	8/10	0/0	0/3	2/3	0/0
Sally Harvey	9/10	5/5	0/0	3/3	0/0
Rod Sibley	9/10	5/5	3/3	3/3	3/3
Michael Westlake	5/10	4/5	3/3	0/0	0/0
Diane Davey	8/10	5/5	3/3	0/0	2/3
Lisa De Laune	8/10	0/0	0/0	0/0	3/3
Oluwagbenga Adekola	6/10	4/5	0/0	0/0	2/3
Ceri Morgan	7/10	0/0	0/0	2/3	0/0

Governance Review

- Key changes to the composition of Trustees. Four new Trustees were appointed to the Board in September 2022 and all achieved the professional background of Education.
- Key changes to the composition of Members: John Richardson, previously a Trustee, took up the position as Foundation Member from September 2022. With a Member, Ron Richardson, resigning from his post to become a Trustee (and Vice Chair) for September 2022, that gave a new vacancy to fill. Through local networks we were able to appoint James Heapey MP, from January 2023.
- Trustees are confident in the quality of the data presented. Strict timetabled consideration of financial data is achieved through MMAs, in accordance with the Academy Trust Handbook, and assures the Trust is on track on an in-year basis, but also that a five-year strategy is developed and updated.
- Student output data was provided in thorough detail by the Chief Analytics Officer (who provided training for Trustees and ACs on the use and understanding of dashboard data as required).
- Annual timetable. To ensure efficient working, the Trustee meetings, Academy Council meetings and sub-committee meetings are coordinated to ensure decisions can be made as effectively as possible backed with supporting data.

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

- Skills audit. The National Governors Association (NGA) model is used by the MAT's Trustees and the ACs. This NGA model takes account of the January 2017 DfE new competency framework for governance. It is planned to use this for recruitment and the provision of trust wide training.
- Led by the Governance Professional, the Board continue to conduct a skills audit and a similar model of self-evaluation which will be mirrored by the ACs.

REVIEW OF VALUE FOR MONEY

As AO, the CEO has responsibility for ensuring that the Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources.

The AO considers how the Trust's use of its resources has provided value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. They are aware of the Academy Trust Handbook and financial management good practice guides. They are also aware of the guide to school value for money statements published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

We set out below how we have ensured that the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

We are satisfied that robust financial procedures operate throughout the Trust. These focus on ensuring that we achieve value for money. Sign off limits are set for all orders and requirements for quotations and tender processes are fully detailed in our financial procedures and are rigorously enforced.

The operation of our financial procedures are regularly audited by our AO, COO and Head of Finance assisted by our auditors, with any recommendations for improvements being immediately implemented. We also have external scrutiny conducted on each monthly management account review.

The Trust have made extensive use of the ICFP toolkit, as recommended by both the DfE and the ESFA. This ensures that resources in each school are managed efficiently and effectively, whilst delivering a curriculum that enables students to achieve to their full potential. Regular reviews of staff deployment take place and where appropriate, smaller classes are enabled to support learning.

A key metric for TPLT is to endeavour that each school is full to its Pupil Admission Number (PAN), which maximises income for each school. Student numbers are available under the Key Performance Indicators section of this report.

Capital investment within the Trust is planned to ensure maximum value for money, with each school advising its capital funding needs via the annual review of Estates plan. Schools Condition Allocation (SCA) grant funding is managed centrally, allowing for the potential for larger capital projects to take place. Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) was also pooled from September 2023, with the agreement of all school Local Governing Boards.

Where appropriate, we utilise experts to guide us in relation to key purchasing decisions, such as energy, catering, grounds maintenance, compliance and building contracts/projects.

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

THE PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure, to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of 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 TPLT for the year 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

CAPACITY TO HANDLE RISK

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the 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 Trust's significant risks, which has been in place throughout the period of this report and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees. The Chair of Resources, working with the Central Team, has developed a comprehensive Risk Register for all aspects of the Trust's work, highlighting the levels of risk and processes of mitigation.

THE RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK

The 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 Trustees 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 Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has appointed School Business Services (SBS) as an internal auditor. In line with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, the Chair of the Trust signs-off Monthly Management Accounts, prepared in conjunction with AOMs and presented by the Head of Finance; the Chair deploys a financially qualified and aware Trustee to make a recommendation regarding sign-off.

The internal auditor role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a full range of tests and checks on the Trust's financial systems. This happens twice per year. The internal reviews report to the Board of Trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities. No significant matters arose.

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

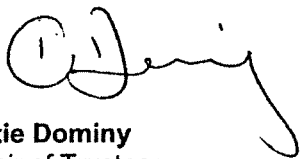
As AO, the CEO has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control.

During the year in question the review has been informed by:

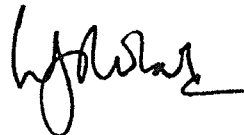
- The work of the internal auditors;
- The work of the external auditors;
- The work of the Central Team leaders within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The AO has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Resources Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 14th December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Katie Dominy
Chair of Trustees



William Roberts
Accounting Officer

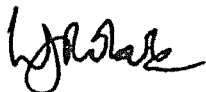
**THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
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STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of The Priory Learning 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 between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

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

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



William Roberts
Accounting Officer

Date: 14 December 2023

**THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
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**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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

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

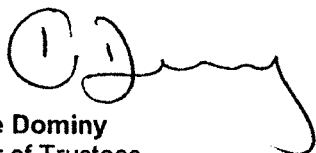
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting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

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

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

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

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



Katie Dominy
Chair of Trustees

Date: 14th December 2023

**THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
PRIORY LEARNING TRUST**

OPINION

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Academy Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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.

**THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
PRIORY LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)**

OTHER INFORMATION

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

OPINION 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 and Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report and Governance Statement has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the Academy Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report and Governance Statement.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of 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 Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the Academy Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
PRIORY LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)**

AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the Academy sector, control environment and the Academy Trust's performance;
- results of our enquiries of management and the Trustee board, including the committees charged with governance over the Academy Trust's finance and control, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Academy Trust's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to: identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance; detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or noncompliance with laws and regulations;
- how the Academy Trust ensured it met its obligations arising from it being financed by the ESFA and other funders, and as such material compliance with these obligations is required to ensure the Academy Trust will continue to receive its public funding and be authorised to operate, including around ensuring there is no material unauthorised use of funds and expenditure;
- how the Academy Trust ensured it met its obligations to its principal regulator, the Secretary of State for Education; and
- these matters were discussed among the audit engagement team who also considered any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud, which included incorrect recognition of revenue, management override of controls using manual journal entries, procurement and payroll. We identified the greatest potential for fraud as incorrect recognition of revenue and management override using manual journal entries.

In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Academy Trust operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Academies Accounts Direction, Academy Trust Handbook, the Charities Act 2011, Charity SORP (FRS 102), UK Companies Act and tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the Academy Trust's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included safeguarding regulations, data protection regulations, occupational health and safety regulations, education and inspections legislation, building legislation and employment legislation.

**THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
PRIORY LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)**

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess the recognition of revenue;
- enquiring of Trustees and management and those charged with governance concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing procedures to confirm material compliance with the requirements of its regulators;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing internal control reports; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; and assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias.

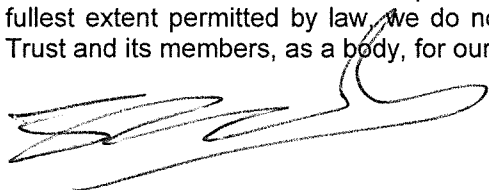
We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from an error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it.

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

USE OF OUR REPORT

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



Joseph Scaife FCA DChA (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of
Bishop Fleming LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
10 Temple Back
Bristol
BS1 6FL

Date: 15/12/2023

**THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

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

This report is made solely to The Priory Learning Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to The Priory Learning 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 The Priory Learning Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST'S ACCOUNTING OFFICER AND THE REPORTING ACCOUNTANT

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Priory Learning Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 17 August 2011 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

APPROACH

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes:

An assessment of the risk of material irregularity and impropriety across all of the Trust's activities;

Further testing and review of the areas identified through the risk assessment including enquiry, identification of controls processes and examination of supporting evidence across all areas identified as well as additional verification work where considered necessary; and

Consideration of evidence obtained through the work detailed above and the work completed as part of our audit of the financial statements in order to support the regularity conclusion.

In line with the Framework and guide for external auditors and reporting accountants of academy trusts issued April 2023, we have not performed any additional procedures regarding the Trust's compliance with safeguarding, health and safety and estates management.

**THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE PRIORY
LEARNING TRUST AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)**

CONCLUSION

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

BBF Fleming LLP

Reporting Accountant
Bishop Fleming LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
10 Temple Back
Bristol
BS1 6FL

Date: *15/12/2023*

THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants:	4					
Transfer on conversion		-	(165,000)	2,901,385	2,736,385	-
Other donations and capital grants		2,851	-	1,587,331	1,590,182	1,060,505
Other trading activities		537,194	-	-	537,194	235,215
Investments	7	55,692	-	-	55,692	3,132
Charitable activities		486,843	34,447,847	-	34,934,690	32,190,127
Total income		1,082,580	34,282,847	4,488,716	39,854,143	33,488,979
Expenditure on:						
Education		862,534	34,349,952	1,840,588	37,053,074	36,005,405
Total expenditure		862,534	34,349,952	1,840,588	37,053,074	36,005,405
NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE OTHER GAINS/(LOSSES)		220,046	(67,105)	2,648,128	2,801,069	(2,516,426)
Transfers between funds	18	-	(321,777)	321,777	-	-
Actuarial gains on pension schemes	25	-	3,725,000	-	3,725,000	16,801,000
Net movement in funds		220,046	3,336,118	2,969,905	6,526,069	14,284,574
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		2,989,022	(6,629,532)	66,282,393	62,641,883	48,357,309
Net movement in funds		220,046	3,336,118	2,969,905	6,526,069	14,284,574
Total funds carried forward		3,209,068	(3,293,414)	69,252,298	69,167,952	62,641,883

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

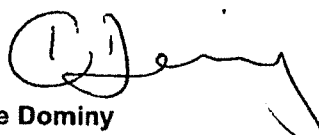
The notes on pages 37 to 66 form part of these financial statements.

**THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
REGISTERED NUMBER:07698707**

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	15	69,044,042	66,220,779
		<u>69,044,042</u>	<u>66,220,779</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	16	764,324	955,947
Cash at bank and in hand		5,475,133	6,682,510
		<u>6,239,457</u>	<u>7,638,457</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(2,517,547)	(3,356,353)
Net current assets		<u>3,721,910</u>	<u>4,282,104</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>72,765,952</u>	<u>70,502,883</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	25	(3,598,000)	(7,861,000)
Total net assets		<u><u>69,167,952</u></u>	<u><u>62,641,883</u></u>
Funds of the Academy Trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	18	69,252,298	66,282,393
Restricted income funds	18	304,586	1,231,468
		<u>69,556,884</u>	<u>67,513,861</u>
Restricted funds excluding pension reserve	18	69,556,884	67,513,861
Pension reserve	18	(3,598,000)	(7,861,000)
Total restricted funds	18	<u>65,958,884</u>	<u>59,652,861</u>
Unrestricted income funds	18	<u>3,209,068</u>	<u>2,989,022</u>
Total funds		<u><u>69,167,952</u></u>	<u><u>62,641,883</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 34 to 66 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:


Katie Dominy
Chair of Trustees


William Roberts
Accounting Officer

Date: 14th December 2023

The notes on pages 37 to 66 form part of these financial statements.

**THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	20	(1,087,935)	2,179,658
Cash flows from investing activities	21	(119,442)	(1,135,721)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(1,207,377)	1,043,937
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		6,682,510	5,638,573
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	22, 23	5,475,133	6,682,510
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on pages 37 to 66 form part of these financial statements

**THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Priory Learning Trust is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office address is Priory Community School Queensway, St George's, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset, BS22 6BP.

2. 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.

2.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

2.2 GOING CONCERN

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

2.3 INCOME

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

• **Grants**

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

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

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

• **Donations**

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

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.3 INCOME (CONTINUED)

- **Other income**

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

- **Transfer on conversion**

Where assets and liabilities are received by the Academy Trust on conversion to an academy, the transferred 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. An equal amount of income is recognised as a transfer on conversion within 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' to the net assets received.

2.4 EXPENDITURE

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

- **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Assets costing £10,000 (secondary) and £5,000 (primary) or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.5 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (CONTINUED)

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is not charged on freehold land. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 2% straight line
Long-term leasehold property	- 125 years straight line for land and 2% straight line for buildings
Plant, machinery, furniture and fittings	- 15% straight line
Computer equipment	- 25% straight line
Motor vehicles	- 25% straight line

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.

Where the Trust has been granted use of school buildings from the Diocese of Bath & Wells under Supplemental Agreements, the Academies Accounts Direction prescribes that where the Academy Trust concludes it has control over access and works of the land and buildings they can be recognised as an asset.

The land and buildings have been included within the long-term property of the Trust as the Diocese of Bath & Wells are currently not exerting control over the assets.

2.6 DEBTORS

Trade and other debtors with no stated interest rate and due within one year are recorded at the amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be received. Prepayments are valued at the amount paid.

2.7 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account and cash on deposit that has a notice period of less than 30 days.

2.8 TAXATION

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

Accordingly, the Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Part 11, chapter 3 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

2.9 OPERATING LEASES

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

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.10 LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS

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

2.11 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 bases are as follows:

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 16. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the Academy Trust's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 17. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to the Academy Trust's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.12 PENSIONS

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

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

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

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

2.13 AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

The Trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from the ESFA. Payments received from the 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, paid and any balances held at period end are disclosed in note 29.

2.14 FUND ACCOUNTING

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

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

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

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

Transfers are made between restricted funds and restricted fixed asset funds where restricted funds are used to purchase fixed assets.

3. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND AREAS OF JUDGEMENT

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 25, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement:

The Trust obtains use of fixed assets as a lessee. The classification of such leases as operating or finance lease requires the Trust to determine, based on an evaluation of the terms and conditions of the arrangements, whether it retains or acquires the significant risks and rewards of ownership of these assets and accordingly whether the lease requires an asset and liability to be recognised in the Balance Sheet.

THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

4. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
DONATIONS					
Transfer from Local Authority on conversion	-	(165,000)	2,901,385	2,736,385	-
	-	(165,000)	2,901,385	2,736,385	-
Donations	2,851	-	-	2,851	50,940
Capital Grants	-	-	1,587,331	1,587,331	1,009,565
TOTAL 2023	2,851	(165,000)	4,488,716	4,326,567	1,060,505
TOTAL 2022	1,740	-	1,058,765	1,060,505	

THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

5. FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY TRUST'S CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
EDUCATION				
DFE/ESFA GRANTS				
General Annual Grant	-	27,829,816	27,829,816	26,624,568
OTHER DFE/ESFA GRANTS				
Pupil Premium	-	1,283,249	1,283,249	1,250,811
Academies Pre-opening Grant	-	110,000	110,000	-
16-19 Funding	-	825,891	825,891	805,645
UIFSM	-	128,445	128,445	127,169
Mainstream School Additional Grant (MSAG)	-	443,707	443,707	-
Schools Supplementary Grant (SSG)	-	842,133	842,133	351,031
Teacher's Pay & Pension Grant	-	32,629	32,629	49,771
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	280,155	280,155	435,200
	-	31,776,025	31,776,025	29,644,195
OTHER GOVERNMENT GRANTS				
High Needs	-	1,012,518	1,012,518	893,228
Early Years Funding	-	597,627	597,627	390,436
Other	-	737,980	737,980	625,346
	-	2,348,125	2,348,125	1,909,010
Other income from the Academy Trust's education	486,843	-	486,843	459,641
COVID-19 ADDITIONAL FUNDING (DFE/ESFA)				
Recovery Premium	-	291,100	291,100	122,838
School Led Tutoring	-	32,597	32,597	54,443
	-	323,697	323,697	177,281
	486,843	34,447,847	34,934,690	32,190,127
	486,843	34,447,847	34,934,690	32,190,127
TOTAL 2022	459,641	31,730,486	32,190,127	

THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

6. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Lettings and other trading income	537,194	537,194	235,215
TOTAL 2022	<u>235,215</u>	<u>235,215</u>	

7. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Investment income	55,692	55,692	3,132
TOTAL 2022	<u>3,132</u>	<u>3,132</u>	

8. EXPENDITURE

	Staff Costs 2023 £	Premises 2023 £	Other 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
EDUCATION:					
Direct costs	18,906,877	1,836,344	1,716,218	22,459,439	20,676,422
Allocated support costs	9,260,751	277,021	5,055,863	14,593,635	15,328,983
	<u>28,167,628</u>	<u>2,113,365</u>	<u>6,772,081</u>	<u>37,053,074</u>	<u>36,005,405</u>
TOTAL 2022	<u>27,816,857</u>	<u>2,346,565</u>	<u>5,841,983</u>	<u>36,005,405</u>	

THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Education	22,459,439	14,593,635	37,053,074	36,005,405
TOTAL 2022	<u>20,676,422</u>	<u>15,328,983</u>	<u>36,005,405</u>	

ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Pension finance costs	138,000	126,850
Staff costs	18,718,661	17,252,319
Depreciation	1,840,588	1,692,523
Educational supplies	594,512	570,101
Examination fees	383,629	349,049
Staff development	105,054	65,907
Other costs	488,067	425,896
Supply teachers	190,928	193,777
	<u>22,459,439</u>	<u>20,676,422</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Pension finance costs	177,000	270,150
Staff costs	9,258,039	10,371,361
Other costs	497,792	258,970
Recruitment and support	34,038	34,107
Maintenance of premises and equipment	1,680,941	1,716,396
Cleaning	419,124	325,246
Rent and rates	134,574	192,347
Energy costs	525,463	461,349
Insurance	124,123	110,123
Security and transport	15,919	17,957
Catering	556,531	497,942
Technology costs	535,747	477,520
Office overheads	279,151	303,273
Legal and professional	341,636	273,954
Bank interest and charges	8,988	10,854
Governance	4,569	7,434
	<u>14,593,635</u>	<u>15,328,983</u>

10. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,840,587	1,643,301
Operating lease rentals	53,432	54,837
Auditors' remuneration - audit	22,200	21,250
Auditors' remuneration - non audit	5,975	5,400
	<u>1,922,194</u>	<u>1,724,788</u>

**THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

11. STAFF

a. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	21,225,929	19,558,262
Social security costs	2,033,281	1,816,384
Pension costs	4,681,248	6,249,034
	<u>27,940,458</u>	<u>27,623,680</u>
Agency staff costs	190,928	193,177
Staff restructuring costs	36,242	-
	<u>28,167,628</u>	<u>27,816,857</u>

b. SPECIAL STAFF SEVERANCE PAYMENTS

Included in staff non-statutory/ non-contractual is one (2021: two) severance payment totalling £36,242 (2022: £27,206).

c. STAFF NUMBERS

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Teachers	288	286
Administration and Educational Support	591	582
Management	47	47
	<u>926</u>	<u>915</u>

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Teachers	243	249
Administration and Educational Support	320	299
Management	46	47
	<u>609</u>	<u>595</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

11. STAFF (CONTINUED)

d. HIGHER PAID STAFF

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

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	9	8
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	-	3
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	4	2
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	-	1
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	-	1
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	1	-
	=====	=====

e. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £567,831 (2022: £708,556).

12. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

The prior year Executive Principal as a Staff Trustee was the only Trustee that receives remuneration in respect of services they provide for undertaking the roles of Executive Principal under their contract of employment, and not in respect of their services as a Trustee. Other Trustees did not receive any payments from the Academy in respect of their role as Trustees. The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows: N Coles: Remuneration £NIL (2022: £75,000 - £80,000), Employer's pension contributions £NIL (2022: £15,000 - £20,000).

During the year ended 31 August 2023, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2022 - £NIL).

13. CENTRAL SERVICES

No central services were provided by the Academy Trust to its academies during the year and no central charges arose.

14. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

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

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

15. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Long-term leasehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION					
At 1 September 2022	35,708,450	36,730,711	688,363	1,956,630	75,084,154
Additions	647,664	450,261	-	664,540	1,762,465
Acquired on conversion	-	2,901,385	-	-	2,901,385
At 31 August 2023	<u>36,356,114</u>	<u>40,082,357</u>	<u>688,363</u>	<u>2,621,170</u>	<u>79,748,004</u>
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 September 2022	4,803,492	2,430,152	580,305	1,049,426	8,863,375
Charge for the year	716,588	664,614	47,754	411,631	1,840,587
At 31 August 2023	<u>5,520,080</u>	<u>3,094,766</u>	<u>628,059</u>	<u>1,461,057</u>	<u>10,703,962</u>
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 August 2023	<u>30,836,034</u>	<u>36,987,591</u>	<u>60,304</u>	<u>1,160,113</u>	<u>69,044,042</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>30,904,958</u>	<u>34,300,559</u>	<u>108,058</u>	<u>907,204</u>	<u>66,220,779</u>

16. DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
Trade debtors	12,358	25,074
Other debtors	357,488	418,715
Prepayments and accrued income	394,478	512,158
	<u>764,324</u>	<u>955,947</u>

**THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	780,435	931,085
Other taxation and social security	506,465	426,337
Other creditors	590,170	507,234
Accruals and deferred income	640,477	1,491,697
	<u>2,517,547</u>	<u>3,356,353</u>
	2023	2022
	£	£
Deferred income		
Deferred income at 1 September	289,053	396,116
Resources deferred during the year	216,166	289,103
Amounts released from previous periods	(289,053)	(396,166)
	<u>216,166</u>	<u>289,053</u>

At the balance sheet date the Academy was holding DfE grant income received in advance for the 2022-23 academic year.

THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
General Funds	2,989,022	1,082,580	(862,534)	-	-	3,209,068
RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,005,212	27,829,816	(28,513,251)	(321,777)	-	-
High Needs	-	1,012,518	(1,012,518)	-	-	-
Pupil Premium	129,157	1,283,249	(1,194,294)	-	-	218,112
Other LA income	51,956	614,606	(624,246)	-	-	42,316
16-19 Funding	-	825,891	(825,891)	-	-	-
School Supplementary Grant	-	842,133	(842,133)	-	-	-
Early Years Funding	-	597,627	(597,627)	-	-	-
Mainstream Schools Additional Grant	-	443,707	(443,707)	-	-	-
Other ESFA funding	15,378	874,926	(846,146)	-	-	44,158
Other restricted income	-	123,374	(123,374)	-	-	-
Covid Catch up Premium	29,765	-	(29,765)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(7,861,000)	(165,000)	703,000	-	3,725,000	(3,598,000)
	(6,629,532)	34,282,847	(34,349,952)	(321,777)	3,725,000	(3,293,414)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS						
Fixed assets transferred on conversion	50,490,895	2,901,385	(1,006,203)	-	-	52,386,077
Fixed assets purchased from grants	13,268,928	-	(744,162)	1,712,470	-	14,237,236
Fixed assets donated	2,460,956	50,000	(90,223)	-	-	2,420,733
SCA funding	61,614	902,549	-	(873,631)	-	90,532
Other ESFA capital funding	-	634,782	-	(517,062)	-	117,720
	<u>66,282,393</u>	<u>4,488,716</u>	<u>(1,840,588)</u>	<u>321,777</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>69,252,298</u>
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>59,652,861</u>	<u>38,771,563</u>	<u>(36,190,540)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,725,000</u>	<u>65,958,884</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>62,641,883</u></u>	<u><u>39,854,143</u></u>	<u><u>(37,053,074)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>3,725,000</u></u>	<u><u>69,167,952</u></u>

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

RESTRICTED FUNDS

General Annual Grant (GAG) - Income from the ESFA which is to be used for the normal running costs of the Academy, including education and support costs.

High Needs - Funding received from the Local Authority to fund further support for students with additional needs.

Pupil Premium - Funding represents amounts received from the ESFA for children that qualify for free school meals and other attributes, which enable the Academy to improve the attainment of disadvantaged children.

Other LA Income - Additional funding received from the Local Authority.

16-19 Funding - Funding received from the ESFA to fund 14-16-year-olds when they are enrolled in sixth-form or FE colleges that meet specified criteria.

School Supplementary Grant - Funding from the ESFA which provides support for the costs of the Health and Social Care Levy and wider costs.

Early Years Funding - Funding represents amounts received from the Local Authority to support children

18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

between the ages of 2-4.

Mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) - Funding relates to additional ESFA funding for state-funded mainstream schools, the intention of the funding is to be used for the normal running costs of the Academy, including education and support costs.

Other ESFA funding - Other grants received from the ESFA towards Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM), Year 7 Catch Up funding, PE Sport funding, Sixth Form Funding, Teacher's Pay Grant and Teacher's Pension Grant. It also includes Income received from the ESFA to contribute to the Teaching School status of the Academy Trust.

Other restricted funds - Income received from school trip contributions, staff recoveries, and other donations.

Covid Catch up Premium - funding received from the ESFA to support Trust schools catch up pupils education from the effects of disruption caused by Covid 19.

Pension reserve - Represent's the Academy Trust's share of the assets and liabilities in the Local Government Pension Scheme. As with most pension schemes this is currently in deficit due to an excess of scheme liabilities over scheme assets which was inherited on conversion to an Academy. The Academy is following the recommendations of the actuary to reduce the deficit by making additional contributions over a number of years.

FIXED ASSET FUNDS

Fixed assets transferred on conversion to an Academy represent the land, buildings and equipment donated to the school from North Somerset Council.

Fixed assets purchased from GAG and other restricted funds represents amounts spent on fixed assets from the GAG and other funding received from the ESFA (such as Devolved Formula Capital and School Condition Allocation) and other sources (such as Section 106 Agreement income).

Fixed assets purchased from CIF funding represents the amounts received for various capital projects, including a new Science Block.

Fixed assets donated represents fixed assets donated to the Trust.

SCA (School Condition Allocation) funding represents the funding received for the maintenance of the core infrastructure of schools in the Trust. Carried forward amounts on this fund are unspent funds for use in future periods.

Other capital funding represents other capital grants receivable including Devolved Formula Capital - Funding received from the ESFA to cover the maintenance and purchase of the Academy Trust's assets. Carried forward amounts on this fund are unspent funds for use in future periods.

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

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
General Funds	2,603,402	699,728	(314,108)	-	-	2,989,022
RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,516,420	26,575,368	(25,700,315)	(1,386,261)	-	1,005,212
High Needs	-	893,228	(893,228)	-	-	-
Pupil Premium	114,758	1,373,649	(1,359,250)	-	-	129,157
Other LA income	36,599	847,220	(831,863)	-	-	51,956
Other ESFA funding	127,911	1,823,259	(1,935,792)	-	-	15,378
Capital funding - revenue expenditure	-	-	(382,988)	382,988	-	-
Other restricted income	-	217,762	(217,762)	-	-	-
Covid Catch up Premium	108,341	-	(78,576)	-	-	29,765
Pension reserve	(22,063,000)	-	(2,599,000)	-	16,801,000	(7,861,000)
	<u>(20,158,971)</u>	<u>31,730,486</u>	<u>(33,998,774)</u>	<u>(1,003,273)</u>	<u>16,801,000</u>	<u>(6,629,532)</u>

**THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS						
Fixed assets transferred on conversion	51,492,855	-	(1,001,960)	-	-	50,490,895
Fixed assets purchased from grants	11,776,116	-	(606,406)	2,099,218	-	13,268,928
Fixed assets donated	2,495,913	49,200	(84,157)	-	-	2,460,956
SCA funding	107,634	895,491	-	(941,511)	-	61,614
Other ESFA capital funding	40,360	114,074	-	(154,434)	-	-
	<u>65,912,878</u>	<u>1,058,765</u>	<u>(1,692,523)</u>	<u>1,003,273</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>66,282,393</u>
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>45,753,907</u>	<u>32,789,251</u>	<u>(35,691,297)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,801,000</u>	<u>59,652,861</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>48,357,309</u></u>	<u><u>33,488,979</u></u>	<u><u>(36,005,405)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>16,801,000</u></u>	<u><u>62,641,883</u></u>

**THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Priory Community School Academy	24,350	32,943
Worle Community School Academy	114,733	79,991
Castle Batch Primary School Academy	9,325	29,957
St Anne's Church Academy	9,304	2,589
The King Alfred School Academy	98,118	69,911
Pawlett Primary School Academy	1,758	3,417
East Huntspill Primary School	8,716	3,625
West Huntspill Primary School	8,716	3,625
Berrow Church of England Primary School	1,439	-
Central Services	3,237,195	3,994,432
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	3,513,654	4,220,490
Restricted fixed asset fund	69,252,298	66,282,393
Pension reserve	(3,598,000)	(7,861,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	69,167,952	62,641,883
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

In 2022 the Trust moved to a GAG pooling model which has resulted in the majority of cumulative surpluses being held centrally. Certain restricted and earmarked funds are retained in individual schools which are represented by the balances above.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

TOTAL COST ANALYSIS BY ACADEMY

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Priory Community School Academy	4,854,582	1,918,427	156,003	773,037	7,702,049	7,146,624
Worle Community School Academy	4,675,932	1,507,897	112,031	718,778	7,014,638	6,811,373
Castle Batch Primary School Academy	1,408,993	568,965	55,159	190,747	2,223,864	1,913,963
St Anne's Church Academy	1,169,927	805,623	33,434	168,887	2,177,871	2,032,021
The King Alfred School Academy	4,614,510	1,509,815	178,631	554,224	6,857,180	6,459,315
Pawlett Primary School Academy	198,673	106,760	7,185	39,302	351,920	379,467
East and West Huntspill Primary Schools	705,544	457,100	46,405	94,247	1,303,296	1,133,803
Berrow Church of England Primary School	41,605	21,993	150	2,011	65,759	-
Central services	898,254	2,703,028	5,514	3,909,113	7,515,909	8,436,316
	18,568,020	9,599,608	594,512	6,450,346	35,212,486	34,312,882

**THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	69,044,042	69,044,042
Current assets	3,209,068	2,822,133	208,256	6,239,457
Creditors due within one year	-	(2,517,547)	-	(2,517,547)
Pension scheme liability	-	(3,598,000)	-	(3,598,000)
TOTAL	3,209,068	(3,293,414)	69,252,298	69,167,952

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	66,220,779	66,220,779
Current assets	2,989,022	4,587,821	61,614	7,638,457
Creditors due within one year	-	(3,356,353)	-	(3,356,353)
Pension scheme liability	-	(7,861,000)	-	(7,861,000)
TOTAL	2,989,022	(6,629,532)	66,282,393	62,641,883

**THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

20.	RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	2023	2022
		£	£
	Net income/(expenditure) for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	2,801,069	(2,516,426)
	ADJUSTMENTS FOR:		
	Depreciation	1,840,587	1,692,523
	Interest income	(55,692)	(3,132)
	Decrease/(increase) in debtors	191,623	(50,663)
	(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(838,806)	1,467,921
	Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(1,587,331)	(1,009,565)
	Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(1,018,000)	2,202,000
	Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	315,000	397,000
	Defined benefit pension scheme obligation inherited	165,000	-
	Net assets from academy on conversion	(2,901,385)	-
	NET CASH (USED IN)/PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(1,087,935)	2,179,658
21.	CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
		2023	2022
		£	£
	Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,762,465)	(2,148,418)
	Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	1,587,331	1,009,565
	Interest received	55,692	3,132
	NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(119,442)	(1,135,721)
22.	ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
		2023	2022
		£	£
	Cash in hand and at bank	5,475,133	6,682,510
	TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	5,475,133	6,682,510

**THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

23. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	6,682,510	(1,207,377)	5,475,133
	<u>6,682,510</u>	<u>(1,207,377)</u>	<u>5,475,133</u>

24. MEMBERS' LIABILITY

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

25. PENSION COMMITMENTS

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 Bath and North East Somerset Council and Somerset County Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £544,237 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022 - £467,356) and are included within creditors.

TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME

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

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

25. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

VALUATION OF THE TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 26 October 2023. The key elements of the previous valuation as at 31 March 2016 which was effective for the year ended 31 August 2023 are:

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

The 2020 valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024 and effective until 31 March 2027. The employer contribution rate for this period will be 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy).

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £2,294,219 (2022 - £2,196,026).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2019/04/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx>) for 2016 and www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2023/10/valuation-result.aspx for 2020.

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £3,517,000 (2022 - £1,722,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £3,004,000 (2022 - £1,303,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 513,000 (2022 - £419,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 18.2% - 24.4% per cent for employers and 5.5% - 12.5% per cent for employees.

As described in note 2.12 the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Academy Trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. 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.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

25. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

PRINCIPAL ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

	2023 %	2022 %
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.3	4.3
Rate of increase in salaries	4.3	4.3
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.9	2.9
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.8	2.8

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

	2023 Years	2022 Years
Retiring today		
Males	21.6	23.1
Females	23.5	25.3
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	22.8	24.6
Females	25.0	27.3

SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Discount rate +0.1%	(294)	(535)
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	316	527
CPS rate +0.1%	299	536

SHARE OF SCHEME ASSETS

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

	At 31 August 2023 £	At 31 August 2022 £
Equities	8,681,000	8,118,000
Bonds	5,223,000	2,627,000
Property	1,349,000	1,299,000
Cash	291,000	194,000
Other	4,927,000	4,705,000
Total market value of assets	20,471,000	16,943,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £-317,000 (2022 - £-392,000).

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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25. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Current service cost	(1,986,000)	(3,505,000)
Interest income	794,000	284,000
Interest cost	(1,067,000)	(647,000)
Total	(2,259,000)	(3,868,000)

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Opening defined benefit obligation	24,804,000	38,236,000
Transfer in on conversion	507,000	-
Current service cost	1,986,000	3,505,000
Interest cost	1,067,000	647,000
Employee contributions	513,000	419,000
Actuarial (gains) / losses	(4,369,000)	(17,476,000)
Benefits paid	(439,000)	(527,000)
Closing defined benefit obligation	24,069,000	24,804,000

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Opening fair value of scheme assets	16,943,000	16,173,000
Transfer in on conversion	342,000	-
Interest income	794,000	284,000
Actuarial gains / (losses)	(644,000)	(675,000)
Employer contributions	3,004,000	1,303,000
Employee contributions	513,000	419,000
Benefits paid	(439,000)	(527,000)
Administration expenses	(42,000)	(34,000)
Closing fair value of scheme assets	20,471,000	16,943,000

**THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

26. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 August 2023 the Academy Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Not later than 1 year	67,982	46,717
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	147,651	64,662
	<u>215,633</u>	<u>111,379</u>

27. CONVERSION TO AN ACADEMY TRUST

On 01 August 2023 Berrow Church of England Primary School converted to academy trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to The Priory Learning Trust from Somerset Council 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 value and recognised in the Balance Sheet under the appropriate heading with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain in the Statement of Financial Activities as Income from Donations and Capital Grants - 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.

	Restricted funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS			
Leasehold land and buildings	-	2,901,385	2,901,385
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
LGPS pension	(165,000)	-	(165,000)
NET (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS	<u>(165,000)</u>	<u>2,901,385</u>	<u>2,736,385</u>

28. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

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

During the year there was a related party transaction in the year between the trust and a trust member for an exhibit provided at a careers fair. The amount of this transaction was £400 charged to the trust by the member. The amounts owing from the trust to the member at the year end is £400.

29. AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

The Academy Trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the accounting periods ended 31 August 2023 the Academy Trust received £16,138 (2022: £46,348) and disbursed £7,615 (2022: £46,348) from the fund. An amount of £8,523 (2022: £Nil) is included in other creditors related to undistributed funds that is repayable to the ESFA.