

**Company Registration Number: 07672980 (England & Wales)**

**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**

**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

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<b>Members</b>	Mrs A Sass Mr J Weise Mrs A Waterfall (appointed 24 January 2024) Mrs J L Downing (appointed 24 January 2024)
<b>Trustees</b>	Mrs L Ayling *, Head Teacher & Accounting Officer Dr N Pickles*, Chair of Governors, co-opted Mrs S Calveley, Deputy Chair of Governors, co-opted Mrs L Hanley*, Parent Governor (resigned 8 April 2024) Mr J Morris, Teacher Governor Mrs G Hughes, Parent Governor Mrs D Cowderoy*, Parent Governor Mrs H Byrne, Support Staff Governor (resigned 31 December 2023) Mr A Green, Support Staff Governor (appointed 1 March 2024) Mrs M Clowes, Parent Governor (appointed 1 March 2024)

\* Members of the Finance Committee

All of the Governors listed above are also Trustees and Directors of the Company limited by Guarantee.

<b>Company registered number</b>	07672980
<b>Company name</b>	Prenton High School for Girls
<b>Registered office</b>	Hesketh Avenue Birkenhead Wirral CH42 6RR
<b>Principal operating office</b>	Hesketh Avenue Birkenhead Wirral CH42 6RR
<b>Senior leadership team</b>	Mrs L Ayling, Headteacher Mrs G Fraser, Deputy Headteacher (resigned 30 April 2024) Mrs N Jones, Assistant Headteacher Mr R Clarke, Assistant Headteacher (appointed 15 April 2024) Mrs R Davies, School Business Manager
<b>Independent auditors</b>	Langtons Professional Services Limited The Plaza 100 Old Hall Street Liverpool L3 9QJ

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**Registered Bank**            Lloyds Bank PLC  
   355 Woodchurch Road  
   Prenton  
   CH42 8PE

**Solicitors**                    Stone King  
   13 Queen Square  
   Bath  
   BA1 2HJ

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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The Trustees present their Annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the School for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024.

The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and a directors' report under company law.

The trust operates as a Academy for students aged 11-16, serving a large catchment area in Birkenhead, Wirral. It has a student capacity of 790 and had a roll of 780 in the school census in October 2023.

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

#### **a. Constitution**

The Academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity.

The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing document of the academy trust.

The charitable company operates as Prenton High School for Girls.

The Trustees of Prenton High School for Girls are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

Details of the Trustees who served during the year and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and administrative details on page 1.

#### **b. Members' liability**

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

#### **c. Trustees' indemnities**

Governors benefit from indemnity insurance purchased at the Academy Trust's expense to cover the liability of the Governors which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default or breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Academy Trust. Provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Governors knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty or which was committed by the Governors in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not and provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Governors in their capacity as Directors of the Academy Trust.

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academy has purchased insurance to protect Governors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business.

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**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

**d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees**

The Members may appoint by ordinary resolution up to 9 Trustees. Parent Trustees shall be elected by parents and individuals exercising parental responsibility of registered pupils at the Academy. A Parent Trustee must be a parent, or an individual exercising parental responsibility, of a registered pupil at the Academy at the time when they are elected. The board shall consist of:

- Up to 9 Trustees
- A minimum of 2 Parent Trustees

Governors are appointed for a four-year period, except that this time limit does not apply to the Headteacher. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Governor, any Governor can be re-appointed or re-elected.

When appointing new Governors, the Board will give consideration to the skills and experience mix of existing Governors in order to ensure that the Board has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the Academy's development.

**e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees**

The training and induction provided for new Governors will depend upon their existing experience but would always include a tour of the Academy and a chance to meet staff and students. All Governors are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, Financial Management Accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Governors. Induction is tailored specifically to the individual. Advantage is taken of specific courses offered by the Local Authority and other bodies including on-line training offered through The National Governance Association, and Judicium, along with access to The Key.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

**f. Organisational structure**

The Board of Governors normally meets once each term. The Board establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Academy and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of Committees and other groups. It receives reports including policies from its Committees for ratification. It monitors the activities of the Committees through the minutes of their meetings. The Board may from time to time establish Working Groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale. In addition, Link Governors work closely with each committee and key members of the school staff.

There are 2 committees as follows:

- Outcomes and Performance - this meets once a term and is responsible for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing policy, practice, teacher performance and performance outcomes in relation to curriculum and pastoral planning, safeguarding, SEND, communication, examinations, target setting, assessment, attendance, behaviour and other related issues.
- Finance, Premises, Pay and Personnel – this meets once a term and is responsible for monitoring, evaluating audit and reviewing Academy policy, practice and performance in relation to all staffing, financial management and controls, risk management, Health and Safety management, premises related issues and the PFI contract, compliance with reporting and regulatory requirements, receiving reports from the Responsible Officer and drafting the annual budget including setting staffing levels. It also is the decision-making body for salaries in terms of pay awards and appeals.

The following decisions are reserved to the Full Governing Body: to consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Academy and its committee structure, to ratify policies, to appoint or remove the Chair and/or Vice Chair, to appoint the Headteacher and Clerk to the Governors, to approve the annual budget, School Priorities, Financial Statements & Audit Report.

The Members and Governors have devolved responsibility for day to day management of the Academy to the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team (SLT). The SLT comprises the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, two Assistant Headteachers and the School Business Manager. The SLT implement the policies laid down by the Governors and report back to them on performance.

The Academy has a leadership structure which consists of the Governors, the SLT and Subject and Student Services Leaders. The aim of the leadership structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The SLT controls the Academy at an executive level, implementing the policies laid down by the Governors and reporting back to them. The Headteacher and Business Manager are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets; a summary of this 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. The Headteacher is responsible for the appointment of staff, although every endeavour is made to always include a Governor in senior staff appointment panels.

The Headteacher is the Accounting Officer.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

**g. Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel**

Arrangements for setting the pay and remuneration of the Senior Leadership Team, which includes the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Assistant Headteachers and the School Business Manager, is determined by the school size and Headteacher range, as outlined within the STPCD.

The setting of pay and remuneration for the staff governor (teaching) follows the guidance of the STPCD.

The setting of pay and remuneration for the staff governor (non-teaching) follows the guidance of the NJC Green Book.

**h. Trade union facility time**

**Relevant union officials**

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the year	-
Full-time equivalent employee number	<b>82</b>

**Percentage of time spent on facility time**

<b>Percentage of time</b>	<b>Number of employees</b>
0%	-
1%-50%	-
51%-99%	-
100%	-

<b>Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time</b>	<b>£000</b>
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Total cost of facility time	-
Total pay bill	<b>4,241,812</b>
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	- %

**Paid trade union activities**

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	- %
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**i. Related parties and other connected charities and organisations**

There are no related parties or sponsors which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of Prenton High School for Girls.



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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**Objectives and activities**

**a. Objects and aims**

The Academy's object is specifically restricted to the following: 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 a school, offering a broad range of curriculum ("the Academy").

The principal object and activity of the Charitable Company is the operation of Prenton High School for Girls to provide free education and care for students of all abilities between the ages of 11 and 16.

The aims of the Academy during the year ended 31 August 2024 are summarised below:

- To support all aspects of school community.
- To continue to develop all aspects of the Academy to enable students to access a broad experience that leads to the best possible outcomes for every student and prepares them for the next steps in their education and training;
- To ensure the effectiveness of the Academy by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review;
- To ensure that the Academy has a positive progress 8 score and that outcomes are at least in line with national outcomes;
- To continue to invest in the Academy site and facilities to ensure that students and staff can achieve the best outcomes and to ensure that facilities meet and support the strategic aims of the Academy;
- To provide value for money for the funds expended;
- To comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements;
- To develop the Academy's capacity to manage change and secure sustainability, and
- To conduct the Academy's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness.

At Prenton High School for Girls our aim is *making a positive difference today to achieve a better tomorrow*. We aim to get the best for, and from, all members of our school community. We intend to enable each student to achieve the best possible academic and creative outcomes, ensuring that they are ready for the next steps in their education and training and that they develop positive social and moral values. Our Academy is an inclusive community in which students, staff and parents/ carers should be part of a happy, safe, supportive, successful and caring environment underpinned by our core values of Trust, Respect, Integrity, Kindness and Endeavour.

**b. Objectives, strategies and activities**

Key priorities for the year 2023-24 are contained in our School Priorities which is available from the School Office. Improvement focuses identified for this year are based around four key areas of development:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing for all;
- Students (inside and outside the class room);
- Staff; and,
- Sustainability.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**Objectives and activities (continued)**

**c. Public benefit**

The Governors of Prenton High School for Girls confirm that they have complied with their duty in Section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

Our successes are built upon the efforts of a highly qualified, hard-working and enthusiastic staff, well-motivated students and supportive parents and a committed Academy Board with a strong focus on building a connection with the local community.

We value highly all contact with parents/carers since we see a successful education being a partnership between parents, students and the school. By working together, we are able to meet our aim of 'making a positive difference today to achieve a better tomorrow' through our core values of Trust, Respect, Integrity, Kindness and Endeavour.

Students of Prenton High School for Girls are able to participate in a wide variety of clubs, trips and activities as well as the Duke of Edinburgh Award and The Languages and Sports Leadership Award Schemes. The Prenton Pathway to Success maps a broad range of additional opportunities beyond the curriculum and sets out our commitment to provide opportunities for students throughout their time at Prenton.

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

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**Strategic report**

**Achievements and performance**

**a. Key Performance Indicators**

In 2024 GCSE results were widely reported to have returned to pre-pandemic grading standards. Overall, nationally, GCSE results were similar in 2024 to those in 2023.

There is still warning against making direct comparisons back to 2020-21 because of the instability on outcomes as a result of the pandemic across this timeframe. Whilst attainment is slightly below national averages, it is important to note that the Progress 8 score is positive and shows positive progress.

<b>Measure</b>	<b>School 2022</b>	<b>School 2023</b>	<b>School 2024</b>	<b>National 2024</b>
<b>Progress 8</b>	+0.18	-0.03	+0.03	0.00
<b>Attainment 8</b>	48.1	42.2	41.46	45.9
<b>% achieving 5+ in English and Maths</b>	44%	34%	34.6%	45.9%
<b>% of cohort entered for EBacc</b>	40%	39%	37.9%	40.4%
<b>EBacc APS</b>	4.11	3.61	3.52	
<b>Destinations</b>	95%	98%	94%	93%

In 2023-24 the Academy entered its seventh cohort of students for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award and sixth cohort of students for the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award; its fifth cohort as a licenced centre for the Duke of Edinburgh Award. This year, students were able to return fully to the expedition aspect of the award, in addition to opportunities broadening for re-engaging in the community as part of their awards.

The Academy also further developed the PiXL Edge programme where each award takes two years to complete. In 2023-24:

120 students completed the Apprentice Certificate  
160 students completed the Graduate Certificate

A significant number of students also completed and gained Sports Leader qualifications:

20 Prenton Leaders in year 7  
20 Leadership Skills Foundation Young Leaders in year 8  
15 Leadership Skills Foundation Level 1 Sports Leaders in year 9  
10 Leadership Skills Foundation Level 2 Sports Leaders in year 10.

**b. Going concern**

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

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**Strategic report**

**Financial KPIs**

The main financial performance indicator is the level of cash reserves held at the Balance Sheet date. Cash at bank has increased from £1,544K in 22/23 to £1,873K in 23/24.

All statutory deadlines for reporting have been met and all internal scrutiny regularity control checks returned no findings.

As funding is based on student numbers this is also a key performance indicator. Whilst numbers fluctuate during any academic year, the funding is based upon the October census as follows:

Total on roll:

October 2023 - 783  
October 2022 - 780  
October 2021 - 788  
October 2020 - 788  
October 2019 - 775  
October 2018 - 786

Staff costs as a percentage of grant income: 68.62% (Grant funding - £6,744k, Staff costs - £4,628k) compared to 73.59% in 2023.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**a. Financial review**

Most of the Academy's income is obtained from the DfE via the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2024 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Academy also receives 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 is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the useful life of the assets concerned, as defined in the Academy's accounting policies.

During the period ended 31 August 2024, total expenditure of £6,603k was primarily funded by recurrent grant funding from the DfE, together with other incoming resources totalling £625k.

At 31 August 2024 the net book value of fixed assets was £1,125k and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 12 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the students of the Academy.

As a PFI school the land, buildings and other assets were not transferred to the Academy upon conversion. Other assets, including all IT and reprographics equipment were transferred to the Academy and have been fully depreciated.

The Academy has taken on the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme in respect of its non-teaching staff transferred on conversion. The deficit is incorporated within the Statement of Financial Activity with details in Note 21 to the financial statements.

The pension deficit represents a long-term commitment and, whilst concerning, the Academy's immediate focus is on the cash impact of the contributions which are required to be made to the scheme. The Academy has been informed of the contribution rates for the three years to March 2026 and will be able to meet its obligations. Furthermore, due to the Academy's strong cash position, a decision was taken to pay contributions annually to save the Academy in the region of £6.5k.

Key financial policies adopted or reviewed during the year include the Academies Trust Handbook, the Finance Procedures Manual which lays out the framework for financial management, including financial responsibilities of the Board, Headteacher, managers, budget holders and other staff, as well as delegated authority for spending.

The Governors appointed DJH to undertake a programme of internal scrutiny on financial controls. During the year, the Governors have received reports from DJH which contained no matters of significance.

**Reserves Policy**

The Academy needs to hold reserves for a number of reasons in line with the reserves policy, examples of which are listed below:

- contingency fund to deal with minor adjustments to operational expenditure from some budget headings;
- a planned accumulation of funds when approaching the end of the PFI contract;
- expenditure held over to the following year to withstand variations in the level of funding to the Academy to balance out variations in funding levels; and
- contingency fund to pay at least a one month salary bill.

The Governors ensure that the Reserves Policy is in accordance with the requirements laid down in the Academies Trust Handbook 2023 by the ESFA. The Department for Education expects an Academy to use their allocated funding for the full benefit of current students. It is the policy of The Academy to have reserves which can be used for future education purposes in line with the School Priorities.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**b. Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies**

The Academy has reviewed and updated the Risk Register and compiled a Risk Management Plan which includes the financial risks to the Academy. The Governors have assessed the major risks to which the Academy is exposed, in particular those relating to its finances, teaching, facilities and other operational areas. The Governors have implemented a number of systems to assess and minimise those risks, including internal controls described elsewhere. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover.

The Governors examine the financial health formally every term, reviewing performance against budgets and overall expenditure by means of reports at all full Governors' and Finance Committee meetings. In addition, abbreviated Management Accounts, including cash flow forecast analysis data, is issued on a monthly basis to enable Governors to regularly review cash flow forecasts and ensure sufficient funds are held to cover all known and anticipated commitments.

At the year end, the Academy had no significant liabilities arising from trade creditors or debtors where there would be a significant effect on liquidity.

The Governing Body recognises that the defined benefit scheme deficit (Local Government Pension Scheme), which is set out in Note 21 to the financial statements, represents a significant potential liability. Whilst the Governors consider that the Academy is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, therefore minimising the risk from this liability, there is a need to budget for increased contributions in the coming years to reduce its size.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**c. Principal risks and uncertainties**

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Academy are as follows:

Financial - the Academy has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA. In the last year 99.30% of the Academy's incoming resources was ultimately Government funded (2023: 98.54%) and whilst this level is expected to continue, the Academy continues to operate within a transitional phase towards the full implementation of the National Funding Formula. 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.

Failures in governance and/or management - the risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the Academy's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns. The Governors continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks.

Reputational - the continuing success of the Academy is dependent on continuing to attract candidate applications in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk, Governors ensure that student success and achievement are closely monitored and reviewed.

Safeguarding and Child Protection - the Governors continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of Safeguarding policies and procedures, health & safety and discipline.

Staffing - the success of the Academy is reliant on the quality of its staff and so the Governors monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff, as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning.

Fraud and mismanagement of funds - The Academy has appointed Langtons and DJH 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. Two members of the finance team are AAT qualified, and a dedicated ACCA qualified Management Accountant employed on a part time basis.

**d. Investment Policy**

Due to the nature of funding, the Academy may at times hold cash balances surplus to its short term requirements. The Governors have authorised the opening of additional short term bank investment accounts to take advantage of higher interest rates. No other form of investment is authorised.

Governors are committed to ensuring that all funds under their control are managed in such a way as to maximise return whilst minimising risk. Any cash not required for operating expenses is placed on deposit at the most favourable rate available from providers covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Day to day management of the surplus funds is delegated to the Headteacher and Business Manager within strict guidelines approved by the Governing Body.

**Fundraising**

The academy does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the Trustees.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**Plans for future periods**

The Academy will continue to strive to provide outstanding education and improve outcomes for all students. The Academy will continue to aim to attract high quality teachers and support staff in order to deliver its objectives. We plan to sustain the increased number of specialist teaching staff in English, Maths and Science which will support continued improvement in academic outcomes. We have introduced a nurture hub to support our SEND provision and have employed KS2 teacher to deliver the core curriculum to a small cohort in Year 7 and 8, starting in September 2024.

In addition, the Academy plans to build upon the success of the Duke of Edinburgh Award and ensure that students continue to access this opportunity.

The Academy will continue to work with partner schools/ Alternative Provision providers to improve the educational opportunities for students in the wider community and are exploring new ways of meeting the needs of vulnerable learners.

This year the capital investment plan has successfully enabled the continued refurbishment of a number of classrooms and laboratories and upgrading technology in a number of classrooms. All of these investments will further secure positive outcomes for students and support future recruitment and retention of staff and students, thus continuing to support the School Priorities.

In order to plan for the mid-term financial requirements, the Academy has continued to monitor its robust Medium Term Financial Plan, taking into account all income streams, budget forecasts, staffing, curriculum and capital requirements whilst noting changes to the protected elements of our GAG funding, together with the pressure of escalating costs of inflation and pay awards, employer NI contributions and contracted out pension arrangements, in addition to the ongoing issues surrounding PFI costs.

Costs of the PFI contract, in particular future benchmarking, have resulted in the Academy having to manage these additional costs. It continues to remain difficult to estimate with any degree of certainty the future cost of the PFI contract outside of the annual RPI increase. Going forward the Governors will need to carefully review.

Full details of our plans for the future are given in the Academy's School Priorities.

**Funds held as custodian on behalf of others**

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

**Disclosure of information to auditors**

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and
- that 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.



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**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 3 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



**Dr N Pickles**  
(Chair of Governors)



**Mrs L Ayling**  
(Headteacher and Accounting Officer)

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**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

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**Scope of responsibility**

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

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

The board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Headteacher, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Prenton High School for Girls and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

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**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

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**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 4 times during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mrs L Ayling, Headteacher	4	4
Dr N Pickles, Chair of Governors, co-opted	4	4
Mrs S Calveley	0	4
Mrs L Hanley	3	3
Mr J Morris, Teacher Governor	4	4
Mrs G Hughes	3	4
Mrs D Cowderoy	4	4
Mrs H Byrne, Support Staff Governor	1	1
Mr A Green, Support Staff Governor	1	1
Mrs M Clowes	2	2

As central government public sector bodies, Academy trusts are required to provide assurance that they are appropriately managed and are controlling the resources for which they are responsible. This assurance must be communicated in a governance statement.

In line with the academy Conflict of interest policy, all staff and governors are required to complete an annual return identifying any conflict of interest that may arise in their work capacity. An annual conflict of interest register is shared with the Headteacher for approval and Governors for review.

Conflict of Interest declaration is requested at the beginning of each Governor meeting and minuted accordingly.

The Finance, Premises and Pay and Personnel committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its key performance indicators for the year 2023-24 were:

Annual Audit:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To achieve an unqualified audit judgement and be able to demonstrate the school as a "going concern".</li><li>Internal scrutiny visits demonstrate that control measures are robust.</li></ul>
Numbers on Roll:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To ensure a full intake (158) for September 2023.</li></ul>
Partnerships:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To have evidence of value for money, including PFI and all school contracts.</li></ul>
Compliance:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To demonstrate statutory compliance in order to manage risk.</li></ul>

In addition, as reflected in the School Development Plan, securing financial sustainability for the school was a key priority, and an aspect of work under the remit of this committee has been the further development of the Academy's Medium Term Financial Plan.

Attendance at the Finance, Premises and Pay and Personnel committee meetings in the year was as follows:

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**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

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**Governance (continued)**

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
L Ayling	3	3
N Pickles	3	3
L Hanley (resigned 8 April 2024)	1	2
D Cowderoy	2	3

The Finance, Premises, Pay and Personnel (FPP&P) committee acts as the Audit and Risk sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to ensure stringent internal scrutiny is carried out in line with regulations and risk management is reviewed regularly.

**Review of value for money**

As accounting officer, the Headteacher has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received. The Accounting Officer considers how the trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data or by using a framework where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the Academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

**Governance:**

- An additional Board Meeting is now held at the start of the academic year in order to present academic outcomes to Trustees and finalise the details of the SDP.

**Other strategies:**

- The Academy has continued to challenge the performance of the PFI contract in order to secure value for money. This has resulted in £3k worth of performance failure payments to the Academy. In addition, the Academy continues to benefit from decoration and enhancement to the fabric of the building outside of lifecycle at no additional cost.
- The Academy upgraded to Newline IT screens for 5 classrooms rather than Clevertouch screens saving £5,200.
- The Academy saved on staff advertisements through a TES service level agreement, total saving across the year was £4,393.
- The Academy upgraded their telephone system resulting in a saving of £3,200 across the year.

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**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

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

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy 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 Prenton High School for Girls for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

**Capacity to handle risk**

The board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of Trustees.

**The risk and control framework**

The Academy'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 Audit & Risk Committee (which is part of the FPP&P committee) of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- identification and management of risks

The board of trustees appointed DJH for a specific internal scrutiny function as per the Academies Trust Handbook and, following a detailed tender process in 2022, the trustees re-appointed Langtons, as external auditors up to 31 August 2027.

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

- testing of payroll
- testing of school funds
- testing of governance

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

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**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

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**The risk and control framework (continued)**

**Review of effectiveness**

As accounting officer, the Headteacher 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 DJH, internal audit team;
- the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the Business Manager within the Academy Trust who has responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework;
- the work of Langtons, the external auditors;
- correspondence from ESFA e.g. FNtl/Ntl and 'minded to' letters.

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

**Conclusion**

Based on the advice of the Finance, Premises, Pay & Personnel committee and the accounting officer, the board of trustees is of the opinion that the academy trust has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 3 December 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



**Dr N. Pickles**  
Chair of Governors



**Mrs L. Ayling**  
Accounting Officer

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**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
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**STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

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As accounting officer of Prenton High School for Girls I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Board of Trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between the Academy and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the academy board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the academy, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2023

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



**Mrs L. Ayling**  
Accounting Officer  
Date: 3 December 2024

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**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 3 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



**Dr N Pickles**  
(Chair of Governors)



**Mrs L Ayling**  
(Headteacher and Accounting Officer)



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**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF  
PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**

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**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Prenton High School for Girls (the 'academy') for the year ended 31 August 2024 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 2023 to 2024 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's affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 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 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'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.

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**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF  
PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS (CONTINUED)**

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**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 including the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report and the Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

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

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

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

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

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**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF  
PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS (CONTINUED)**

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**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Statement of trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the academy 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'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 or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF  
PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS (CONTINUED)**

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**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:

The objectives of our audit, in respect to fraud, are:

- to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud;
- to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses; and
- to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the academy and its management.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the academy and determined that the most significant are those that relate to the reporting framework (FRS 102 and the Companies Act 2006), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the FRS102 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by the ESFA, the Charities Act 2011, relevant tax compliance regulations in the UK and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- We understood how the academy is complying with those frameworks by making enquiries of management and trustees.

Through consideration of the results of our audit procedures we were able to either corroborate or provide contrary evidence which was then followed up.

Based on our understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations. Our procedures involved:

- enquiries of the academy's management; and
- journal entry testing, with a focus on manual consolidation journals and journals indicating large or unusual transactions based on our understanding of the academy.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the academy's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by meeting with management to understand where it considered there was susceptibility to fraud. Where the risk was considered to be higher, we performed audit procedures to address each identified fraud risk or other risk of material misstatement. These procedures included the assessment of items identified by management as non-recurring, any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business, and the testing of manual journals. All such procedures were designed to provide reasonable

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**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF  
PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS (CONTINUED)**

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assurance that the financial statements were free from material fraud or error.

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](http://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'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'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 and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**A. J. McCall (Senior statutory auditor)**

for and on behalf of  
**Langtons Professional Services Limited**

The Plaza  
100 Old Hall Street  
Liverpool  
L3 9QJ

3 December 2024

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**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO PRENTON  
HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY**

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 21 November 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Prenton High School for Girls during the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

**Respective responsibilities of Prenton High School for Girls's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Prenton High School for Girls's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 20 January 2012 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

**Approach**

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes:

- Reviewing the Academy's activities to ensure adherence to the funding agreement, the Academy Trust Handbook, and other charitable objectives;
- Assessment of the control environment and operating procedures which should reduce the risk of irregularity;
- Oversight of meeting minutes, financial policies and procedures, and management accounts to verify compliance with the regularity framework; and,
- Review of the accounting officer's statements regarding regularity and assessment of supporting evidence.

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**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO PRENTON  
HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)**

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



A J McCall (Senior statutory auditor)  
**Langtons Professional Services Limited**

Date: 3 December 2024

**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
<b>Income from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	12	17	30	55
Other trading activities		6	2	-	7	9
Investments	6	28	-	-	28	17
Charitable activities		-	6,679	-	6,679	6,228
<b>Total income</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>6,693</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6,744</b>	<b>6,309</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities		-	6,304	241	6,545	6,183
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>6,304</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>6,545</b>	<b>6,183</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>(224)</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>126</b>
Transfers between funds	15	-	(128)	128	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>(96)</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	21	-	72	-	72	775
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>(96)</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>901</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		1,080	(325)	1,221	1,976	1,075
Net movement in funds		34	333	(96)	271	901
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>1,114</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1,125</b>	<b>2,247</b>	<b>1,976</b>



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**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)**  
**(CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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

The notes on pages 35 to 63 form part of these financial statements.

**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 07672980**

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024**

	Note	2024 £000	2023 £000
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	12	1,125	1,221
		<u>1,125</u>	<u>1,221</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	13	335	324
Cash at bank and in hand		1,873	1,544
		<u>2,208</u>	<u>1,868</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(636)	(534)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>1,572</u>	<u>1,334</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>2,697</u>	<u>2,555</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>		<u>2,697</u>	<u>2,555</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	21	(450)	(579)
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u><u>2,247</u></u>	<u><u>1,976</u></u>

**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 07672980**

**BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024**

	Note	2024 £000	2023 £000
<b>Funds of the academy</b>			
<b>Restricted funds:</b>			
Fixed asset funds	15	1,125	1,221
Restricted income funds	15	458	254
		<u>1,583</u>	<u>1,475</u>
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	15	1,583	1,475
Pension reserve	15	(450)	(579)
		<u>1,133</u>	<u>896</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	15	<b>1,133</b>	<b>896</b>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	15	<b>1,114</b>	<b>1,080</b>
		<u>2,247</u>	<u>1,976</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>2,247</b>	<b>1,976</b>

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

The financial statements on pages 30 to 63 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 03 December 2024 and are signed on their behalf, by:



**Dr N Pickles**  
(Chair of Trustees)



**Mrs L Ayling**  
(Headteacher and Accounting Officer)

The notes on pages 35 to 63 form part of these financial statements.

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**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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	<b>Note</b>	<b>2024</b> <b>£000</b>	<i>2023</i> <i>£000</i>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	17	<b>426</b>	239
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	18	<b>(99)</b>	<i>(245)</i>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		<b>327</b>	<i>(6)</i>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<b>1,546</b>	<i>1,552</i>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	19, 20	<b>1,873</b>	<i>1,546</i>

The notes on pages 35 to 63 form part of these financial statements

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**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**1. Accounting policies**

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

**1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements**

The financial statements of the academy, 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 2023 to 2024 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

**1.2 Going concern**

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the academy 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 has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.3 Income**

All incoming resources are recognised when the academy 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.

• **Sponsorship income**

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

• **Donations**

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

• **Other income**

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

• **Donated goods, facilities and services**

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

**1.4 Expenditure**

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**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

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's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the academy apportioned to charitable activities.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

**1.5 Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the academy; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

**1.6 Taxation**

The academy 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 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.

**1.7 Tangible fixed assets**

Assets costing £2,500 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.7 Tangible fixed assets (continued)**

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Long-term leasehold property	- over terms of PFI agreement
Furniture and equipment	- 20% straight line
Computer equipment	- 25% straight line

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

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

**1.8 Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

**1.9 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.

**1.10 Liabilities**

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the academy 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.



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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.11 Financial instruments**

The academy only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the academy 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 13. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the academy'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 14. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to the academy's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

**1.12 Pensions**

Retirement benefits to employees of the academy 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 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 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.

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**PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.13 Fund accounting**

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the academy 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.

**2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment**

Estimates and judgments 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 21, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

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**3. Income from donations and capital grants**

	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £000</b>	<b>Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £000</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £000</b>
Donations	12	-	12
Capital Grants	-	17	17
	12	17	29
	12	17	29
	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £000</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £000</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £000</i>
Donations	4	-	4
Grants	-	51	51
	4	51	55
	4	51	55

**4. Funding for the academy's charitable activities**

	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £000</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £000</b>
<b>Direct costs</b>		
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>		
General Annual Grant (GAG)	5,971	5,971
Other DfE/ESFA grants		
Other DfE/ESFA grants	512	512
Local Authority grants	196	196
	6,679	6,679
	6,679	6,679
	6,679	6,679
	6,679	6,679
	6,679	6,679

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**4. Funding for the academy's charitable activities (continued)**

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £000</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £000</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £000</i>
<b>Direct costs</b>			
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	5,764	5,764
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	347	347
Local Authority grants	62	55	117
	<u>62</u>	<u>6,166</u>	<u>6,228</u>
	<u>62</u>	<u>6,166</u>	<u>6,228</u>
	<u>62</u>	<u>6,166</u>	<u>6,228</u>

**5. Income from other trading activities**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £000</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £000</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £000</b>
Sales and mentoring income	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>
	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £000</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £000</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £000</i>
Sales and mentoring income	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>

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**6. Investment income**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £000</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £000</b>
Investment income	28	28
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £000</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £000</i>
Investment income - local cash	17	17
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**7. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	<b>Direct costs 2024 £000</b>	<b>Support costs 2024 £000</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £000</b>
Direct costs	4,313	13	4,326
Support costs	-	2,219	2,219
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	<u>4,313</u>	<u>2,232</u>	<u>6,545</u>

	<i>Activities undertaken directly 2023 £000</i>	<i>Support costs 2023 £000</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £000</i>
Direct costs	4,149	19	4,168
Support costs	-	2,015	2,015
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	<u>4,149</u>	<u>2,034</u>	<u>6,183</u>

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**7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of direct costs**

	<b>Direct costs</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>2024</b>	<b>funds</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>£000</b>
Pension finance costs	25	<b>25</b>
Staff costs	3,781	<b>3,781</b>
Depreciation	241	<b>241</b>
Other staff costs	23	<b>23</b>
Educational supplies	170	<b>170</b>
Examination fees	59	<b>59</b>
Staff development	14	<b>14</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>4,313</b>	<b>4,313</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	<i>Direct costs</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>2023</i>	<i>funds</i>
	<i>£000</i>	<i>2023</i>
		<i>£000</i>
Pension finance costs	52	52
Staff costs	3,489	3,489
Depreciation	258	258
Other staff costs	20	20
Educational supplies	239	239
Examination fees	69	69
Pupil recruitment	2	2
Staff development	20	20
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>4,149</b>	<b>4,149</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of support costs**

	<b>Support costs 2024 £000</b>	<b>Support costs 2024 £000</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £000</b>
Staff costs	-	665	<b>665</b>
PFI charges	-	823	<b>823</b>
Repairs and maintenance	-	18	<b>18</b>
Heat, light, water and waste disposal	-	227	<b>227</b>
Rates	-	20	<b>20</b>
Legal and professional	-	115	<b>115</b>
Insurance	-	15	<b>15</b>
Catering	-	155	<b>155</b>
Printing, postage, stationary and telephone	-	16	<b>16</b>
IT expenditure and support	-	80	<b>80</b>
Agency staff costs	-	85	<b>85</b>
Governance costs	13	-	<b>13</b>
	<u>13</u>	<u>2,219</u>	<u><b>2,232</b></u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of support costs (continued)**

	<i>Direct costs</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>2023</i>	<i>costs</i>	<i>funds</i>
	<i>£000</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2023</i>
		<i>£000</i>	<i>£000</i>
Staff costs	-	614	614
PFI charges	-	790	790
Repairs and maintenance	-	5	5
Heat, light, water and waste disposal	-	164	164
Rates	-	17	17
Legal and professional	-	76	76
Insurance	-	20	20
Catering	-	122	122
Other support costs	-	3	3
Hospitality	-	2	2
Printing, postage, stationary and telephone	-	20	20
IT expenditure and support	-	76	76
Agency staff costs	-	106	106
Governance costs	19	-	19
	<u>19</u>	<u>2,015</u>	<u>2,034</u>



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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**8. Net income/(expenditure)**

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	<b>2024</b>	<i>2023</i>
	<b>£000</b>	<i>£000</i>
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<b>241</b>	<i>258</i>
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	<b>10</b>	<i>9</i>
	<u><b>10</b></u>	<u><i>9</i></u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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**9. Staff**

**a. Staff costs and employee benefits**

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<i>2023</i>
	<b>£000</b>	<i>£000</i>
Wages and salaries	<b>3,366</b>	<i>3,094</i>
Social security costs	<b>214</b>	<i>321</i>
Pension costs	<b>866</b>	<i>687</i>
Agency staff costs	<b>85</b>	<i>106</i>
	<hr/> <b>4,531</b>	<hr/> <i>4,208</i>
	<hr/> <b>4,531</b> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>4,208</i> <hr/>

**b. Staff numbers**

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

	<b>2024</b>	<i>2023</i>
	<b>No.</b>	<i>No.</i>
Teachers	<b>49</b>	<i>48</i>
Administration and support	<b>39</b>	<i>37</i>
Management	<b>4</b>	<i>4</i>
	<hr/> <b>92</b>	<hr/> <i>89</i>
	<hr/> <b>92</b> <hr/>	<hr/> <i>89</i> <hr/>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**9. Staff (continued)**

**c. Higher paid staff**

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

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>=====</b>	<b>=====</b>

**d. Key management personnel**

The key management personnel of the academy 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 was £477,219 (2023 restated - £496,843).

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**10. Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

One or more Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy. The principal and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		<b>2024</b>	<i>2023</i>
		<b>£000</b>	<i>£000</i>
Mrs L Ayling, Headteacher & Accounting Officer	Remuneration	<b>105 - 110</b>	<i>95 - 100</i>
	Pension contributions paid	<b>25 - 30</b>	<i>20 - 25</i>
Mr J Morris, Teacher Governor	Remuneration	<b>60 - 65</b>	<i>25 - 30</i>
	Pension contributions paid	<b>15 - 20</b>	<i>5 - 10</i>
Mrs H Byrne, Support Staff Governor (resigned 31 December 2023)	Remuneration	<b>5 - 10</b>	<i>10 - 15</i>
	Pension contributions paid	<b>0 - 5</b>	<i>0 - 5</i>
Mr A Green, Support Staff Governor (appointed 1 March 2024)	Remuneration	<b>10 - 15</b>	
	Pension contributions paid	<b>0 - 5</b>	

During the year ended 31 August 2024, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (*2023 - £NIL*).

**11. Trustees' and Officers' insurance**

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim. The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost for the year but is not separately identifiable (as in the prior year).

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**12. Tangible fixed assets**

	Long-term leasehold property £000	Furniture and equipment £000	Computer equipment £000	Total £000
<b>Cost or valuation</b>				
At 1 September 2023	1,649	323	654	2,626
Additions	-	94	52	146
Disposals	-	-	(37)	(37)
At 31 August 2024	<u>1,649</u>	<u>417</u>	<u>669</u>	<u>2,735</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 September 2023	624	207	573	1,404
Charge for the year	140	60	43	243
On disposals	-	-	(37)	(37)
At 31 August 2024	<u>764</u>	<u>267</u>	<u>579</u>	<u>1,610</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 August 2024	<u><u>885</u></u>	<u><u>150</u></u>	<u><u>90</u></u>	<u><u>1,125</u></u>
At 31 August 2023	<u><u>1,025</u></u>	<u><u>116</u></u>	<u><u>81</u></u>	<u><u>1,222</u></u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**13. Debtors**

	<b>2024</b>	<i>2023</i>
	<b>£000</b>	<i>£000</i>
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Other debtors	<b>137</b>	<i>138</i>
Prepayments and accrued income	<b>198</b>	<i>186</i>
	<b>335</b>	<i>324</i>

**14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2024</b>	<i>2023</i>
	<b>£000</b>	<i>£000</i>
Trade creditors	<b>362</b>	<i>223</i>
Other taxation and social security	<b>79</b>	<i>77</i>
Other creditors	<b>107</b>	<i>99</i>
Accruals and deferred income	<b>88</b>	<i>135</i>
	<b>636</b>	<i>534</i>

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**15. Statement of funds**

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £000
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds - all funds	1,080	34	-	-	-	1,114
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
Restricted Funds - all funds	254	6,636	(6,304)	(128)	-	458
Pension reserve	(579)	57	-	-	72	(450)
	(325)	6,693	(6,304)	(128)	72	8
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Class II Restricted Funds - all funds	1,221	17	(241)	128	-	1,125
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	896	6,710	(6,545)	-	72	1,133
<b>Total funds</b>	1,976	6,744	(6,545)	-	72	2,247

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**15. Statement of funds (continued)**

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

The restricted general fund includes grants receivable from the ESFA, DfE, local authority and other government grants to be used for the primary activity of the charitable company.

The fixed asset fund relates to the grants received and assets donated/transferred in and are held for the charitable company's primary activity.

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

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2024.

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



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	<i>Balance at 1 September 2022 £000</i>	<i>Income £000</i>	<i>Expenditure £000</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £000</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £000</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2023 £000</i>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds - all funds	996	84	-	-	-	1,080
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
Restricted Funds - all funds	234	6,174	(6,667)	(262)	775	254
Pension reserve	(1,321)	-	742	-	-	(579)
	(1,087)	6,174	(5,925)	(262)	775	(325)
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Class II Restricted Funds - all funds	1,166	51	(258)	262	-	1,221
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	79	6,225	(6,183)	-	775	896
<b>Total funds</b>	1,075	6,309	(6,183)	-	775	1,976

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**16. Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current period**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £000</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £000</b>	<b>Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £000</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £000</b>
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	1,125	<b>1,125</b>
Current assets	1,114	1,094	-	<b>2,208</b>
Creditors due within one year	-	(636)	-	<b>(636)</b>
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(450)	-	<b>(450)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<u>1,114</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1,125</u>	<u><b>2,247</b></u>

**Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period**

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £000</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £000</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £000</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £000</i>
Tangible fixed assets		-	1,222	1,222
Current assets	1,080	788	-	1,868
Creditors due within one year	-	(534)	-	(534)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(579)	-	(579)
<b>Total</b>	<u>1,079</u>	<u>(325)</u>	<u>1,221</u>	<u>1,975</u>

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**17. Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Net income for the period (as per Statement of financial activities)	<b>199</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation	<b>241</b>	<b>258</b>
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	<b>(17)</b>	<b>(51)</b>
Interest receivable	<b>(29)</b>	<b>(17)</b>
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	<b>(82)</b>	<b>(16)</b>
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	<b>25</b>	<b>51</b>
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	<b>(11)</b>	<b>-</b>
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	<b>102</b>	<b>(112)</b>
Rounding	<b>(2)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>239</b>

**18. Cash flows from investing activities**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	<b>28</b>	<b>17</b>
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	<b>(144)</b>	<b>(313)</b>
Capital grants from DfE Group	<b>17</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(99)</b>	<b>(245)</b>

**19. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Cash in hand and at bank	<b>1,873</b>	<b>1,546</b>
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>1,873</b>	<b>1,546</b>

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**20. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	<b>At 1 September 2023 £000</b>	<b>Cash flows £000</b>	<b>At 31 August 2024 £000</b>
Cash at bank and in hand	1,544	329	1,873
	<u>1,544</u>	<u>329</u>	<u>1,873</u>

**21. Pension commitments**

The academy'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 Merseyside Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £91,174 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 (2023 - £75,274) 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.

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**21. 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 ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies 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 27 October 2023, with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation outcome are:

- employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy) from 1 April 2024
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of 222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £584,975 (2023 - £490,797).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/public-news/2023/10/valuation-result.aspx>).

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The academy has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The academy 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 2024 was £222,000 (2023 - £273,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £164,000 (2023 - £217,000) and employees' contributions totalled £58,000 (2023 - £56,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.6 per cent for employers and between 5.5 and 12.5 per cent for employees.

As described in note the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the academy, 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 at the balance sheet date.

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

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**21. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Principal actuarial assumptions**

	<b>2024</b>	<i>2023</i>
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	<b>4.1</b>	4.3
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	<b>2.7</b>	2.9
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	<b>5</b>	5.3
Inflation assumption (CPI)	<b>2.6</b>	2.8

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

	<b>2024</b>	<i>2023</i>
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	<b>22</b>	22.1
Females	<b>25.1</b>	25.1
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	<b>20.8</b>	20.8
Females	<b>23.4</b>	23.3

**Sensitivity analysis**

	<b>2024</b>	<i>2023</i>
	£000	£000
Discount rate +0.5% (2022: +0.1%)	<b>16</b>	183
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	<b>557</b>	673
CPI rate +0.25% (2022: +0.1%)	<b>498</b>	623
Inflation +0.25% (2022: +0.1%)	<b>683</b>	791

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**21. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Share of scheme assets**

The academy's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	<b>At 31 August 2024 £000</b>	<i>At 31 August 2023 £000</i>
Equities	2,367	2,045
Property	503	472
Cash and other liquid assets	67	43
Other	1,224	1,077
Debt instruments	290	295
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>4,451</b>	<b>3,932</b>

The actual return on scheme assets was £342,000 (2023 - £125,000).

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

	<b>2024 £000</b>	<i>2023 £000</i>
Current service cost	(142)	(194)
Interest cost	(25)	(52)
Administrative expenses	(5)	(4)
<b>Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities</b>	<b>(172)</b>	<b>(250)</b>

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

	<b>2024 £000</b>	<i>2023 £000</i>
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>4,511</b>	<b>4,725</b>
Current service cost	142	194
Interest cost	238	202
Employee contributions	59	56
Actuarial losses/(gains)	58	(584)
Benefits paid	(107)	(82)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>4,901</b>	<b>4,511</b>

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**21. Pension commitments (continued)**

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

	<b>2024</b>	<i>2023</i>
	<b>£000</b>	<i>£000</i>
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>3,932</b>	<i>3,404</i>
Expected return on assets	<b>213</b>	<i>150</i>
Actuarial gains	<b>130</b>	<i>191</i>
Employer contributions	<b>224</b>	<i>213</i>
Employee contributions	<b>59</b>	<i>56</i>
Benefits paid	<b>(107)</b>	<i>(82)</i>
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>4,451</b>	<i>3,932</i>

**22. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 August 2024 the academy had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<i>2023</i>
	<b>£000</b>	<i>£000</i>
Not later than 1 year	<b>396</b>	<i>396</i>
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	<b>1,575</b>	<i>1,579</i>
Later than 5 years	<b>780</b>	<i>1,170</i>
	<b>2,751</b>	<i>3,145</i>

**23. 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.



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**24. Related party transactions**

Owing to the nature of the academy 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.

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Mr J. Fraser - cover for maternity leave	-	6,049
Mr J. Fraser - attendance review ahead of OFSTED inspection	-	1,600
Mr J. Fraser - cover for SLT absence	-	8,910
Mr J. Fraser - professional coaching	-	1,700
Mr J. Fraser - consultancy work on school improvement projects	<b>13,950</b>	-
	<hr/> <b>13,950</b> <hr/>	<hr/> <b>18,259</b> <hr/>

Mr J. Fraser is the spouse of Mrs G. Fraser, Deputy Headteacher (resigned 30 April 2024).

During the year, Mr Fraser was paid by the School, on a self-employed basis, to cover a vacancy in the senior leadership team between October and December 2023 following the resignation of a previous assistant headteacher in April 2023. Mr Fraser was engaged to lead two school improvement projects until a new assistant headteacher could be employed. As a new assistant headteacher could not be secured by January 2024 following an open recruitment process, Mr Fraser was subsequently employed by the School on a short-term basis as SLT support from 1 January 2024 until his resignation on 15 February 2024.

These transactions were conducted in accordance with the School's financial regulations and procurement procedures. The appointment was not made without first seeking to source agency staff and being unable to secure the appropriate staffing resource.

As the value of the transactions falls below the £40,000 limit specified in section 5.42 of the Academy Trust Handbook 2023, prior approval was not sought from ESFA, however ESFA was notified in advance of the agreement commencing, as required by the Academy Trust Handbook.

Prior to the commencement of the consultancy work performed by Mr J. Fraser, the school requested quotes from local consultancy firms. The School was unable to find any local consultants with the required skill and knowledge that would be able to perform the work. The total amount paid by the School was £13,950. Management considered that the School was securing value for money given Mr Fraser's credentials as a retired Headteacher and his prior work for the School in 2022-23.

