

LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Members

John O'Shea
Andrew Coker
Darren Cross

Trustees

Darren Cross ¹ Chair of Trust Board
Anthony Davenport ¹
Eleanor Eames ¹ appointed 1 September 2023
Alison Fiala
Heather Kinzett ¹
Paul Lincoln
Rachel Pritchard ¹
Andrew Smith ¹
Chris Smith
Claire Russell ¹
Steve Whitfield
Ryan Percy

¹ Member of the Financial committee at local governing body level

Senior Management Team

Learning Pathways Academy	Andrew Smith, CEO
Lyons Hall Primary School	Rachel Pritchard, Headteacher
	Peter Stafford, Deputy Head
White Hall Academy	Ellie Eames, Headteacher
	Lucy MacNaughtan, Deputy Head
Braiswick Primary School	Claire Russell, Headteacher
	Carla Lillicrop, Deputy Head

Company Name	Learning Pathways Academy
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Principle and Registered Office	Lyons Hall Primary School Deerleap Way Braintree Essex CM7 9FH
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Company Registration Number	07984238 (England and Wales)
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Independent Auditor	MHA Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors 910 The Crescent Colchester Business Park Colchester CO4 9YQ
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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
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Bankers	Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking PO Box 1000 BX1 1LT
Solicitors	Brait Limited 67 Lapins Lane Kings Hill West Mailing Kent ME19 4LE

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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

The Trust operates 3 primary academies in Braintree, Clacton and Colchester. Its academies have a combined pupil capacity of 1860 and had a roll of 1681 in the school census on 18 January 2024. Each academy set their own admissions criteria annually, agreed by the local governing bodies, with Looked After Children being priority 1 for all three. All admissions received by the deadline are ranked according to the agreed criteria and admitted up to the published admission number.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The trustees of Learning Pathways Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as Lyons Hall Primary School, White Hall Academy and Nursery and Braiswick Primary School.

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 pages 1 and 2.

Members' Liability

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

Trustees' Indemnities

Trustees benefit from indemnity insurance to cover the liability of the Trustees 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.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

Trustees are recruited and appointed or elected as outlined in the academy's articles of association paragraphs 45-63.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

The induction programme for new Trustees would involve a tour of the school, meetings with students and staff and provision of policy and procedures documents that are appropriate to their role. The Board of Trustees meet regularly and any training needs are identified at this time. Trustees will receive training on all matters necessary to enable them to perform their duties effectively.

Organisational Structure

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the Academy by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the Academy, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The Trustees have delegated responsibilities to local governing body committees as outlined in each committee's terms of reference. These committees are Finance & Premises and Curriculum & Personnel.

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The leadership team consisted of the following:

Lyons Hall Primary School

Andrew Smith	Executive Headteacher
Rachel Pritchard	Headteacher
Peter Stafford	Deputy Headteacher

White Hall Academy

Andrew Smith	Executive Headteacher
Ellie Eames	Headteacher
Lucy MacNaughtan	Deputy Headteacher

Braiswick Primary School

Andrew Smith	Executive Headteacher
Claire Russell	Headteacher
Carla Lillicrop	Deputy Headteacher

The team control the Academies at an executive level implementing policies and reporting to the Trust Board. The Leadership Team is responsible for the day to day operation of the Academies, in particular organising staff, resources and children. They are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and for the appointment of staff following vetting and safeguarding recruitment processes. The CEO is the Accounting Officer.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Academy Trust follows the recommended national pay structures for both Teachers and Local Government and updates the pay policy each year to reflect those changes, also complying with the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD). Salary ranges for the Leadership Team are based on the Group size of each school which is set using the table within the STPCD. Any salary changes are approved by the Local Governing Body of each school through the delegated authority from the Trust board.

Trade union facility time

One member of staff undertook union duties totalling 90 days during the period September 2023 to July 2024. These days were fully reimbursed by Essex County Council at a rate of £170 per day.

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

Learning Pathways Academy is part of the Professional Learning Network which promotes the training and development of teachers both within the network of schools and beyond.

The Trust works with; Essex Primary SCITT and NETT for the provision of school leadership training and student teacher placements, Saffron Teaching School Hub for the provision of Early Career Framework and Teach First and Ambition Institute on the delivery of NPQ.

Paul Lincoln has provided educational consultancy to the Trust Leadership team with his wife Susan Kerfoot since 2014. Paul Lincoln was elected to the board in July 2016.

Scrutton Bland, a company which employs Ryan Percy, provides support with the transition of finance systems.

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The Academy Trust is committed to equal opportunities in employment and to avoiding unlawful discrimination in all aspects of employment including recruitment, promotion, opportunities for training, pay and benefits, discipline and dismissal, performance and selection for redundancy.

The Academy Trust makes reasonable adjustments in the recruitment and employment of disabled people. This includes adjustments to recruitment and selection procedures, to terms and conditions of employment, to

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

working arrangements and physical changes to the premises or equipment. In assessing the reasonableness of the adjustment, the Trust considers:

- proportionality and impact of the adjustment on the role;
- the costs/financial support available;
- medical opinion from the employee's doctor and the occupational health advisor; and
- impact on the operational requirements of the school.

Employee consultation takes place throughout the year with respect to pay, policy and procedures through direct email communication, notices and meetings.

Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with a trust

Learning Pathways Academy undertakes continuous reviews and communication with all suppliers, partners and community stakeholders. The Trustees adopted Vision and Values ensure that integrity, accountability and respect is fostered in all our objectives and activities. Suppliers are predominantly selected from Government frameworks, known education and public sector suppliers, or through recommendations from other schools and Trusts. Robust procurement procedures are in place, with reviews completed by the internal and external auditors.

The Trust maintains strong business relationships with the local authority, local councils, other local and regional education providers and Multi Academy Trusts.

Learning Pathways Academy provides appropriate mediums for communication with staff, parents and students via websites, letters, communication systems, face to face communication and other literature such as progress reports and parents' evenings.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and Aims

The Trust will provide:

- Excellence in standards for all members of the Academy Community pursued with courage and relentless commitment.
- Collaboration at every level between individuals, teams and academies.
- Outstanding leadership at all levels; valuing and nurturing the contribution of every member of the academy community and planning for succession.
- Outstanding continuous professional development at all levels.
- An outward looking culture - searching for even better answers and innovating with courage.

The Trust will:

- Value the unique identity of each member of the Trust community.
- Underpin all of the above with a strong moral purpose.

The Academies within the trust will provide:

- Successful and aspirational learning
- Learning provision that actively engages all pupils and offers a sense of fulfilment, enjoyment and challenge.
- Personalised learning that gives enjoyable opportunities for creativity and problem solving.
- Active learning in which there are rich opportunities for learning outside the classroom.
- A resource rich environment that reflects the needs of the pupils and adults.
- Pupil involvement in learning with a strong focus on learning to learn and responsiveness to different learning styles.
- High expectations for learning and behaviour which manifest in a strong ethos of mutual respect from and for all members of the school and wider community.

TRUSTEES' REPORT
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- A curriculum that is responsive to a changing world.
- A strong focus on the individual and SEAL which is embedded in the curriculum.
- An ICT rich, real and virtual environment with a strategic approach to the development of aspirations.
- A positive, physical and emotional learning environment which is safe and nurturing.
- A supportive environment in which children are open to new experiences and feel able to take risks and celebrate mistakes as learning opportunities.
- Support for all members of the community in the continuing skills for life development in order to make a positive contribution locally.
- A highly inclusive environment where every member of the school community is able to access learning and support.
- A focus for sustained extended school services and multi-agency support to all support groups to achieve their potential.
- A strong collaborative ethos, within and between the staff, pupils and the wider community which manifests itself in teamwork, partnerships and learning with and from each other.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

Objectives for the Academic Year 2024/25:

1. To improve the quality of teaching
2. To improve the rates of progress and attainment
3. To ensure Pupil Premium children make better than expected progress
4. To work in partnership with Essex Local Authority and other agencies to improve education across Essex and beyond
5. To work in partnership with North East Essex Collaborative Academy to help develop a clear system of support for children at risk of exclusion and within alternative provisions to reintegrate effectively into mainstream education (GROW provision)
6. To work in partnership with The Sigma Trust to improve education across Colchester and Tendring
7. To implement and develop strategies to support children who are not at where they should be on terms of age expected.
8. To develop reading across our schools and beyond
9. Working in partnership with a variety of academy chains, Unity TSH, maintained schools and Essex Local Authority to deliver NPQ's and Early Career Framework
10. To fully embrace Research School status and develop practice and research in line with priorities identified by the Research School Network.

Strategies to achieve objectives:

1. Strategic and effective recruitment plan for new staff
2. Collaboration and sharing of resources and expertise across the Trust
3. At senior management expanding into governor level the development and understanding of the trust principles and practices (facilitated by Paul Lincoln and Sue Kerfoot)
4. Creative and Outstanding Teacher Programme
5. Hive Learning platform, used for reading
6. Kagan pupil engagement
7. Visible Learning
8. Coaching
9. Developing phonics
10. Spelling Programme
11. Reading Programme
12. Research School

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Public Benefit

The key public benefit delivered by Learning Pathways Academy is to maintain and develop the high-quality educational provision for children in Braintree, Clacton and Colchester. The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievements and Performance

The 2024 data for Key Stage 1 is based on teacher assessments following the discontinuation of statutory examinations.

Lyons Hall Primary School

Overall achievement at this school is good because:

- The proportion of children attaining the expected standard and higher standard at the end of KS2 is consistently above the national average over a sustained period of time.
- Pupils achieve well because they demonstrate good learning behaviours and receive very good teaching.

(ARE – Age Related Expectations, GD – Greater Depth)

Early Years	School 2024	National 2024	School 2023	National 2023
GLD	76%	68%	84%	67%

Key Stage 1	School 2024	National 2024	School 2023	National 2023
Reading	ARE = 86% GD = 34%	ARE = 71% GD = 19%	ARE = 87% GD = 27%	ARE = 68% GD = 19%
Writing	ARE = 78% GD = 7%	ARE = 62% GD = 8%	ARE = 80% GD = 10%	ARE = 60% GD = 8%
Maths	ARE = 80% GD = 11%	ARE = 71% GD = 16%	ARE = 87% GD = 23%	ARE = 70% GD = 16%

Year 1 Phonics Test	School 2024	National 2024	School 2023	National 2023
Pupils passed	93%	80%	97%	79%

Key Stage 2	School 2024	National 2024	School 2023	National 2023
Reading	ARE = 83% GD = 33%	ARE = 74% GD = 28%	ARE = 84% GD = 29%	ARE = 73% GD = 29%
Writing	ARE = 84% GD = 21%	ARE = 72% GD = 13%	ARE = 83% GD = 23%	ARE = 71% GD = 13%
Maths	ARE = 90% GD = 37%	ARE = 73% GD = 24%	ARE = 95% GD = 40%	ARE = 73% GD = 24%
SPAG	ARE = 89% GD = 43%	ARE = 72% GD = 32%	ARE = 90% GD = 48%	ARE = 72% GD = 30%
Combined	ARE = 75% GD = 13%	ARE = 61% GD = 8%	ARE = 72% GD = 10%	ARE = 59% GD = 8%

Year 4	25/25	23 +	20+	9-19+
Multiplication				
Times Tables	67%	94%	99%	100%
Check	59/88 pupils	83/88 pupils	87/88 pupils	88/88 pupils

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White Hall Academy

Overall achievement at this school is good because:

- The number of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development is below the National figure by 7%. This is due to an increase of children with additional needs which is evident through the creation of SEN provisions within the school.
- The number of pupils passing the national phonics check is below the national figure by 9%. This is due to a high level of SEND pupils who were unable to access the test.
- Progress rates of the three core subjects at the end of KS2 are at least in line with national average.
- Pupil Premium outcomes were higher than non-PP in reading, writing and maths.
- Progress rates for Pupil Premium children were higher than non-PP in reading and maths.

(ARE – Age Related Expectations, GD – Greater Depth)

Early Years	School 2024	National 2024	School 2023	National 2023
GLD	53%	68%	60%	67%

Key Stage 1	School 2024	National 2024	School 2023	National 2023
Reading	ARE = 71% GD = 1%	ARE = 71% GD = 19%	ARE = 63% GD = 6%	ARE = 68% GD = 19%
Writing	ARE = 69% GD = 2%	ARE = 62% GD = 8%	ARE = 54% GD = 0%	ARE = 60% GD = 8%
Maths	ARE = 71% GD = 2%	ARE = 71% GD = 16%	ARE = 62% GD = 8%	ARE = 70% GD = 16%

Year 1 Phonics Test	School 2024	National 2024	School 2023	National 2023
Pupils passed	71%	80%	70%	79%

Key Stage 2	School 2024	National 2024	School 2023	National 2023
Reading	ARE = 64% GD = 19%	ARE = 74% GD = 28%	ARE = 61% GD = 17%	ARE = 73% GD = 29%
Writing	ARE = 68% GD = 2%	ARE = 72% GD = 13%	ARE = 70% GD = 11%	ARE = 71% GD = 13%
Maths	ARE = 64% GD = 13%	ARE = 73% GD = 24%	ARE = 66% GD = 15%	ARE = 73% GD = 24%
SPAG	ARE = 56% GD = 11%	ARE = 72% GD = 32%	ARE = 64% GD = 11%	ARE = 72% GD = 30%
Combined	ARE = 50% GD = 2%	ARE = 61% GD = 8%	ARE = 52% GD = 3%	ARE = 59% GD = 8%

Year 4	25/25	23 +	20+	9-19+
Multiplication Times Tables Check	38% 34/90 pupils	54% 49/90 pupils	78% 70/90 pupils	96% 86/90 pupils

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Braiswick Primary School

Overall achievement at this school is good because:

- EYFS outcomes have improved against national and previous attainment.
- Phonics outcomes around the national average.
- Key Stage 2 outcomes were slightly above national average.

(ARE – Age Related Expectations, GD – Greater Depth)

Early Years	School 2024	National 2024	School 2023	National 2023
GLD	77%	68%	60%	67%

Key Stage 1	School 2024	National 2024	School 2023	National 2023
Reading	ARE = 63% GD = 14%	ARE = 71% GD = 19%	ARE = 48% GD = 8%	ARE = 68% GD = 19%
Writing	ARE = 47% GD = 7%	ARE = 62% GD = 8%	ARE = 28% GD = 5%	ARE = 60% GD = 8%
Maths	ARE = 65% GD = 4%	ARE = 71% GD = 16%	ARE = 48% GD = 8%	ARE = 70% GD = 16%

Year 1 Phonics Test	School 2024	National 2024	School 2023	National 2023
Pupils passed	79%	80%	80%	79%

Key Stage 2	School 2024	National 2024	School 2023	National 2023
Reading	ARE = 82% GD = 27%	ARE = 74% GD = 28%	ARE = 71% GD = 29%	ARE = 73% GD = 29%
Writing	ARE = 73% GD = 12%	ARE = 72% GD = 13%	ARE = 63% GD = 11%	ARE = 71% GD = 13%
Maths	ARE = 82% GD = 27%	ARE = 73% GD = 24%	ARE = 74% GD = 29%	ARE = 73% GD = 24%
SPAG	ARE = 77% GD = 33%	ARE = 72% GD = 32%	ARE = 74% GD = 35%	ARE = 72% GD = 30%
Combined	ARE = 67% GD = 61%	ARE = 61% GD = 8%	ARE = 52% GD = 8%	ARE = 59% GD = 8%

Year 4	25/25	23 +	20+	9-19+
Multiplication Times	39%	69%	85%	100%
Tables Check	24/61 pupils	42/61 pupils	52/61 pupils	61/61 pupils

Key Performance Indicators

The Trust uses the following key performance indicators:

- Pupil attainment and progress data
- Staff pay as a percentage of total expenditure
- Average teacher cost
- Pupil to teacher & total educational staff ratio
- Current Reserve & Contingencies
- Total payroll as a % of GAG & LA grant income
- % payroll split Teaching: Non-Teaching
- Cash flow balance

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

LA grant income is included with GAG funding for calculation with payroll costs as this significant value of income covers staffing costs. Cash flow and Reserves have seen a 3% reduction but the Trust remains in a very secure financial position.

Going Concern

Despite the financial pressure from rapidly increasing costs, the Trust has managed income and expenditure well to maintain a healthy financial position with reserves only slightly reducing by the year end. After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

Promoting the success of the company

The Trust has clear vision and values for all stakeholders which are published on our website. These confirm the Trust's role at the heart of our communities.

The annual accounts are also published on our website.

The Trust offers the letting of school premises to sports clubs, after school provisions and other community activities which helps promote health and mental wellbeing.

Our commitment to our current and potential employees is detailed on our website and staff surveys are regularly undertaken to ensure this is being met.

We recognise the need to maintain positive relationships with all our stakeholders as referred to in our engagement with suppliers, customers and others statement. Trustees and Governors also play a huge role in promoting the success of the business across our community.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The principal source of funding for the Academy is the General Annual Grant (GAG) funding that it receives from the ESFA. For the period ended 31 August 2024 the Academy Trust received £7,564,416 in GAG funding. A high percentage of this funding is spent on wages, salaries, and support costs to deliver the academy's primary objective of the provision of education.

The Trust approved the Pay Policy, Financial Regulations, Risk Register and Scheme of Delegation.

Inflationary pressure on staffing, fuel and food costs and other expenditure areas throughout has been greater this year and without an equivalent increase in funding the Trust's reserves have reduced by 3%.

All Trust schools have continued to offer school-based tuition using current staff.

We have used expertise from within the Trust to focus on developing phonics across the three schools.

A CIF grant was used to replace the boiler and heating system in Lyons Hall.

Expenditure around the premises on playground equipment, kitchens, roof and lighting has maintained safe school environments for pupils, staff and visitors.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees review the cash reserve levels of the Academy. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves.

The Trustees believe that the current reserve level provides sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance. It also enables the Trust to deal with the unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance.

The Academy Trust's current level of free reserves (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds) is £1,711,548 and restricted reserves is £777,235 (excluding pension funds and fixed asset funds).

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At 31 August 2024 the total funds comprised:

Unrestricted		£1,711,548
Restricted:	Fixed asset funds	£15,448,687
	Pension reserve	£nil
	Other	£777,235
		<u>£17,937,470</u>

The fair value of the pension plan assets at 31 August 2024 is £9,477k, which is £1,036k in excess of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at that date of £8,441k. This surplus of £1,036k is recognised in the financial statements only to the extent that the academy trust can recover that surplus, either through a reduction in future contributions or through a refund to the academy trust.

Following discussions with actuaries and consultations, the academy trust is not able to determine that future contributions will be reduced. It is not possible for the academy trust to receive a refund, as the conditions for this have not been met. Therefore an asset ceiling surplus of £1,036k is not recognised as an asset at 31 August 2024 as the academy trust is not able to determine that the academy trust will benefit from reduced future contributions or by a refund in the foreseeable future. Further details are provided in note 27.

Investment Policy

The Academy has a policy of investing its cash balances with a view to maximising returns, but where greater weight is assigned to the safety of the investment. The policy aims to invest cash such that its cash balances and liquid investments at least equal the figure outlined in the reserves policy

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The trustees assess the principal risks and uncertainties facing the Academy as follows:

Premises:

White Hall has been identified as having an area of RAAC. Extensive surveys were undertaken which identified suitable mitigation works had already been undertaken and a small amount of additional work to increase the safety of the building was completed. Surveys continue on a three-monthly basis along with regular communication with the DfE project team. The RAAC has been classified as 'Phase 2' which means rebuilding in 2-4 years.

A fire at White Hall Academy on 29th August 2024 left 3 classrooms and some communal areas of the school inaccessible. Works have been undertaken to make the area safe and this part will be demolished in the near future.

Following co-ordination between government departments the school has been included on the School Rebuild Programme and will be rebuilt within the next 2 years.

Staff retention and recruitment:

The quality of staff (both teaching and support) is crucial in sustaining the high achievements of the academies. Recruitment has become an issue throughout the education sector. The Trust addresses this risk with the emphasis on high quality, personalised professional development for all staff and the provision of free online access for all staff to Education Support which offers a range of confidential emotional and practical support.

Falling rolls:

Unlikely: Lyons Hall and White Hall are oversubscribed and hold a waiting list for admissions. Braiswick is full or over PAN in Years 2 to 6 with a bulge year in Year 3. The opening of a new school in Colchester has impacted pupil numbers for Years 1 and Reception but mid-year admission requests continue to be received for these year groups.

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Budget pressures:

We are now in a period of high inflation including energy costs and higher than anticipated staff pay increases. Funding is not increasing at the same rate as inflation. It will be important to balance expenditure on educational provision with available funding and reserves.

Due to the accounting rules for the Local Government Pension Scheme under FRS17, previously the Academy Trust has recognised a significant pension fund deficit balances. These do not mean that an immediate liability for this amount crystallises and that such a deficit generally results in a cash flow effect in the form of increased employer contributions over a number of years. The recognition of this deficit has no direct impact on the free reserves of the Academy Trust. However, as explained above, the pension fund is currently in an asset position, regardless the risk remains that in future years it may fall back into a net deficit position and thus is considered as a risk.

Fundraising

All Trust schools have parent run Friends Associations who organise fundraising activities such as Fetes, Quiz Nights, children's competitions and other social events on behalf of the academies. Funds raised are used to purchase specific items of educational, sports or play equipment as discussed with each academy. Each Association is a separate registered charity, holds annual AGM's and reports directly to the Charities Commission. No complaints have been received with regards to any fundraising activities.

STREAMLINED ENERGY AND CARBON REPORTING

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period	1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024	1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	1,030,043	1,137,571
Energy consumption break down (kWh) (optional) - gas, - electricity - transport fuel		
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u> Gas consumption Owned transport – mini-buses <u>Total scope 1</u>	 115.30 0 115.30	 128.14 0 128.14
<u>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u> Purchased electricity	 82.75	 88.15
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u> Business travel in employee owned vehicles	 5.41	 6.39
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e <u>Intensity ratio</u>	203.46	222.67
TonnesCO ₂ e per pupil	0.12	0.13
Quantification and Reporting Methodology:-		

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We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2024 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

Intensity measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

Complete heating system replacement and new boilers. Video conferencing continues where appropriate for meetings/training to reduce the need for business travel. Lights are on a sensor and switch off automatically. Older lighting will be replaced with LED. Heating systems are on a timer. Solar panels generate 13.9% energy on one site.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The Academy Trust will continue striving to improve the levels of performance of all pupils at all levels. The Trustees recognise that through good financial management they will be able to invest in and improve the quality of educational provision.

The Academy Trust will continue working in partnership with The Sigma Trust, Essex Local Authority, Research School Network and local schools to develop educational opportunities for children in Essex and across the Eastern region including executive headships and secondments.

The Academy Trust will continue to deliver National Professional Qualifications and Early Career Framework. Lyons Hall will provide support and expertise via the Research School Network and Unity TSH.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

South Tendring Primary Partnership is a cluster of 14 schools working together for the provision of training and school improvement. The balance at August 2024 is £79,380.

AUDITOR

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

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

Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 11th December 2024 and signed on the board's behalf by:



Darren Cross
Chair of Trust Board

Date: 11/12/2024

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

As trustees we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Learning Pathways Academy 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 CEO 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 Learning Pathways Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

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 3 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
Darren Cross, Chair	2	3
Anthony Davenport	2	3
Eleanor Eames	3	3
Alison Fiala	3	3
Heather Kinzett	2	3
Paul Lincoln	3	3
Ryan Percy	3	3
Rachel Pritchard	3	3
Claire Russell	3	3
Andrew Smith	3	3
Chris Smith	3	3
Steve Whitfield	2	3

The board of trustees has maintained effective financial oversight of the Trust's funds during the period by receiving monthly management accounts including KPI's. Each academy headteacher and chair of local governing body is also a member of the board of trustees so provides further detailed insight of the financial performance of the individual academies from each termly local governing body meeting.

Conflicts of Interest are managed through the completion of Registers of Business Interests for all academies and the Trust Board. All Trustees, governors and staff with financial interactions complete a Declaration of Business Interests annually and any updates are recorded as a standing agenda item at each Board or local governing body meeting.

The board of trustees completes the School Resource Management Self-Assessment checklist annually and reviews the resultant action plan.

Responsibility is delegated to the local governing bodies through finance committees. There are representatives from all schools on the board of trustees which has therefore removed the need for a subcommittee of the Trust. The Trust has however bought in an internal audit service and reports from these reviews are presented at the local governing body meetings and to the audit committee.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The senior leadership team have continued to work with Paul Lincoln and Sue Kerfoot to review the governance of the trust through the development of its Vision and Values and greater depth regarding the 'non-negotiables'.

The **audit committee** is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to:

- maintain an oversight of the Academy Trust's (AT's) financial, governance, risk management and internal control systems.
- review internal audit reports and external audit management letter and ensure action plans are completed.
- report its findings termly and annually to the Trust Board and the Accounting Officer as a critical element of the AT's annual reporting requirements.

The committee is made up of each Chair of Local Governing Body and the Finance Director. Meetings are also attended by the CEO and LPAT Business Manager. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Darren Cross	2	2
Heather Kinzett	2	2
Anthony Davenport	2	2
Ryan Percy	2	2

REVIEW OF VALUE FOR MONEY

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

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

- The purchase of resources across the whole Trust thereby securing economies of scale, for example CPOMS and Clicker.
- Continually monitoring pupil progress and achievement against both internal targets and national levels. Ensuring staff are deployed effectively across the Trust to provide high quality teaching and learning, adult-pupil ratio and curriculum management.
- Obtaining quotes for goods and services above £5,000, reviewing annual contract prices and switching suppliers where better value is available.
- At every level across the Trust, applying the four principles of best value; Challenge, Compare, Consult, Compete.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Learning Pathways Academy Trust for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

CAPACITY TO HANDLE RISK

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 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 Trust's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:

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

The board of trustees has decided to buy-in an internal audit service from Edmund Carr LLP.

The internal audit service's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial systems. Based on the prior year audit findings report and internal scrutiny reports the board of trustees agreed a scope of works and the checks carried out in the current period included:

- review of purchase, payment and petty cash procedures
- review of payroll systems and procedures
- review of bank reconciliations
- review of budget procedures and financial returns
- review of risk register

The board of trustees receive reports, through the finance committees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities and prepares an annual summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress. The schedule of works was delivered as planned and findings and any remedial action has been presented to the local governing bodies and board of trustees for review.

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

As accounting officer, the CEO has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- the work of the internal audit service
- the work of the external auditor
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework

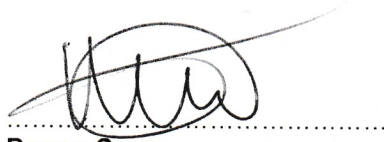
LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

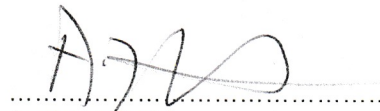
The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the audit committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 11 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Darren Cross
Chair of Trust



Andrew Smith
Accounting Officer

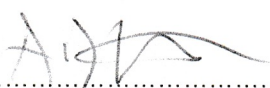
LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

As accounting officer of Learning Pathways Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust board of trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration, I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2023, including responsibility for estates and safety management.

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


.....

Andrew Smith
Accounting officer

11 December 2024

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

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 and signed on its behalf by:



Darren Cross
Chair of Trust Board

Date: 11 December 2024

LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Learning Pathways Academy (the 'charitable trust') 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 charitable Trust'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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY (CONTINUED)**

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's 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 charitable Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the 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.

LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY (CONTINUED)**

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY (CONTINUED)**

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

- Obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the entity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the financial statements;
- Enquiry of management to identify any instances of known or suspected instances of fraud;
- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Enquiry of management about any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Reviewing the control systems in place and testing the effectiveness of the controls;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias; and
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to access compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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

Use of our report

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

LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY (CONTINUED)**



Cara Miller ACCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

MHA

Statutory Auditor
Colchester, United Kingdom

Date: 23 December 2024

MHA is the trading name of MacIntyre Hudson LLP, a limited liability partnership in England and Wales (registered number OC312313).

LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 30 September 2024 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 Learning Pathways Academy 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 Learning Pathways Academy and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Learning Pathways Academy 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 Learning Pathways Academy and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Learning Pathways Academy's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Learning Pathways Academy's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 30 March 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.

LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

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 charitable Trust's income and expenditure.

The work undertaken to draw our conclusions includes:

- reviewing the Minutes of the Governing Body and other evidence made available to us, relevant to our consideration of regularity;
- a review of the objectives and activities of the Trust, with reference to the income streams and other information available to us as auditors;
- testing of a sample of payroll payments to staff;
- testing of a sample of payments to suppliers and other third parties;
- testing of a sample of grants received and other income streams;
- consideration of governance issues; and
- evaluating the internal control procedures and reporting lines, and testing as appropriate and making appropriate enquiries of the Accounting Officer.

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.



Reporting Accountant
MHA
Colchester, United Kingdom

Date: 23 December 2024

LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY
(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 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	4	5,038	-	31,100	36,138	655,565
Other trading activities	6	81,470	-	-	81,470	350,917
Investments	7	1,701	42,000	-	43,701	1,079
Charitable activities	5	121,753	10,974,723	-	11,096,476	10,699,996
Total income		209,962	11,016,723	31,100	11,257,785	11,707,557
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	9	324,307	10,578,803	581,479	11,484,589	11,612,089
Total expenditure		324,307	10,578,803	581,479	11,484,589	11,612,089
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		(114,345)	437,920	(550,379)	(226,804)	95,468
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes	27	-	(332,000)	-	(332,000)	1,387,000
Net movement in funds		(114,345)	105,920	(550,379)	(558,804)	1,482,468
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		1,825,893	671,315	15,999,066	18,496,274	17,013,806
Net movement in funds		(114,345)	105,920	(550,379)	(558,804)	1,482,468
Total funds carried forward		1,711,548	777,235	15,448,687	17,937,470	18,496,274

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

The notes on pages 30 to 64 form part of these financial statements.

LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 07984238

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	16	15,447,350	15,411,318
		<u>15,447,350</u>	<u>15,411,318</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	17	5,957	3,108
Debtors	18	582,793	1,169,653
Cash at bank and in hand	25	2,890,412	3,040,630
		<u>3,479,162</u>	<u>4,213,391</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	(794,989)	(1,024,277)
Net current assets		<u>2,684,173</u>	<u>3,189,114</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>18,131,523</u>	<u>18,600,432</u>
Provisions for liabilities	20	(194,053)	(104,158)
Total net assets		<u><u>17,937,470</u></u>	<u><u>18,496,274</u></u>
Funds of the charitable Trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	21	15,448,687	15,999,066
Restricted income funds	21	777,235	671,315
Total restricted funds	21	<u>16,225,922</u>	<u>16,670,381</u>
Unrestricted income funds	21	<u>1,711,548</u>	<u>1,825,893</u>
Total funds		<u><u>17,937,470</u></u>	<u><u>18,496,274</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 27 to 64 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by: *Darren Cross*

Date: *11/12/2024*



Chair of Trust Board

The notes on pages 30 to 64 form part of these financial statements.

LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	23	434,492	<i>(841,048)</i>
Cash flows from investing activities	24	(584,710)	580,664
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(150,218)	<i>(260,384)</i>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		3,040,630	3,301,014
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	25, 26	2,890,412	3,040,630

The notes on pages 30 to 64 form part of these financial statements

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

1. General information

Learning Pathways Academy is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales.

The address of the registered office and principal place of operation is detailed on page 1.

The nature of the Trust's operations and principal activity are detailed in the Trustees Report.

2. 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.

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

2.2 Going concern

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

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Income

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

- **Grants**

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

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

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

- **Donations**

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

2.4 Expenditure

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

- **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Interest receivable

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

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.6 Tangible fixed assets

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

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific 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:

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 2%
Long-term leasehold property	- 2%
Furniture and equipment	- 10 -20%
Computer equipment	- 33.3%

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.

2.7 Stocks and work in progress

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

2.8 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.

2.9 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.

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.10 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 charitable Trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

2.11 Provisions

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

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

2.12 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 18. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 19. 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.

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.13 Pensions

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

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

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

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

At the year end, the fair value of the pension plan assets at 31 August 2024 is £9,477k, which is £1,036k in excess of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at that date of £8,441k. When the Scheme gives rise to a potential asset position, the Trustees are required to assess the basis for recognising an asset on the balance sheet against the FRS102 criteria, this being "An entity shall recognise the plan surplus as a defined benefit plan asset only to the extent that it is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or refunds from the plan." In using the word "shall", the emphasis is placed upon the Trust to consider the value of such an asset, rather than whether an asset should be recognised in the first instance. Accordingly, the Trust has considered the value at which they can benefit from either (1) refunds from the plan or (2) reduced contributions. As the Trust intends to continue to participate in the LGPS, the likelihood of a refund being due from the Scheme has been deemed as remote and not practically achievable. Secondly, the Trust has undertaken an exercise to assess the Minimum Fund Requirement (MFR) due to the Scheme in order to calculate the net present value of the asset which will be the value of a perpetuity of the future service cost minus the present value of the employer contributions. The outcome of this calculation has shown that the Trust is unlikely to gain economic benefit from a reduction in future contributions.

Accordingly, the Trust has not recognised an asset ceiling surplus of £1,036k resulting in a breakeven position for the pension scheme as at 31 August 2024.

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.14 Fund accounting

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

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

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

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

3. 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 charitable 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 27, 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 2019 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.

The pension scheme surplus is recognised in the balance sheet to the extent to which it can be recovered through reduces contributions in the future or through refunds to the plan. Further details in note 27.

LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

4. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations	5,038	-	5,038
Grants	-	31,100	31,100
	<u>5,038</u>	<u>31,100</u>	<u>36,138</u>
	<u><u>5,038</u></u>	<u><u>31,100</u></u>	<u><u>36,138</u></u>
	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Donations	12,479	-	12,479
Grants	-	643,086	643,086
	<u>12,479</u>	<u>643,086</u>	<u>655,565</u>
	<u><u>12,479</u></u>	<u><u>643,086</u></u>	<u><u>655,565</u></u>

LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

5. Funding for the charitable Trust's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Educational operations			
DfE/ESFA grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	7,564,416	7,564,416
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
Pupil Premium	-	768,894	768,894
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	233,861	233,861
PE and Sports Grant	-	62,170	62,170
Teachers Pay and Pension Grant	-	198,106	198,106
Others	-	393,899	393,899
	-	9,221,346	9,221,346
Other Government grants			
Local Authority revenue grants	-	1,310,686	1,310,686
Other government revenue grants	-	264,377	264,377
	-	1,575,063	1,575,063
Other income from the charitable Trust's educational operations	121,753	178,314	300,067
	121,753	10,974,723	11,096,476
	121,753	10,974,723	11,096,476

LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

5. Funding for the charitable Trust's charitable activities (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Educational operations			
DfE/ESFA grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	7,282,599	7,282,599
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
Pupil Premium	-	758,863	758,863
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	195,754	195,754
PE and Sports Grant	-	62,100	62,100
Teachers Pay and Pension Grant	-	10,283	10,283
Others	-	520,237	520,237
	-	8,829,836	8,829,836
Other Government grants			
Local Authority revenue grants	-	1,408,877	1,408,877
Other government revenue grants	-	81,205	81,205
	-	1,490,082	1,490,082
Other income from the charitable Trust's educational operations	179,476	200,602	380,078
	179,476	10,520,520	10,699,996
	179,476	10,520,520	10,699,996

There are no unfulfilled conditions or other contingencies attached to the government grants above.

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

6. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Rental income	31,466	31,466
Receipts from insurance claims	(250)	(250)
Training course income	8,120	8,120
Provided services income	35,010	35,010
Class sales	933	933
Music tuition income	1,256	1,256
Other income	4,935	4,935
	81,470	81,470
	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Rental income	24,921	24,921
Receipts from insurance claims	24,953	24,953
Training course income	9,180	9,180
Provided services income	267,601	267,601
Class sales	1,920	1,920
Music tuition income	96	96
Other income	22,246	22,246
	350,917	350,917

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

7. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Bank interest receivable	1,701	-	1,701
Pension income	-	42,000	42,000
	<u>1,701</u>	<u>42,000</u>	<u>43,701</u>

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Bank interest receivable	<u>1,079</u>	<u>1,079</u>

8. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2024 £	Premises 2024 £	Other 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Educational operations:				
Direct costs	7,613,863	-	294,716	7,908,579
Allocated support costs	1,456,832	609,800	1,509,378	3,576,010
	<u>9,070,695</u>	<u>609,800</u>	<u>1,804,094</u>	<u>11,484,589</u>

	<i>Staff Costs 2023 £</i>	<i>Premises 2023 £</i>	<i>Other 2023 £</i>	<i>Total 2023 £</i>
Educational operations:				
Direct costs	7,441,441	-	476,604	7,918,045
Allocated support costs	1,812,318	709,976	1,171,750	3,694,044
	<u>9,253,759</u>	<u>709,976</u>	<u>1,648,354</u>	<u>11,612,089</u>

LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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9. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Educational operations	324,307	11,160,282	11,484,589

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total 2023 £</i>
Educational operations	321,009	11,291,080	11,612,089

10. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Educational operations	7,908,579	3,576,010	11,484,589

	<i>Activities undertaken directly 2023 £</i>	<i>Support costs 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Educational operations	7,918,045	3,694,044	11,612,089

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

10. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Educational operations 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Staff costs	1,456,832	1,456,832
Depreciation	320,345	320,345
Technology costs	138,875	138,875
Premises costs	609,800	609,800
Other costs	755,202	755,202
Governance costs	31,862	31,862
Legal costs	1,960	1,960
Exp type 9	261,134	261,134
	3,576,010	3,576,010
	=====	=====
	<i>Educational operations 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Pension finance costs	42,000	42,000
Staff costs	1,770,318	1,770,318
Depreciation	315,227	315,227
Technology costs	108,764	108,764
Premises costs	709,976	709,976
Other costs	717,845	717,845
Governance costs	27,272	27,272
Legal costs	2,642	2,642
	3,694,044	3,694,044
	=====	=====

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

11. Net (expenditure)/income

Net (expenditure)/income for the year includes:

	2024 £	2023 £
Operating lease rentals	22,101	11,578
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	320,345	315,227
Fees paid to auditor for:		
- audit	21,500	19,000
- other services	8,500	8,100
	<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>

12. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	7,057,508	6,993,618
Social security costs	597,780	584,766
Pension costs	1,408,631	1,633,375
	<u><u>9,063,919</u></u>	<u><u>9,211,759</u></u>
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	-	42,000
	<u><u>9,063,919</u></u>	<u><u>9,253,759</u></u>

b. Severance payments

The charitable Trust paid 5 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

	2024 No.
£0 - £25,000	<u><u>5</u></u>

c. Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £Nil (2023: £Nil).

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

12. Staff (continued)

d. Staff numbers

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

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Teachers	88	99
Management	9	9
Administration and support	215	216
	312	324

e. Higher paid staff

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

	2024 No.	2023 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	1	-
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	2	2
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	1	1
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	-
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	-	2

f. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the charitable Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the charitable Trust was £671,062 (2023 - £736,670).

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

13. Central services

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

- Human Resources
- Financial services
- Legal services
- Educational support services
- Insurance
- Others as arising

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

Flat percentage (2.5%) of GAG funding income, less national SEN funding and RPA insurance costs.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
White Hall Academy	83,436	57,056
Lyons Hall Primary School	183,285	113,760
Braiswick Primary Academy	58,992	37,858
Total	325,713	208,674

14. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the charitable Trust. 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:

		2024 £	2023 £
Claire Russell	Remuneration	75,000 - 80,000	70,000 - 75,000
	Pension contributions paid	20,000 - 25,000	15,000 - 20,000
Gavin Bradley	Remuneration	0 - 5,000	105,000 - 110,000
	Pension contributions paid	0 - 5,000	20,000 - 25,000
Andrew Smith	Remuneration	75,000 - 80,000	100,000 - 105,000
	Pension contributions paid	15,000 - 20,000	20,000 - 25,000
Rachel Pritchard	Remuneration	90,000 - 95,000	80,000 - 85,000
	Pension contributions paid	20,000 - 25,000	15,000 - 20,000

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

14. Trustees' remuneration and expenses (continued)

Eleanor Eames (appointed 1 September 2023) Remuneration	80,000 - 85,000	<i>0 - 5,000</i>
Pension contributions paid	20,000 - 25,000	<i>0 - 5,000</i>

During the year ended 31 August 2024, expenses totalling £1,724 were reimbursed or paid directly to 4 Trustees (2023 - £1,869 to 2 Trustees). In both years, the expenses related to travel and subsistence costs.

15. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

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

16. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Long-term leasehold property £	Assets under construction £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation						
At 1 September 2023	3,950,536	14,179,125	-	362,723	269,651	18,762,035
Additions	-	-	617,511	-	-	617,511
At 31 August 2024	3,950,536	14,179,125	617,511	362,723	269,651	19,379,546
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2023	980,300	1,833,254	-	267,512	269,651	3,350,717
Charge for the year	73,990	234,363	-	11,992	-	320,345
Impairment charge	261,134	-	-	-	-	261,134
At 31 August 2024	1,315,424	2,067,617	-	279,504	269,651	3,932,196

LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

16. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

	Freehold property £	Long-term leasehold property £	Assets under construction £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Net book value						
At 31 August 2024	<u>2,635,112</u>	<u>12,111,508</u>	<u>617,511</u>	<u>83,219</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,447,350</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>2,970,236</u>	<u>12,345,871</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>95,211</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,411,318</u>

Included within property is freehold land at valuation of £251,000 and leasehold land of £2,461,000 (2023 - £251,000 and £2,461,000 respectively) which is not depreciated.

The leasehold property of Lyons Hall Primary School and freehold property of White Hall Academy was valued on conversion by Mouchel, a RICS Registered Valuer using the Fair Value method. The leasehold property of Braiswick Primary School was valued on 18 December 2015 by Lambert Smith Hampton, a RICS Registered Valuer, using the Depreciated Replacement Cost method. The Trustees consider that the valuation remains appropriate for the purposes of these financial statements.

The freeholds of Lyons Hall Primary School and Braiswick Primary School are owned by Essex County Council who have granted the Trust a 125 year lease on a peppercorn rent from 1 April 2012 and 18 December 2015 respectively.

An impairment has been recognised in respect of fire damage incurred to one building at White Hall Academy during the year. The part of the building that has been affected by fire will be demolished in the near future to make safe and no further repair work will be undertaken. White Hall Academy is on a school rebuild programme with a plan to rebuild the school in 2 years time. The remainder of the building at White Hall Academy that is not affected by the fire damage is still in use.

17. Stocks

	2024 £	2023 £
Stocks	<u>5,957</u>	<u>3,108</u>

LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

18. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	43,579	75,885
Other debtors	149,106	241,727
Prepayments and accrued income	390,108	852,041
	<u>582,793</u>	<u>1,169,653</u>

19. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	108,431	215,021
Other taxation and social security	122,059	123,977
Other creditors	276,851	415,543
Accruals and deferred income	287,648	269,736
	<u>794,989</u>	<u>1,024,277</u>

	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	188,985	205,957
Resources deferred during the year	160,997	188,985
Amounts released from previous periods	(188,985)	(205,957)
	<u>160,997</u>	<u>188,985</u>

At the Balance Sheet date the Trust was holding funds in advance of the 24/25 academic year in respect of:

- Universal Infant Free School Meals
- Residential trips

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

20. Provisions

	Other provision £
At 1 September 2023	104,158
Additions	194,053
Amounts reversed	(104,158)
	194,053

The provision above is in relation to the potential clawback of GAG funding received from the ESFA. The provision has been calculated by comparing pupil numbers that the funding was based on against actual pupil numbers for the period. The amount is shown as being due after one year as the final value or timing of any clawback has not yet been agreed with the ESFA.

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

21. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds - all funds	1,825,893	209,962	(324,307)	-	-	1,711,548
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	671,315	7,564,416	(7,458,496)	-	-	777,235
Pupil Premium	-	768,894	(768,894)	-	-	-
Other DfE / ESFA revenue grants	-	888,036	(888,036)	-	-	-
Local Authority revenue grants	-	1,310,686	(1,310,686)	-	-	-
Other Government revenue grants	-	264,377	(264,377)	-	-	-
Other Educational income	-	178,314	(178,314)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	-	42,000	290,000	-	(332,000)	-
	671,315	11,016,723	(10,578,803)	-	(332,000)	777,235
Restricted fixed asset funds						
NBV of fixed assets	15,411,318	-	(581,479)	617,511	-	15,447,350
DfE / ESFA capital grants	587,748	31,100	-	(617,511)	-	1,337
	15,999,066	31,100	(581,479)	-	-	15,448,687
Total Restricted funds	16,670,381	11,047,823	(11,160,282)	-	(332,000)	16,225,922
Total funds	18,496,274	11,257,785	(11,484,589)	-	(332,000)	17,937,470

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

21. Statement of funds (continued)

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

The General Fund has been created to recognise the income and expenditure in respect of activities undertaken by the Trust which fall outside the scope of its core activities.

The General Annual Grant (GAG) represents the core funding for the educational activities of the Trust via the Education and Skills Funding Agency by the Department for Education. The GAG fund has been established because the GAG must be used for the normal running costs of the Trust.

The Pupil Premium fund has been established to recognise the restricted funding received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap between them and their peers.

The Local Authority revenue grants fund has been set up to recognise the income received from Essex County Council as a contribution towards the cost of the Trust's revenue expenditure. Funding received for Special Educational Needs is also recognised within Local Authority Grants. These funds are to assist with the costs incurred providing disadvantaged students with the additional educational resources that they require.

The Other DfE / ESFA revenue grants fund has been created to recognise the restricted funding received from the Department for Education / Education and Skills Funding Agency which fall outside the scope of core funding.

The Other Government revenue grants fund has been set up to recognise the restricted funding received from all other Government bodies which fall outside the scope of core funding.

The Other Educational income fund has been established to recognise all other restricted income and expenditure which falls outside the scope of the Trust's core funding.

The Pension Reserve has been created to separately identify the pension deficit inherited from the Local Authority upon conversion to Academy status, and through which all the pension scheme movements are recognised.

The NBV of Fixed Assets fund has been set up to recognise the tangible assets held by the Trust and is equivalent to the net book value of tangible fixed assets. Depreciation of tangible fixed assets is allocated to this fund.

The DfE/ESFA Capital grants fund has been created to recognise capital grants received from the DfE and ESFA. Capital grants spent on capital expenditure are shown as a transfer within the restricted fixed asset fund between the Capital grants fund and the NBV of fixed assets fund. Capital grants spent on revenue expenditure are shown as expenditure within the Capital grants fund. Capital grants received and receivable, but not yet spent, are held as current assets within the restricted fixed assets fund.

LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

21. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2022 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2023 £</i>
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds - all funds	1,602,951	543,951	(321,009)	-	-	1,825,893
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,028,648	7,282,599	(7,639,932)	-	-	671,315
Pupil Premium	-	758,863	(758,863)	-	-	-
Other DfE / ESFA revenue grants	-	788,374	(788,374)	-	-	-
Local Authority revenue grants	-	1,408,877	(1,408,877)	-	-	-
Other Government revenue grants	-	81,205	(81,205)	-	-	-
Other Educational income	-	200,602	(200,602)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,289,000)	-	(98,000)	-	1,387,000	-
	(260,352)	10,520,520	(10,975,853)	-	1,387,000	671,315
Restricted fixed asset funds						
NBV of fixed assets	15,663,044	-	(315,227)	63,501	-	15,411,318
DfE / ESFA capital grants	8,163	643,086	-	(63,501)	-	587,748
	15,671,207	643,086	(315,227)	-	-	15,999,066
Total Restricted funds	15,410,855	11,163,606	(11,291,080)	-	1,387,000	16,670,381
Total funds	17,013,806	11,707,557	(11,612,089)	-	1,387,000	18,496,274

LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

21. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 were allocated as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
White Hall Academy	970,473	806,178
Lyons Hall Primary School	990,446	1,139,034
Braiswick Academy	458,990	508,654
Learning Pathways Academy Trust	68,874	43,342
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	2,488,783	2,497,208
Restricted fixed asset fund	15,448,687	15,999,066
Total	17,937,470	18,496,274

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2024 £
White Hall Academy	3,080,312	828,830	107,439	612,918	4,629,499
Lyons Hall Primary School	2,727,247	540,834	109,629	513,005	3,890,715
Braiswick Academy	1,706,206	240,851	78,223	338,817	2,364,097
Learning Pathways Academy Trust	100,098	(197,218)	358	115,561	18,799
Charitable Trust	7,613,863	1,413,297	295,649	1,580,301	10,903,110

LEARNING PATHWAYS ACADEMY
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

21. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	<i>Teaching and educational support staff costs £</i>	<i>Other support staff costs £</i>	<i>Educational supplies £</i>	<i>Other costs excluding depreciation £</i>	<i>Total 2023 £</i>
White Hall Academy	3,005,499	792,639	331,669	489,516	4,619,323
Lyons Hall Primary School	2,861,591	531,197	320,057	452,137	4,164,982
Braiswick Academy	1,574,351	220,826	166,485	284,341	2,246,003
Learning Pathways Academy Trust	-	159,421	-	107,133	266,554
Charitable Trust	<u>7,441,441</u>	<u>1,704,083</u>	<u>818,211</u>	<u>1,333,127</u>	<u>11,296,862</u>

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

22. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	15,447,350	15,447,350
Current assets	2,700,590	777,235	1,337	3,479,162
Creditors due within one year	(794,989)	-	-	(794,989)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	(194,053)	-	-	(194,053)
Total	1,711,548	777,235	15,448,687	17,937,470

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	15,411,318	15,411,318
Current assets	2,020,589	1,605,054	587,748	4,213,391
Creditors due within one year	(194,696)	(829,581)	-	(1,024,277)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(104,158)	-	(104,158)
Total	1,825,893	671,315	15,999,066	18,496,274

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

23. Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(226,804)	95,468
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and impairment	581,479	315,227
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(31,100)	(643,086)
Investment income	(1,701)	(1,079)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(290,000)	56,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	(42,000)	42,000
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	(2,849)	6,073
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	586,860	(728,817)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(229,288)	17,166
Increase in provisions	89,895	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	434,492	(841,048)

24. Cash flows from investing activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Investment income	1,701	1,079
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(617,511)	(63,501)
Capital grants from DfE Group	31,100	643,086
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities	(584,710)	580,664

25. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand and at bank	2,890,412	3,040,630
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,890,412	3,040,630

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

26. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	3,040,630	(150,218)	2,890,412
	<u>3,040,630</u>	<u>(150,218)</u>	<u>2,890,412</u>

27. Pension commitments

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £97,630 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 (2023 - £85,874) 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.

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

27. Pension commitments (continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £547,000 (2023 - £874,000).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £1,062,000 (2023 - £947,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £862,000 (2023 - £759,000) and employees' contributions totalled £200,000 (2023 - £188,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 22.6 per cent for employers and 5.5 - 12.5 per cent for employees.

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](https://gov.uk).

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

27. Pension commitments (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2024	2023
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.80	3.85
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.80	2.85
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.1	5.3

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

	2024	2023
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	20.7	20.7
Females	23.3	23.2
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.0	22.0
Females	24.7	24.6

Sensitivity analysis

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Discount rate +0.1%	(555)	(555)
Discount rate -0.1%	596	595
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	596	595
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(555)	(555)

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

27. Pension commitments (continued)

Share of scheme assets

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

	At 31 August 2024 £	At 31 August 2023 £
Equities	5,324,000	4,395,000
Gilts	164,000	97,000
Property	666,000	591,000
Cash	162,000	221,000
Alternative assets	1,415,000	1,196,000
Other managed funds	1,746,000	1,054,000
Total market value of assets	9,477,000	7,554,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £1,368,000 (2023 - £354,000).

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Current service cost	572,000	815,000
Interest income	(422,000)	(286,000)
Interest cost	380,000	328,000
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	530,000	857,000

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

	2024 £	2023 £
At 1 September	7,554,000	7,787,000
Employee contributions	200,000	188,000
Actuarial gains/(losses)	832,000	(1,433,000)
Benefits paid	(61,000)	(131,000)
Current service cost	572,000	815,000
Interest cost	380,000	328,000
At 31 August	9,477,000	7,554,000

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

27. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2024 £	2023 £
At 1 September	7,554,000	6,498,000
Interest income	422,000	286,000
Employee contributions	200,000	188,000
Benefits paid	(61,000)	(131,000)
Actuarial gains/(losses)	500,000	(46,000)
Employer contributions	862,000	759,000
At 31 August	9,477,000	7,554,000

	2024 £	2023 £
Reconciliation of opening to closing Defined Benefit Pension Scheme Liability		
Balance brought forward at 1 September	-	1,289,000
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(290,000)	56,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	(42,000)	42,000
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(253,000)	(1,838,000)
Actuarial (gains)/losses not recognised	585,000	451,000
Balance carried forward	-	-

	2024 £	2023 £
The amounts recognised in the Balance Sheet are as follows:		
Present value of defined benefit obligation	(8,441,000)	(7,103,000)
Fair value of scheme assets	9,477,000	7,554,000
Surplus not recognised	(1,036,000)	(451,000)
Surplus/(deficit) in scheme	-	-

The fair value of the pension plan assets at 31 August 2024 is £9,477k, which is £1,036k in excess of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at that date of £8,441k. This surplus of £1,036k is recognised in the financial statements only to the extent that the academy trust can recover that surplus, either through a reduction in future contributions or through a refund to the academy trust.

Following discussions with actuaries and consultations, the academy trust is not able to determine that future contributions will be reduced. It is not possible for the academy trust to receive a refund, as the conditions for this have not been met. Therefore an asset ceiling surplus of £1,036k is not recognised as an asset at 31 August 2024 as the academy trust is not able to determine that the academy trust will benefit from reduced future contributions or by a refund in the foreseeable future.

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

28. Operating lease commitments

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Not later than 1 year	25,044	26,532
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	49,831	74,857
	74,875	101,389

29. 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 £NIL for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

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

30. Related party transactions

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

S Kerfoot - a company whom P Lincoln's (a Trustee of Learning Pathways Academy) spouse owns.

- The Trust purchased services from S Kerfoot totalling £1,605 (2023 - £1,934) during the period.
- There were no amounts outstanding at 31 August 2024 (2023 - £NIL) The purchase was authorised by the Trustees.
- All purchases have been provided purely at cost.
- In entering into the transaction the Academy Trust has complied with the requirements of ESFA's Academies Trust Handbook 2023.

Scrutton Bland - a company which Ryan Percy is an employee.

- The Trust purchased services from Scrutton Bland totalling £2,520 (2023 - £1,100) during the period. £234 remained outstanding at 31 August 2024 (2023 - £Nil).
- The transaction was made at arm's length, and Ryan Percy neither participated in, nor influenced the transactions.

North East Essex Co-operative Academy - an Academy in which G Bradley (Headteacher of White Hall Academy) is a Governor.

- The Trust sold services to North East Essex Co-operative Academy totalling £Nil (2023 - £2,405). There was an outstanding balance of Nil at 31 August 2023 (2023 - £686).
- All transactions were made at arm's length following a competitive tendering exercise in accordance with its financial regulations, which G Bradley neither participated in, nor influenced.
- In entering into the transaction the Trust has complied with the requirements of ESFA's Academies Trust Handbook 2023.

Two (2023 - Three) of the Trustees have close family members that are employed by the Trust receiving combined remuneration of £72,311 (2023 - £89,777). Their remuneration is based on an annual salary review process in which the relevant Trustees are not involved.

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

31. Funds held as custodian Trustee on behalf of others

The Trust acts as an agent in managing funds for a number separate entities. Payments received, and subsequent disbursements are excluded from the Statement of Financial Activities as the Trust does not have control over the charitable application of these funds.

The Trust holds funds on behalf of South Tendring Primary Partnership, whose members are local schools who contribute to a fund from which education services and training are purchased for the group. The balance owed at 31 August 2024 is £79,380 (2023 - £47,050) and is included within other creditors.

The Trust holds funds on behalf of Professional Learning Network, which is a fund that the Trust administers on behalf of local schools regarding teacher training, early career framework and appropriate body. Due to the trust having control over the balance, it is recognised within cash at bank, but because the balance is not solely for the Trusts use, an equal and opposite creditor is also recognised. The balance held at 31 August 2024 was £238,897 (2023 - £194,696) and is included within cash at bank and other creditors as an asset and liability respectively.

32. Controlling party

There is no ultimate controlling party.