

Company Registration Number: 07650619 (England & Wales)

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and administrative details	1 - 2
Governors' report	3 - 15
Governance statement	16 - 20
Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance	21
Statement of governors' responsibilities	22
Independent auditor's report on the financial statements	23 - 26
Independent reporting accountant's report on regularity	27 - 28
Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account	29
Balance sheet	30
Statement of cash flows	31
Notes to the financial statements	32 - 58

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	Ms H G Barnett Mr L Conway Mr J D Williets Ms G Yates Active Luton
Governors	Ms H G Barnett Mrs S Chaudhury Mrs R Mahmood Mr D M Sansom Mrs S A Smart Ms T E Terleph Mrs K Walsh (resigned 27 February 2023) Mr A P Woulds (resigned 31 March 2023) Mr H R Keshwala (appointed 31 July 2023) Mr A M Raja (appointed 31 July 2023) Mr V Younis (appointed 25 April 2023, resigned 1 August 2023) Mr G E Carpenter (appointed 13 October 2023) Mrs M C Reynolds (appointed 28 September 2023)
Company registered number	07650619
Company name	Active Education Academy Trust
Principal and registered office	2nd Floor Apex House 30-34 Upper George Street Luton LU1 2RD
Company secretary	Mrs K C Paxton
Senior management team	David Sansom, Headteacher Judith Trainor, Deputy Headteacher (resigned 16 April 2023) Adam Haywood, Deputy Headteacher David Seeley, Assistant Headteacher (stepped down 1 September 2022) Jane Vale, Assistant Headteacher Sue Jones, Chief Finance Officer Lois Anderson, Assistant Headteacher Sophie Amos, Assistant Headteacher Hannah Leech, Deputy Headteacher (started 17 April 2023)
Independent auditor	Crowe U.K. LLP Aquis House 49-51 Blagrove Street Reading Berkshire RG1 1PL

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Bankers

Natwest
Luton
LU1 2YN

Lloyds Bank
60 George Street
Luton
Bedfordshire
LU1 2BB

Solicitors

Pictons Solicitors LLP
28 Dunstable Road
Luton
Bedfordshire
LU1 1DY

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNORS' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Governors, who are also directors of the Academy Trust for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the Academy Trust for the year ended 31 August 2023. The Governors have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) and the Academies Accounts Direction issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

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

Active Education Academy Trust operates River Bank Primary School, a free school in the Biscot ward of Luton. During the academic year 2022/2023 the school admitted pupils into Reception through to Year 6.

River Bank Primary School's catchment area falls predominantly in the Biscot Ward of Luton although pupils are admitted from a number of different areas in the town. Pupils are admitted based on the criteria stipulated in the school's admissions policy, which is consulted upon and in line with the requirements of the Department for Education's school admission's code.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The Governors of Active Education Academy Trust are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Active Education Academy Trust. The free school operated by Active Education Academy Trust is known as River Bank Primary School.

Details of the Governors who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

b. Members' liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while they are a member, or within one year after they cease to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £1, for the debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a member.

c. Governors' indemnities

The Academy Trust's insurers indemnify against any claims in respect of any civil liability, and which arises out of the conduct of the insured in their personal capacity as a director, Governor, or officer of the Academy Trust.

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Structure, governance and management (continued)

d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Governors

As set out in the Articles of Association the Members are responsible for the recruitment and appointment of Governors, the Members may appoint up to 8 Governors; Staff Governors including the Headteacher must not exceed one third of the total number of Governors; a Parent Governor must be a parent of a pupil at the Academy at the time of election.

The Members will give consideration to the skills and experience mix of Governors in order to ensure the Governors have the necessary skills to contribute fully to the Academy's development.

e. Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Governors

Governors have agreed that on appointment all new Governors will undertake an induction which includes meetings with the Headteacher, Chair of Governors, and a Member. Newly appointed Governors will receive a copy of the Charity Commission's 'The Essential Trustee' and the memorandum and articles of association for the Academy Trust. They are also referred to in the Academies Financial Handbook and the Active Education Academy Trust Funding Agreement and meet with the CFO.

The Academy Trust has appointed an experienced and high-quality Clerk who supports Governors and notifies them of appropriate on-going Governor training.

f. Organisational structure

Active Education Academy Trust is governed by a Board of Governors (the Governing Body) constituted under a memorandum of association and articles of association. The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that high standards of corporate governance are maintained. It exercises its powers and functions with a view to fulfilling a largely strategic leadership role in the running of the Academy, addressing such matters as:

- Policy development and strategic development
- Ensuring sound management and administration of the Academy
- Ensuring compliance with legal requirements
- Establishing and maintaining effective internal controls
- The management of all resource
- The monitoring of performance
- Helping the Academy to be responsive to the needs of parents, carers, and the community
- Assessing and managing risk

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

The Governors meet a minimum of six times a year. Governors have established an overall framework for the governance of the Academy which determines membership, terms of reference and procedures for the full governing body and the associated subcommittee.

The Governors have further agreed that they may, from time to time, establish working groups to perform specific tasks over a set time scale.

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Structure, governance and management (continued)

The day-to-day management of Active Education Academy Trusts rests with the Headteacher who has overall responsibility for the school. The Headteacher is responsible for establishing a senior management team which includes the Deputy and Assistant Heads. The CFO works with the Head to manage the financial aspects and support the Governors and Head in the relevant areas.

g. Pay policy for key management personnel

Whilst Trustees are classed as key management personnel, they are volunteers and are not remunerated by the Academy for their work. The headteacher and the Staff Governor are remunerated by the Academy but only in respect of their work as educators. There is no additional remuneration for their work in attending committees. Other key management personnel include the two Deputy Heads and the CFO (provided by the Related Party SLA with Active Luton). All remuneration is in line with national schoolteachers' pay and conditions or local government pay and conditions.

h. Connected organisations, including related party relationships

Active Luton Limited is a related party entity and a founder member of the Academy. Active Luton Limited provided services relating to financial, facilities management and operational support of the Academy Trust and River Bank Primary School.

Service Level Agreements were established to clearly identify the role of Active Luton Limited in the provision of the above services, which have been provided on a cost only basis and has been approved by the ESFA.

Service Level Agreements were also established with Luton Borough Council for the provision of support related to School Improvement; Appeals & Admissions; HR Support & Payroll; Occupational Health, Special Education Needs and Education welfare.

Objectives and activities

a. Objects and aims

Objects, aims and a summary of the year

Active Education Academy Trust is a Single Academy Trust in the Biscot Ward of Luton, serving a community with high levels of deprivation.

In accordance with the articles of association the Academy has adopted a funding agreement approved by the Secretary of State for Education. The funding agreement specifies, amongst other things, the basis for admitting pupils to the Academy and that the Academy provides a broad and balanced curriculum.

The object of the Academy Trust is to advance for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing, and developing a school offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

During the financial year the Academy provided free education to pupils of Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, and Year 6.

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Objectives and activities (continued)

The Academy's strategy is encompassed in its vision statement which is 'Inspire, Empower, Achieve'. The values are based on those of the Olympic and Paralympic games:

- Friendship
- Respect
- Excellence
- Determination
- Inspiration
- Courage
- Equality

Our vision is ensuring through the values and mission statement that every child strives to achieve their personal best and that:

- Physical Education and School Sport are used as a key improvement tool.
- River Bank is viewed as an integral part of the wider community it serves.
- River Bank is a learning community that is a positive and inspirational place to work and learn for both adults and children where everyone is valued.

The strategic plan for Governors, concluding in August 2022 contained the following priorities.

Leadership and Management

- Embedding the high expectations and a shared understanding of the qualities that make a River Bank leader.
- Providing opportunities to develop and grow our leaders through a visible distributed leadership across the school.
- Empowering subject leaders to use their expertise to enhance the teaching of the curriculum across the school.
- An outward looking school keen to share expertise and learn from others.

Quality of Education

- Inspirational, research based, innovative teaching that meets the needs of the learners.
- An ambitious curriculum coherently planned and sequenced.
- Enrichment activities which complement and extend the curriculum.
- High expectations of children with SEND, EAL or from disadvantaged families.

Personal Development

- An inclusive school where pupils take pride in the successes and achievements of themselves and others.
- Promoting confidence and resilience in pupils who are secondary ready when they leave.

Behaviour and Attitudes

- High expectations where learners and their families value and foster a positive attitude to learning.
- Maintaining and further strengthening our positive environment which promotes wellbeing, safeguarding, and behaviour.
- Focus on improving attendance and engaging in escalation procedures where appropriate.

Trust / Governance / Board

- Through robust scrutiny, holding school leaders to account with particular reference to the curriculum.
- A Governing Board focused on effective stakeholder liaison and communication.
- A strong and shared understanding of the future development and sustainability of Active Education as a strong Academy Trust.

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Objectives and activities (continued)

b. Public benefit

The Governors have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's published general and relevant sub sector guidance on public benefit. We have referred to this guidance when reviewing our aims, strategy and in planning future activities. All activities undertaken by School are for the public benefit.

The Academy provides a state primary education for children aged 4 to 11 living in the local area. This Academy is specifically restricted to advance, for public benefit, education in the United Kingdom.

Strategic report

a. Achievements and performance

The school was judged to be good by Ofsted in October 2019.

The attainment of pupils below is based on an external assessment for the end of the 2022-2023 academic year.

EYFS

% pupils reaching GLD at end of EYFS					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
School	66.00%	0.00%	26.00%	50.00%	50%
Local	68.40%			56.80%	58.70%
National	71.80%			65.2%	67%

Phonics

% pupils achieving phonics standard in Year 1					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
School	80.70%	82.00%	78.00%	89.00%	88%
Local	79.00%			50.00%	
National	82.00%			75.00%	79%

% pupils achieving phonics standard by end of Year 2					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
School	87.00%	82.30%	81.80%	92%	95%
Local	89.00%			89%	
National	91.00%			87%	

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Strategic report (continued)

Key Stage 1

% achieving EXS+ and GDS in reading at KS1					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
School EXS+	72.00%	52.00%	56.00%	51.00%	55%
Local EXS+	70.00%			70.00%	
National EXS+	75.00%			67.00%	68%
School GDS	24.30%	14.00%	21.00%	7.00%	10%
Local GDS	25.00%			23.00%	
National GDS	25.00%			18.00%	18%

% achieving EXS+ and GDS in writing at KS1					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
School EXS+	65.50%	42.00%	51.00%	42%	45%
Local EXS+	64.40%			62%	
National EXS+	69.00%			58%	60%
School GDS	15.00%	10.00%	14.00%	3%	1%
Local GDS	14.00%			12%	
National GDS	15.00%			8%	7.50%

% achieving EXS+ and GDS in maths at KS1					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
School EXS+	77.30%	61.00%	62.00%	47.00%	53%
Local EXS+	72.60%			69.00%	
National EXS+	76.00%			68.00%	70%
School GDS	21.80%	11.00%	8.00%	7.00%	5%
Local GDS	21.00%			17.00%	
National GDS	22.00%			15.00%	15.60%

Y4 Multiplications Timetables Check

% achieving EXS+ in Y4 MTC		
	2022	2023
25/25	59.30%	51%
No. pupils	86	85
Average score	22/25	23/25
25/25 (national)	30%	31%
Average score (national)	20	20.4
No. pupils (national sample)	18,683	65,000

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Strategic report (continued)

Key Stage 2

% achieving EXS+ and high score/GDS in RWM at KS2					
	2022	2023			
School EXS+	61.00%	61%			
School GDS	1%	3%			

% achieving EXS+ and high score in reading at KS2					
	2022	2023			
School EXS+	76%	77%			
School GDS	30.70%	29%			

% achieving EXS+ and GDS in writing at KS2					
	2022	2023			
School EXS+	64.00%	71%			
School GDS	2%	6%			

% achieving EXS+ and high score in maths at KS2					
	2022	2023			
School EXS+	81.50%	82%			
School GDS	27.10%	14%			

% achieving EXS+ and high score in GPS at KS2					
	2022	2023			
School EXS+	77.10%	85%			
School GDS	34.20%	34%			

Pupil Attendance

Overall whole school attendance was 92.34% in July 2023 compared to a 94% national average for primaries in 2022-2023.

Persistent absenteeism is too high at 27% (2022-2023 = 17.4% national data).

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Strategic report (continued)

Pupil Enrichment and Personal Development

- Pupils engage well in the life of the school – particularly opportunities for extended learning that take place after school, including academic extended days for years five and six.
- Wide variety of clubs – typically 20 clubs each half term provided free of charge - autumn term 18 clubs attended by 375 pupils, spring term 12 clubs attended by 322 children, summer term 19 clubs attended by 478 children. Annual – 1175 club places taken up – 84% of our children have attended at least one club, including specialist SEN and inclusion activities.
- 46 sporting or musical activities attended in 2022-2023 by pupils from all year groups, including specialist SEN and inclusion fixtures.
- EAL new arrivals benefit from support from specific EAL provision – this accelerates their English acquisition and allows them to engage in the curriculum more quickly than we experienced before.
- Pupils are engaged in a number of educational visits. Pupils have been involved in 43 visits in 2022-2023 including two residential trips, Harry Potter Studio, Clacton on Sea, Go Ape, local visits, faith tours, traffic and ecology surveys and London Zoo.
- Specific trips for vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils ran across the year. 3 trips took place for 28 pupils – ranging from a farm visit, Kidzania and a theme park.
- Visitors coming to the school to enrich pupils' experiences include Florence Nightingale, Stone Age workshop, Roman workshop, Egyptian workshop, the fire service, the police, local church ministers, the library service, and local MPs.
- Pupils in various year groups volunteer in the community e.g., singing at the airport and litter picking at the local park.
- Eco-clubs were involved in developing an Arboretum at the local park as well as a camping experience.
- Luton Foodbank and Level Trust charities have been well supported by pupils and by allowing our premises to be used for holiday activity and food programmes.
- National charity support – events run to support charities e.g., Macmillian, earthquake appeal.
- All staff are appropriately trained in safeguarding matters using staff meetings, briefings and directed time – linked to up to date local and national issues e.g., county lines, contextual safeguarding, DV and FGM.

b. Management of Operations for the Academic Year 2022-2023

The school was fully operational for the full year.

c. Key performance indicators

The key financial performance indicators are:

- The Academy will continue to operate with sufficient balances so as to maintain the infrastructure of the Academy and to ensure the continuity of the education of pupils.
- The Academy will keep within the agreed budget unless a variation is agreed by the Board of Governors.

Non financial performance indicators are: pupil numbers and staff costs and maintaining facilities and education to a high standard.

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Strategic report (continued)

d. Going concern

Current pupil numbers indicate the school still has capacity to increase with plans to maximise pupils entering reception. Indications are that this may be lower than the 120 for the next two academic years due to local birth rate patterns, but the school is still aiming for 4 form entry. Pupil numbers have grown since last year. The plan continues to increase to 120 in all year groups to work towards the maximum of 840 pupils. Staffing is managed accordingly and due to flexible contracts where appropriate this allows for the cost base to be managed against the funding expected to be received. This will be monitored throughout the next year as indications of pupil numbers are finalised.

Operational Budgets (excluding capital reserve movements) are expected to continue to make small surpluses ongoing but given the level of reserves carried forward the school is in a strong position to support this and make relevant investments as needed. Further funding and income opportunities will be considered as relevant and at the right time.

In the current year, the reserve position was further increased, with careful control of costs. Where possible expenditure was used for materials to set up for the new academic year which further supports the results ongoing and for ongoing IT investment.

The budget for the current academic year to August 2024 supports a smaller operational surplus than in prior years. Due to the lagged method of GAG funding, lower pupil numbers in October 2022 have resulted in lower funding in the current year despite pupil numbers now increasing.

Based on all these factors, the Board of Governors have 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.

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Strategic report (continued)

Financial review

The school's principal income is from the DFE in the form of recurrent, restricted grants. The grants received during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown in the Statement of Financial activities.

During the year ended 31 August 2023 the total operating expenditure (excluding depreciation and the FRS 102 adjustments) of £4,116,127 (2022: £3,879,111) was fully covered by grant funding from the ESFA and other incoming resources, creating an operational surplus of £116,597 (2022: £104,044). The school saw a surplus of funds of £41,597 (2022: £115,947) (inclusive of fund transfers) being the difference between total revenue income and costs (restricted general funds and unrestricted funds: £4,232,724 (2022: £3,983,155) in the financial year, decreasing the carried forward surplus held in reserve for contingencies in accordance with the reserve policy and for future investment in educational facilities and resources. The reserves as at 31 August 2023 of the restricted general funds, excluding pension reserves plus unrestricted funds are £685,146 (2022: £622,816). This surplus was generated by consistent and careful management of resources and budget monitoring.

The school is continuing to pay particular attention to careful use of resources.

The deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is recognised on the balance sheet in accordance with FRS 102. At 31 August 2023, the deficit reduced significantly to -£18,000, mainly as a result of the change in financial assumptions made by the scheme actuaries. The existence of the pension scheme deficit does not mean an immediate liability crystallises and is addressed over a series of years through pension contributions recommended by the pension scheme actuaries.

At 31 August 2023 the net book value of fixed assets was £6,269,808 (2022: £6,452,277). Movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 12 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the school.

Two capital grant payments were received from the ESFA in the year. These were for further investment in capital and also to be used for energy saving initiatives. Plans for this funding have been agreed and are to be spent in the year to 31 August 2024.

The main Annual GAG funding is paid on a 1-year lag basis based on the October census of the year before. The school had 689 pupils in the October 2022 census but has been funded for 724 pupils based on numbers from the October 2021 census. As the school grows to maximum capacity there will be further years when the 1-year lag causes reduced or increased funding. With careful financial management and due to the healthy reserve position, this is not foreseen to be an issue.

The expenditure growth from the previous year was mainly as a result of payroll costs including pay rises for Teachers and Educational Support. The Academy had to bear the cost of extra pay rises for the staff on the Local Government Terms & Conditions due to agreement on the April 2022 pay settlement not being made until the following financial year. Extra Teaching Assistants were also employed and funded where possible out of pupil premium funding to further support the relevant pupils and were also required for those pupils with behavioural needs that require 1 to1 support.

Unrestricted and restricted reserves have increased and are carried forward to cover any shortfalls in future years. They are also there to cover unexpected expenditure or shortfalls in income and future capital investments.

We have also increased the pupil premium reserve; this funding has been continued to support the extended day throughout the year as well as help support trip costs for as many families as possible. The pupil premium reserve is ring-fenced and will be used in the future to help support as required.

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Strategic report (continued)

The update on use of all carried forward funds is outlined in note 15.

a. Reserves policy

The Governing Body has developed and adopted a framework in line with the ESFA academies financial handbook. The principal source of funding for the year has been the grants received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) (operating and capital). These are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Governing Body review the reserve policy on an annual basis to ensure that reserves are maintained at a level that is consistent with the Academy Trust having sufficient funds to operate at its planned activity levels taking into account the various financial risk factors that have been identified.

The Trustees have determined that a target of the value of reserves to hold should equate to two months expenditure, which is currently £715,000. Current reserve value is £1,205,256 (2022: £1,003,659), so is in excess of our target which should allow for future investment and protect against unplanned costs. This would include restricted and free reserves but exclude the fixed asset fund and the pension reserve. This needs to be reviewed annually as the school income and numbers continue to grow.

Total reserves amount to £7,493,246 (2022: £7,271,936), this represents £520,110 (2022: £380,843) unrestricted funds, £685,146 (2022: £622,816) restricted funds, £6,305,990 (2022: £6,527,277) restricted fixed assets funds and a Pension Reserve of -£18,000 (2022: £259,000).

The Unrestricted Fund Reserves are there to build up for future investments. The Restricted Fund Reserves are there to cover potential shortfalls in future years as the pupil numbers remain inconsistent and are still in a growth phase and educational investments as needed. The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund Reserves are there to cover the future depreciation of the building and future Fixed Assets investments and include £75,000 from previous year's surpluses to support IT investment specifically.

b. Investment policy and objectives

The Academy Trust has the power to make investment decisions as it holds cash balances. Daily any surplus working capital funds are held in an instant access deposit account, Further funds are now held in a notice deposit account. Fixed-term investments are also being regularly made to maximise returns on cash levels not needed as part of working capital commitments. NatWest are the Academy's bankers which include a business reserve and a 32-day notice account to maximise the interest earned but still for now allow reasonable access to cash reserves.

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

c. Principal risks and uncertainties

During this academic year, the governing body has developed a comprehensive risk register and agreed a process for review. A Finance, Audit & Risk committee meets a minimum of 3 times a year with the responsibility of a twice a year annual review of the register.

Systems and procedures have been developed by the Academy Trust to manage the identified risks. As a developing school the key risks identified and focused on this year have been:

- The strategy of remaining a SAT or evolving into a MAT.
- The future of increasing energy costs and the overall effect on the school budgets.
- The effect of continual industrial action that affected the 2022/23 academic year.
- Increasing SEN students in total numbers and how to manage the relevant support required.

d. Risk management

The Governors have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed to and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The Academy follows an appropriate risk management process which identifies the types of risk the Academy faces. A risk register has been produced by the Governing Body and is reviewed and updated regularly.

e. Estate management

Health and safety is a standing agenda item for Trustees. A trustee is appointed as the health and safety representative and regularly undertakes building walks along with an annual survey of staff. A health and safety improvement plan is also in place.

A small sub group of Trustees strategically manage the school estate, ensuring that the condition survey is up to date and an associated action plan is in place, that ties in with identification of budget requirements, along with an annual programme of planned maintenance. This group also reviews building maintenance contracts and any retendering requirements, reporting back to the Board on a regular basis.

Fundraising

The Academy's fundraising has increased and is more significant in the last couple of years. Fundraising ventures such as the summer fair are now planned as an annual event and the popular circus is now held every alternative year. Book fairs also help to support. All the fundraising activities are carried out by the staff with assistance from parents and pupils. The Operations Manager is responsible for these events.

The aim is to create funds to treat the pupils to events that otherwise the school or parents would not be able to fund. The fundraising surplus at August 2022 contributed to the pantomime visits to minimise support required from parents.

The Academy does not engage in large scale fundraising activities. No direct mail campaigns are run. The Academy does not employ a professional fundraiser and therefore does not see it as necessary to sign up to any regulatory code of fundraising practices. No complaints have been received about any aspect of the fundraising and consideration is always given to privacy and diplomacy to ensure any fundraising is appropriate.

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Plans for future periods

Future developments

The future plan for the academy trust is to continue to expand annually until the academy includes all years from Year R to Year six at 120 pupils. During the Academic Year 2022-2023 the school had pupils in all year groups, but some year groups were still at lower numbers.

Ongoing from 2023, it is planned that the school will continue to take 4 form groups into reception, however due to a dip in the birth rate this may have to reduce to 3 forms for a couple of years.

The current strategic priorities for the next three years are:

- Inspirational, research based, innovative teaching that meets the needs of the learners.
- An ambitious curriculum coherently planned and sequenced
- Enrichment activities which complement and extend the curriculum.
- High expectations of children with SEN, EAL or from disadvantaged families

The Academy Trust has also been working to achieve the desired aim of establishing a comprehensive programme of community use for both term time and school holidays. The school had built community use to six days per week with usage by local community groups such as the Scouts and several physical activity related activities for targeted groups. 2022-2023 saw further development and support from the Academy for the Holiday Activity and Food programme to provide community activity in school holidays which further supported our own Academy pupils.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Insofar as the Governors are aware:

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

The Governors' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Governors, as the company directors, on *14th December 2023* and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs R Mahmood
(Trustee)

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

As Governors, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Active Education Academy Trust 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 Governors, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The Board of Governors has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the headteacher, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Active Education Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Governors any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Governors' report and in the Statement of governors' responsibilities. The Board of Governors has formally met 8 times during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Governors was as follows:

Governor	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Ms H G Barnett	8	8
Mrs S Chaudhury	8	8
Mrs R Mahmood	7	8
Mr D M Sansom	8	8
Mrs S A Smart	8	8
Ms T E Terleph	8	8
Mrs K Walsh	4	4
Mr A P Woulds	5	6
Mr H R Keshwala	1	1
Mr A M Raja	1	1
Mr V Younis	1	2
Mr G E Carpenter	0	0
Mrs M C Reynolds	0	0

Changes in the composition of the Board of Governors can be found in the administrative details section on page 1.

The governing body undertakes self evaluations of the effectiveness of their work on a regular basis. The self evaluations are carried out by an experienced practitioner, experienced in Governance and a trustee of the National Governance Association. Reviews are based around the guidance given by the N.G.A. Overall the findings of the reviews have shown that it is a high performing Governing Body with the necessary skills to carry out its duties. Areas for development are addressed through training sessions, both internal and external.

The skills audit is undertaken annually as part of a wider review which includes a board self-evaluation and 360 review of the Chair. It is also updated if a Governor leaves the board to help inform the recruitment and training process. Due to additional recruitment to the Board, all areas scored well in the review undertaken in July 2023.

Governors share their learnings from training attended; there is a regular item included in the board agenda. The board requires all Governors to undertake some specific training particularly in safeguarding and Prevent which they must update annually. Regular training and development are now included as part of board meetings to ensure that all Governors are involved and the programme of work for the board has been re-organised to include dedicated development meetings where Governors have an opportunity to learn more about education

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

topics and the working of the school. Governors are also signposted to other relevant or interesting training and encouraged to attend.

The Finance, Audit and Risk sub-committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Governors. Its purpose is to assist the decision making of the Governing Body, by enabling more detailed consideration to be given to the best means of fulfilling the Governing Body's responsibility to ensure sound management of the Academy's finances and resources, including proper planning, monitoring, and probity. During the period, the committee has focused on ensuring good financial practice and policy is established in the school and also revisited the risk management.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Finance, Audit & Risk sub-committee was as follows:

Governor	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Helen Barnett	4	4
David Sansom	4	4
Ruhena Mahmood	2	4
Rosaline Lowe	0	3
Adam Would	3	4

Conflicts of interest

The Academy proactively manages any conflict of interest that may arise from its Trustee/Governing board and its senior leadership team.

A register of interests is held and managed by the Academy's clerk. An annual review takes place with all key personnel completing a register of interest form.

At all Governors' meetings the conflict of interest is noted as an agenda item and all Governors are asked if there are any further changes to note.

If a conflict of interest arises relevant to a decision or approval, the Governor will be asked to leave the meeting for the relevant agenda item.

Conflict of interest situations are avoided and there are not regular instances of them occurring. What is important is ensuring the Academy obtains value for money. The only relationship to note currently is the relationship with the related party of Active Luton. This charity is a member of the Academy and provides various services. These services are disclosed under the Related Party note and have ESFA approval.

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of value for money

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

The Accounting Officer considers how the Academy's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Governors where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the Academy has delivered improved value for money during the year by managing external supplier relationships and ensuring issues with supply of goods and services are properly compensated.

There has been an increase in community services through extended school services and lettings which serve the local community and improve partnerships, and growth in this area continues.

The Academy also makes effective use of budgeting. A budget for the year ended 31 August 2023 was approved by the Governing Body. Expenditure has been controlled against this budget with any significant variances investigated and acted upon. All costs are challenged, and surpluses have partly arisen due to this. The Academy has maintained and developed as necessary procedures for assessing need, obtaining goods and services which provide the best value in terms of suitability, efficiency, time, and cost. These procedures were satisfactorily adopted to obtain the best possible quotes for goods and services.

The purpose of the system of internal control

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

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Governors has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Governors is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating, and managing the Academy's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Governors. Ongoing the sub committee of Finance, Audit & Risk will have delegated responsibility to review and make recommendations during the year.

Reviewing Controls and Managing Risks

A risk register has been reviewed during the 2022~23 financial year and assesses the risks facing the school and covers a wide range of areas which includes strategy, financial, operational, compliance, IT, environmental and governance. This register is reviewed by the Finance, Audit & Risk committee. The headteacher and Chief Finance Officer have regular meetings to discuss the monthly management accounts and any ESFA reporting requirements. Cash Flow is tracked monthly. The Finance, Audit & Risk Committee meets a minimum of 3 times a year. The committee will report back to the board with its findings and recommendations.

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Capacity to handle risk (continued)

The risk and control framework

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

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

The Board of Governors has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and during the year 2022-23 financial year employed Raftery Audit and Business Process consultants.

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

- testing of HR processes
- testing of IT security
- testing of key financial controls
- testing of Governance

On an annual basis, the internal auditor reports to the Board of Governors through the Finance, Audit and Risk committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Governors' financial responsibilities.

Any material control issues identified were immediately rectified as a result of the internal auditor's work. Other recommendations have been built into a work plan managed by the Finance, Audit & Risk committee.

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

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



Mrs R Mahmood
Trustee



David Sansom
Accounting Officer

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

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

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

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



Mr D M Sansom
Accounting Officer

Date: 14th December 2023

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF GOVERNORS' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Governors (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Governors' 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 Governors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Governors 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 Governors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make 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 Governors 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 Governors 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 Governors 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 Governors and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs R Mahmood
(Trustee)



Mr D M Sansom
(Trustee)

Date: 14 December 2023

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST (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 Governors 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 Governors' Report including the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Governors' Report and the Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the Academy and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Governors' 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 Governors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Governors' responsibilities, the Governors (who are also the directors of the Academy for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Governors 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 Governors are responsible for assessing the Academy's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Governors either intend to liquidate the Academy or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST (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 identified and assessed the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements from irregularities, whether due to fraud or error, and discussed these between our audit team members. We then designed and performed audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks within which the charitable company operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The laws and regulations we considered in this context were the Charities Act 2011 together with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), Companies Act 2006, Academies Accounts Direction and the Academy Trust Handbook. We assessed the required compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. We also considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the charitable company for fraud. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context were General Data Protection Regulation, health and safety legislation, Ofsted and employee legislation.

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquire of the Trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud, to be within the timing and completeness of certain income streams and the override of controls by management. Our audit procedures to respond to these risks included enquiries of management and the Board about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, sample testing on the posting of journals, reviewing accounting estimates for biases, reviewing regulatory correspondence with the ESFA, and reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

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.

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF ACTIVE
EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)**

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Academy's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Academy's members those matters we are required to state to them in an 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 Academy and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Janette Joyce (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of
Crowe U.K. LLP
Statutory Auditor
Aquis House
49-51 Blagrove Street
Reading
Berkshire
RG1 1PL

Date: 20 December 2023

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ACTIVE
EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 12 September 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Active Education Academy Trust during the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Active Education Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Active Education Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 11 June 2012 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ACTIVE
EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST 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 Academy's income and expenditure.

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- consideration of the evidence supporting the Accounting Officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance;
- analytical procedures on the general activities of the Academy Trust;
- a review of Minutes of Committees and Board Meetings which may be relevant to regularity;
- consideration of discussions with key personnel, including the Accounting Officer and Governing Body;
- tests of control have been carried out on a control activity which are relevant to regularity;
- substantive testing of individual transactions

Conclusion

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

Crowe U.K. LLP

Crowe U.K. LLP

Statutory Auditor

Aquis House
49-51 Blagrove Street
Reading
Berkshire
RG1 1PL

Date: 20 December 2023

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants		-	-	36,182	36,182	13,673
Other trading activities	4	74,580	-	-	74,580	113,375
Investments	5	19,236	-	-	19,236	1,389
Charitable activities		45,451	4,093,457	-	4,138,908	3,868,391
Total income		139,267	4,093,457	36,182	4,268,906	3,996,828
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities		-	4,209,127	182,469	4,391,596	4,566,033
Total expenditure		-	4,209,127	182,469	4,391,596	4,566,033
Net income/(expenditure)		139,267	(115,670)	(146,287)	(122,690)	(569,205)
Transfers between funds	15	-	75,000	(75,000)	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains		139,267	(40,670)	(221,287)	(122,690)	(569,205)
Other recognised gains:						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	22	-	344,000	-	344,000	2,094,000
Net movement in funds		139,267	303,330	(221,287)	221,310	1,524,795
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		380,843	363,816	6,527,277	7,271,936	5,747,141
Net movement in funds		139,267	303,330	(221,287)	221,310	1,524,795
Total funds carried forward		520,110	667,146	6,305,990	7,493,246	7,271,936

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
The notes on pages 32 to 58 form part of these financial statements.

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 07650619

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	6,269,808	6,452,277
Current assets			
Debtors	13	200,046	131,522
Cash at bank and in hand		1,391,010	1,272,228
		1,591,056	1,403,750
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(349,618)	(325,091)
Net current assets		1,241,438	1,078,659
Net assets excluding pension liability		7,511,246	7,530,936
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	22	(18,000)	(259,000)
Total net assets		7,493,246	7,271,936
Funds of the academy			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	15	6,305,990	6,527,277
Restricted income funds	15	685,146	622,816
		6,991,136	7,150,093
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	15	6,991,136	7,150,093
Pension reserve	15	(18,000)	(259,000)
Total restricted funds	15	6,973,136	6,891,093
Unrestricted income funds	15	520,110	380,843
Total funds		7,493,246	7,271,936

The financial statements on pages 29 to 58 were approved by the Governors, and authorised for issue on and are signed on their behalf, by:


Mrs R Mahmood


Ms H G Barnett

The notes on pages 32 to 58 form part of these financial statements.

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	17	63,365	109,342
Cash flows from investing activities	18	55,417	13,292
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		118,782	122,634
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,272,228	1,149,594
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	19, 20	1,391,010	1,272,228
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on pages 32 to 58 form part of these financial statements

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

Active Education Academy Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Charity information

The principal activity of Active Education Academy Trust is currently to run River Bank Primary School, a free school in the Biscot Ward of Luton. The Trust is an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee (company number: 07650619). It is incorporated and domiciled in the UK. The address of the registered office is 2nd Floor Apex House, 30-34 Upper George Street, Luton, LU1 2RD.

1.3 Going concern

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

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Income

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

- **Grants**

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

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

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

1.5 Expenditure

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

- **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £1,000 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 basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 2%
Furniture and fixtures	- 20%
Plant and equipment	- 33%

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

1.7 Operating leases

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

1.8 Debtors

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

1.9 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.10 Liabilities and provisions

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

1.11 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 13. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 14. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.12 Taxation

The Academy is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Academy is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.13 Pensions

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

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

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

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

1.14 Fund accounting

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

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.

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 22, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

The asset values are reported using estimated asset allocations prepared by the scheme Actuary. The asset value is calculated at each triennial valuation. Thereafter it is rolled forward to accounting dates using investment returns, contributions received, and benefits paid out. During each annual reporting period between triennial valuations, asset returns are estimated using 11 months of market experience and 1 month of projected experience.

Other than the LGPS noted above, the Governors consider that there are no other material judgements in applying accounting policies or key sources of estimation uncertainty.

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

3. Funding for Academy's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Educational operations			
DfE/ESFA grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	3,324,245	3,324,245
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
UIFSM	-	86,315	86,315
Other DfE/ EFSA grants	-	198,223	198,223
Pupil Premium	-	309,375	309,375
	-	3,918,158	3,918,158
Other Government grants			
Local Authority grants	-	175,299	175,299
	-	175,299	175,299
Other income from the Academy's direct costs	45,451	-	45,451
	45,451	4,093,457	4,138,908
	45,451	4,093,457	4,138,908

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

3. Funding for Academy's educational operations (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Educational operations			
DfE/ESFA grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	3,230,323	3,230,323
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
UIFSM	-	86,653	86,653
Other DfE/ EFSA grants	-	57,255	57,255
Covid catch up grant	-	17,502	17,502
Pupil Premium	-	265,800	265,800
	-	3,657,533	3,657,533
Other Government grants			
Local Authority grants	-	173,741	173,741
	-	173,741	173,741
Other income from the Academy's direct costs	37,117	-	37,117
	37,117	3,831,274	3,868,391
	37,117	3,831,274	3,868,391

In 2021, the Academy received £56,640 of funding for catch up premium and costs incurred in respect of this funding totalled £39,138, with the balance of £17,502 was deferred income. In FY2022 the £17,502 has been released and recognised as income in the year.

In addition the school was donated 48 laptops at a value of £9,817 from the DfE. Given they are below the capitalisation threshold these items have not been included within the financial statements on the grounds of immateriality.

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

4. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Hire of facilities	17,911	17,911
Uniforms	147	147
Other income	21,494	21,494
Catering	35,028	35,028
	<u>74,580</u>	<u>74,580</u>
	<u><u>74,580</u></u>	<u><u>74,580</u></u>
	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Hire of facilities	12,443	12,443
Uniforms	298	298
Other income	38,613	38,613
Catering	62,021	62,021
	<u>113,375</u>	<u>113,375</u>
	<u><u>113,375</u></u>	<u><u>113,375</u></u>

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Interest received	19,236	19,236
	<u>19,236</u>	<u>19,236</u>
	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Interest received	1,389	1,389
	<u>1,389</u>	<u>1,389</u>

6. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2023 £	Premises 2023 £	Other 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Educational activities:				
Direct costs	2,667,610	182,469	513,656	3,363,735
Support costs	529,947	-	497,914	1,027,861
Total 2023	<u>3,197,557</u>	<u>182,469</u>	<u>1,011,570</u>	<u>4,391,596</u>
	<i>Staff Costs 2022 £</i>	<i>Premises 2022 £</i>	<i>Other 2022 £</i>	<i>Total 2022 £</i>
Educational activities:				
Direct costs	2,675,399	191,922	380,065	3,247,386
Support costs	739,425	-	579,222	1,318,647
Total 2022	<u>3,414,824</u>	<u>191,922</u>	<u>959,287</u>	<u>4,566,033</u>

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Costs for the Academy's educational operations	3,363,735	1,027,861	4,391,596

	<i>Activities undertaken directly 2022 £</i>	<i>Support costs 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Costs for the Academy's educational operations	3,247,386	1,318,647	4,566,033

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Staff costs	2,805,936	2,720,639
Depreciation	182,469	191,922
Trips (unrestricted)	31,543	37,244
Educational supplies	154,501	112,434
Staff development	7,417	9,175
Other	12,475	13,603
Curriculum support	8,371	9,870
Catering	161,023	152,499
	3,363,735	3,247,386

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Staff costs	391,621	694,185
Teaching and educational support staff costs	111,151	73,523
Educational supplies	151,957	142,173
Staff development	34,635	40,754
Support staff costs	98,082	89,921
Other support costs	4,323	2,428
Premises costs	36,388	28,237
Governance costs	25,737	26,727
Maintenance of premises and equipment	61,499	77,333
Cleaning	71,574	53,742
Insurance	23,894	22,624
Pension finance costs	17,000	67,000
	1,027,861	<i>1,318,647</i>

Included in other support costs are legal costs of £855 (2022: £nil).

8. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £	<i>2022 £</i>
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		
:- owned by the charity	182,469	191,922
Operating leases	19,054	22,447
Auditor's remuneration - audit	15,190	13,500
Auditor's remuneration - other services	3,945	3,705
	182,469	<i>191,922</i>

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

9. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	2,463,262	2,365,642
Social security costs	192,522	191,760
Pension costs	541,773	857,422
	<u>3,197,557</u>	<u>3,414,824</u>

b. Staff numbers

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Teachers	32	31
Administration and support	67	70
Management	6	6
	<u>105</u>	<u>107</u>

c. Higher paid staff

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	1	2
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Governors and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £380,452 (2022 - £451,705).

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

10. Governors' remuneration and expenses

One or more Governors has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Academy. The principal and other staff Governors 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 Governors' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2023	2022
		£	£
Mr D M Sansom (Headteacher)	Remuneration	80,000 -	75,000 -
		85,000	80,000
	Pension contributions paid	15,000 -	15,000 -
		20,000	20,000
Mrs S A Smart (Staff Trustee)	Remuneration	20,000 -	15,000 -
		25,000	20,000
	Pension contributions paid	0 - 5,000	0 - 5,000
Mrs K Walsh (Parent Trustee, resigned 27 February 2023)	Remuneration	5,000 -	0 - 5,000
		10,000	
	Pension contributions paid	0 - 5,000	0 - 5,000

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

11. Governors' and Officers' Insurance

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

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

12. Tangible fixed assets

	Long-term leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Plant and machinery £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 September 2022	7,622,724	313,425	186,139	8,122,288
At 31 August 2023	<u>7,622,724</u>	<u>313,425</u>	<u>186,139</u>	<u>8,122,288</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2022	1,217,823	274,796	177,392	1,670,011
Charge for the year	152,454	23,015	7,000	182,469
At 31 August 2023	<u>1,370,277</u>	<u>297,811</u>	<u>184,392</u>	<u>1,852,480</u>
Net book value				
At 31 August 2023	<u>6,252,447</u>	<u>15,614</u>	<u>1,747</u>	<u>6,269,808</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>6,404,901</u>	<u>38,629</u>	<u>8,747</u>	<u>6,452,277</u>

13. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	15,799	4,766
Other debtors	94,525	47,664
Prepayments and accrued income	79,919	52,734
Tax recoverable	9,803	26,358
	<u>200,046</u>	<u>131,522</u>

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	45,443	47,746
Other taxation and social security	86,414	71,155
Other creditors	7,668	10,491
Accruals and deferred income	210,093	195,699
	349,618	325,091
	2023	2022
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	83,408	101,140
Resources deferred during the year	20,602	27,527
Amounts released from previous periods	(15,546)	(45,259)
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	88,464	83,408

At the balance sheet date the Academy was holding funds relating to income received for free school meals, PE & sports premium, and the national tutoring programme for 2022/23. The Academy did not use the national tutoring grant and are expecting to return and pay this back to the ESFA as requested.

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

15. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
Total unrestricted funds (iii)	380,843	139,267	-	-	-	520,110
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG) (i)	377,489	3,324,245	(3,487,767)	57,388	-	271,355
Other DfE/ESFA grants	106,954	198,223	(39,261)	-	-	265,916
Pupil premium grant	83,454	309,375	(244,954)	-	-	147,875
UIFSM	54,919	86,315	(158,846)	17,612	-	-
Other government grants	-	175,299	(175,299)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(259,000)	-	(103,000)	-	344,000	(18,000)
	363,816	4,093,457	(4,209,127)	75,000	344,000	667,146
Restricted fixed asset funds						
DfE/ESFA capital grants (ii)	6,452,277	-	(182,469)	-	-	6,269,808
IT fund (iv)	75,000	-	-	(75,000)	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	36,182	-	-	-	36,182
	6,527,277	36,182	(182,469)	(75,000)	-	6,305,990
Total Restricted funds	6,891,093	4,129,639	(4,391,596)	-	344,000	6,973,136
Total funds	7,271,936	4,268,906	(4,391,596)	-	344,000	7,493,246

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

15. Statement of funds (continued)

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

- (i) General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy
- (ii) The Capital Grants represents fixed asset funding for various capital projects and the school building which was funded by DfE.
- (iii) Unrestricted funds included trips and activities, investment income and other income such as hire of facilities and sale of school uniform.
- (iv) Previously, the school was holding £75,000 for a future IT equipment spend. However, management have revisited this allocation, and the Academy is currently expensing low value IT items such as laptop replacements and refreshes, so no longer have current plans for larger scale IT projects.

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

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

15. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2021 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2022 £</i>
Unrestricted funds						
Total unrestricted funds (iii)	219,252	151,881	(47)	9,757	-	380,843
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG) (i)	559,823	3,230,322	(3,314,005)	(98,651)	-	377,489
Other DfE/ESFA grants	67,445	57,255	(17,746)	-	-	106,954
Pupil premium grant	22,945	265,800	(205,291)	-	-	83,454
Catering	(134,823)	-	-	134,823	-	-
UIFSM	113,932	86,654	(150,779)	5,112	-	54,919
Other government grants	-	173,741	(173,741)	-	-	-
Covid catchup	39,138	17,502	(17,502)	(39,138)	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,858,000)	-	(495,000)	-	2,094,000	(259,000)
	<u>(1,189,540)</u>	<u>3,831,274</u>	<u>(4,374,064)</u>	<u>2,146</u>	<u>2,094,000</u>	<u>363,816</u>
Restricted Fixed Asset Funds						
DfE/ESFA capital grants (ii)	6,642,429	13,673	(191,922)	(11,903)	-	6,452,277
IT fund (iv)	75,000	-	-	-	-	75,000
	<u>6,717,429</u>	<u>13,673</u>	<u>(191,922)</u>	<u>(11,903)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,527,277</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>5,527,889</u>	<u>3,844,947</u>	<u>(4,565,986)</u>	<u>(9,757)</u>	<u>2,094,000</u>	<u>6,891,093</u>
Total funds	<u><u>5,747,141</u></u>	<u><u>3,996,828</u></u>	<u><u>(4,566,033)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>2,094,000</u></u>	<u><u>7,271,936</u></u>

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	6,269,808	6,269,808
Current assets	543,851	1,011,023	36,182	1,591,056
Creditors due within one year	(23,741)	(325,877)	-	(349,618)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(18,000)	-	(18,000)
Total	520,110	667,146	6,305,990	7,493,246

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	6,452,277	6,452,277
Current assets	380,843	947,907	75,000	1,403,750
Creditors due within one year	-	(325,091)	-	(325,091)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(259,000)	-	(259,000)
Total	380,843	363,816	6,527,277	7,271,936

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

17. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of financial activities)	(122,690)	(569,205)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	182,469	191,922
Interest receivable	(19,236)	(1,389)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(44,783)	20,839
Decrease in creditors	(16,214)	(14,152)
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(36,181)	(13,673)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	17,000	67,000
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	103,000	428,000
Net cash provided by operating activities	63,365	109,342

18. Cash flows from investing activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	19,236	1,389
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	-	(1,770)
Capital grants from DfE	36,181	13,673
Net cash provided by investing activities	55,417	13,292

19. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	1,391,010	1,272,228
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,391,010	1,272,228

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

20. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,272,228	118,782	1,391,010
	1,272,228	118,782	1,391,010

21. Contingent liabilities

During the period of the Funding Agreement, in the event of the sale or disposal by other means of any asset for which a government capital grant was received, the Academy is required either to reinvest the proceeds or to repay to the Secretary of State the same proportion of the proceeds of the sale or disposal as equates with the proportion of the original cost met by the Secretary of State.

Upon termination of the Funding Agreement, whether as a result of the Secretary of State or the Academy serving notice, the Academy shall repay to the Secretary of State sums determined by reference to:-

- a) the value at that time of the Academy's site and premises and other assets held for the purpose of the Academy.
- b) the extent to which expenditure incurred in providing those assets was met by payments by the Secretary of State under the Funding Agreement.

22. Pension commitments

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was prepared as at 31 March 2020 and the Valuation Report was published in October 2023. The latest actuarial valuation of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2022.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The School participates in the Teachers' Pension Scheme ("the TPS") for its teaching staff. The pension charge for the year includes contributions payable to the TPS of £274,163 (2022: £263,684) and at the year-end £40,220 (2022 - £30,523) was accrued in respect of contributions to this scheme.

The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefits pension scheme governed by The Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010 (as amended) and The Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014 (as amended). Members contribute on a "pay as you go" basis with contributions from members and the employer being credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

22. Pension commitments (continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The employer contribution rate is set by the Secretary of State following scheme valuations undertaken by the Government Actuary's Department. The most recent actuarial valuation of the TPS was prepared as at 31 March 2020 and the Valuation Report, which was published in October 2023.

Following the McCloud judgement, the remedy proposed that when benefits become payable, eligible members can select to receive them from either the reformed or legacy schemes for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2022. The actuaries have assumed that members are likely to choose the option that provides them with the greater benefits, and in preparing the 2020 valuation have valued the 'greater value' benefits for groups of relevant members.

The valuation confirmed that the employer contribution rate for the TPS would increase from 23.6% to 28.6% from 1 April 2024. Employers are also required to pay a scheme administration levy of 0.08% giving a total employer contribution rate of 28.68%.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £238,000 (2022 - £214,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £178,000 (2022 - £159,000) and employees' contributions totalled £60,000 (2022 - £55,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 18% per cent for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% per cent for employees.

As described in note the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Academy, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Academy at the balance sheet date.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of Academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2023	2022
	%	%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.25	4.2
Rate of increase in salaries	3.9	3.9
Rate of increase for pensions in payment (CPI)	2.9	2.9
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	50	50

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

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

22. Pension commitments (continued)

	2023	<i>2022</i>
	Years	<i>Years</i>
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.1	<i>22.0</i>
Females	23.9	<i>24.4</i>
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.1	<i>22.9</i>
Females	25.5	<i>26.1</i>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Sensitivity analysis		
	2023	<i>2022</i>
	£000	<i>£000</i>
Discount rate +0.1%	155	<i>63</i>
Salary +0.1%	162	<i>2</i>
Pension +0.1%	169	<i>63</i>
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ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

22. Pension commitments (continued)

Share of scheme assets

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

	At 31 August 2023	<i>At 31 August 2022</i>
	£	£
Equities	1,197,000	1,096,000
Corporate bonds	342,000	416,000
Property	277,000	254,000
Cash	73,000	67,000
Total market value of assets	1,889,000	1,833,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £71,000 (2022 - £(7000) loss).

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

	2023	<i>2022</i>
	£	£
Current service cost	(264,000)	(587,000)
Employer Contributions	178,000	159,000
Interest income	81,000	(7,000)
Interest cost	(88,000)	(60,000)
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	(93,000)	(495,000)

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

	2023	<i>2022</i>
	£	£
Opening defined benefit obligation	2,092,000	3,486,000
Current service cost	261,000	585,000
Interest cost	88,000	60,000
Employee contributions	60,000	55,000
Actuarial (gains)/loss	(594,000)	(2,094,000)
At 31 August	1,907,000	2,092,000

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

22. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Opening fair value of scheme assets	1,833,000	1,628,000
Interest income	81,000	29,000
Return on assets less interest	(10,000)	(36,000)
Contributions by employer including unfunded	178,000	159,000
Contributions by employee	60,000	55,000
Actuarial gains/(loss)	(250,000)	-
Administration expenses	(3,000)	(2,000)
At 31 August	1,889,000	1,833,000

23. Operating lease commitments

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Not later than 1 year	17,336	22,974
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	12,757
	17,336	35,731

24. Members' liability

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

ACTIVE EDUCATION ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

25. Related party transactions

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

The following related party transactions took place in the period:

Expenditure related party transactions:

Active Luton Limited - a charitable company with shared directors and founding member of Active Education Academy Trust.

The Academy Trust purchased services during the year relating to project & facilities management, financial, professional, and administration services from Active Luton Limited (excluding VAT) totalling £92,303 (2022: £81,973 - excluding VAT). At the year end the balance outstanding with Active Luton Limited was £nil (2022: £nil).

In entering into the transaction the Academy Trust has complied with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2023.

The element above £25,000 has been provided 'at no more than cost' and Active Luton Limited has provided a statement of assurance confirming this.

K Coles, partner of K Walsh, a Parent Trustee, is employed by the Academy Trust. K Coles' appointment was made in open competition and K Walsh was not involved in the decision-making process regarding appointment. K Coles is paid within the normal pay scale for their role and receives no special treatment as a result of the relationship with a Governor.

Close family members of the board of Governors received remuneration of £4,132 (2022: £7,176).

Income related party transactions:

During the year Active Luton Limited hired facilities excluding VAT totalling £10,524 (2022: £10,098 - excluding VAT). At the year end the balance outstanding from Active Luton Limited (excluding VAT) was £nil (2022: £655 - excluding VAT).

During the year no trustees hired facilities £nil (2022: one trustee, £100). At the year end the balance outstanding was £nil (2022: £100).