

Company registration number 08638158 (England and Wales)

# **EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST**

**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

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# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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### Members

Rev P Martin  
Mr M Bailey  
Rev Dr J Hustler  
Rev Dr R Walton  
Rev S Ellis (Appointed 20 July 2023)

### Trustees

Rev S Ellis (Chair) (Appointed 20 July 2023)  
Mr D A Harrison (Resigned Chair on 19 July 2023)  
Miss C Bale (Resigned 20 March 2023)  
Miss T Collier (Resigned 25 April 2023)  
Mr J Inman  
Mrs N Taylor  
Mr T Harris (Resigned 31 December 2022)  
Mrs B M Easton  
Mr J Weaving  
Mrs E E Cleland (Resigned 13 October 2022)  
Mr K Meredith  
Mr S Myers (Appointed 13 December 2022)  
Mr G Roberts (Appointed 17 December 2022 and resigned 26 March 2023)  
Mrs L Brookbanks (Appointed 20 July 2023 and resigned 3 October 2023)

### Senior management team

- CEO and Accounting Officer	Mrs J A Hewitt
- Headteacher (Bedford Hall Methodist)	Mrs A Burkes
- Headteacher (Westleigh Methodist)	Mrs X Moragrega
- Headteacher (Rosehill Methodist)	Mrs G Yapp
- Headteacher (Wesley Methodist)	Mr R Jones
- Headteacher (Nutgrove Methodist)	Mrs R Botell
- Headteacher (Summerseat Methodist)	Mrs J Whittaker
- Chief Financial and Operating Officer	Mr A Sahi
- Head of Operations	Mrs J Buckley

### Company registration number

08638158 (England and Wales)

### Registered office

Epworth Education Trust Central Office  
Westleigh Lane  
Leigh  
WN7 5NJ

### Academies operated

Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School  
Westleigh Methodist Primary School  
Rosehill Methodist Primary School  
Wesley Methodist Primary School  
Nutgrove Methodist Primary School  
Summerseat Methodist Primary School

### Location

Wigan  
Wigan  
Tameside  
Bury  
St Helens  
Bury

### Headteacher

Mrs A Burkes  
Mrs X Moragrega  
Mrs G Yapp  
Mr R Jones  
Mrs R Bottell  
Mrs J Whittaker

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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<b>Independent auditor</b>	MHA Moore and Smalley Richard House 9 Winckley Square Preston PR1 3HP
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<b>Solicitors</b>	Hill Dickinson LLP No. 1 St. Paul's Square Liverpool L3 9SJ
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# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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The Trustees present their annual report together with the accounts and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report and strategic report under company law.

The Trust currently operates 6 academies for pupils aged 2 to 11 in the North West area. It also operates the Westleigh Start Well Family Centre.

The Trust changed its name to Epworth Education Trust on 26th October 2020.

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

##### Constitution

Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School and Westleigh Methodist Primary School converted to Acorn Trust ("The Academy") on 1st September 2013. The 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 Trust.

The Trust was incorporated on 5 August 2013 and commenced its activities on transfer from the Local Authority on the conversion date stated above.

On the 1st November 2020, the Acorn Trust merged with The Wesley Trust (consisting of 3 primary schools) and changed its name to Epworth Education Trust. On the 1st December 2020, Summerseat Methodist primary school converted to an academy as part of an academy order and joined the Epworth Education Trust (as its sponsors).

The Trustee Board act as the Trustees for the charitable activities of the Trust and are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company is known as Epworth Education Trust.

Details of the members and trustees of the Trust who served throughout the year, except as noted, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Each school has a Local Advisory Board which carries some delegated responsibility through the scheme of delegation.

##### Members' liability

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

##### Trustees' indemnities

The Trust has opted into the Department for Education's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA). The scheme protects Trustees and Officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring on Trust business and provides cover up to £10,000,000. The insurance cost relating to Trustees is not separately identifiable from the total cost for the RPA.

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

Trustees are appointed under the rules contained within the Trust memorandum and articles of association. Trustees are appointed based on their skills set and the capacity they can offer. A variety of recruitment methods are used including School Governors One Stop Shop (SGOSS) and Academy Ambassadors to attract the correct skill set through local and national adverts. Potential Trustees are asked to submit an expression of interest and personal profile and also undergo an informal interview process with the CEO, Trust Chair and Members before being appointed. Potential trustees are also given the chance to observe a Trustee or committee meeting before being appointed.

Membership of the Local Advisory Board is in accordance with the terms of reference.

The Governors of the Local Advisory Board are appointed in the following ways:

- Parent governors are appointed through a nomination by parents of the students of the Academy. Nominations are asked from both teaching staff and support staff, if there is more than one candidate then a ballot system is used to elect staff governors. Only staff of the Academy are allowed to vote.
- Foundation governors are appointed by the Methodist Circuit
- Community governors are appointed by the Advisory Board provided that the person who is selected as a Community Governor is: a person who lives or works in the community served by the School or; a person who, in the opinion of the Advisory Board, is committed to the government and success of the School.

#### Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

On appointment, trustees receive information relating to the trust and receive an induction pack on the role and responsibilities of Trustees. The training and induction provided for new governors and Trustees will depend on their existing experience. All new governors and trustees will be given information about the Trust and its schools and given the opportunity to visit the academies and the chance to meet with staff and pupils. They are provided with relevant copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role.

Induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual. Governor Hub is used as a central place for all correspondence and data.

On-going training is provided throughout the year. This will be based on the school improvement plan priorities and any training needs arising from any skill audits undertaken. Training is provided both by the Trust and external providers.

#### Organisational structure

As a charity and company limited by guarantee, the Trust is governed by its Board of Trustees whose members are directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and trustees for the purposes of charity legislation. They are responsible for, and oversee, the management and administration of the Trust and the academies run by the Trust, alongside the running of the Westleigh Start Well Family Centre.

The Trust Board establish the overall framework for the establishment of the Trust and the academies included within the Trust. The Members determines terms of reference for the Trustees. The Board of Trustees determines terms of reference for all of the committees and approves all relevant Trust policies. The delegation of responsibility and authority is set out within the Trust scheme of delegation. This includes delegation to the CEO (who is also the Accounting Officer), and other employees of the Trust. Trustees are supported in their work by sub-committees and the Local Advisory Board at each school.

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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The Trustees have overall responsibility for setting the strategic direction for the Trust including the vision, aims and ethos of the Trust and also have overall responsibility for the management of the Trust's finances. This is largely exercised through strategic planning and the setting of policy. It is managed through business planning, risk management, monitoring of budgets, performance management, the setting of standards and the implementation of quality management processes. The main responsibilities of the Trust Trustees are prescribed in the Funding Agreement between the Trust and the DfE, in the Academy's Memoranda and Articles of Association and in the Academy Trust Handbook. The main responsibilities include:

- applying the highest standards of governance, complying with charitable objects, with duties as company directors, with charity law and with the funding agreement;
- agreeing the long term financial objectives for the Trust;
- ensuring that grant from the DfE is used only for the purposes intended;
- ensuring regularity, propriety and value for money;
- adhering to the seven principles of public life;
- approval of the 3 year Trust budget forecast (including the academies individual budget forecasts);
- keeping full and accurate accounting records;
- receiving reports on the expenditure against budget for all the Trust's academies and subsidiaries;
- approval of accruals accounts, giving a true and fair view of the MAT's incoming resources and application of resources during the year, and the state of affairs at the year-end, in accordance with existing accounting standards;
- ensure that bank accounts, financial systems and financial records are operated by more than one person;
- ensure that all the MAT's property is under the control of the Trustees, and that measures are in place to prevent losses or misuse;
- approval of a written scheme of delegation of financial powers;
- establishing a separate finance & audit committee to provide assurance over the suitability of, and compliance with, the Trust's financial systems and operational controls and to manage risk;
- Comply with a Financial Notice to Improve (FNtl);
- approval of annual accounts;
- authorising orders and the award of contracts within the approval limits;
- appointment of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO);
- appointment of the Accounting Officer;
- appointment of the Chief Finance Officer and Chief Operations Officer.

#### Organisational structure

The CEO, as accounting officer, is responsible for carrying out the strategic plan for the Trust as well as the leadership of the Trust and its schools. Trustees are responsible for the strategic management of the schools within the Trust. Collectively they make decisions on annual spending and set the budget for the year in liaison with the CEO, Headteachers and senior leaders. They also offer expertise in curricular subjects, project management and capital bids. Each school's management provide information about the standards, curriculum, pupil attainment and attendance for Trustee information and monitoring purposes. This is verified by the CEO and/or external inspection and monitoring reports. Through performance management, the CEO challenge the senior leadership and hold them to account regarding priorities for improvement set out in the Trust and School Development Plan. The School Development Plan is derived from a rigorous process of Trust monitoring and evaluation and the school's own self evaluation.

The daily management and organisation of each school is led by the individual Headteachers. They are supported by the senior leadership at each school who are responsible for Key Stage management, standards of attainment and curriculum provision within the school; Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1, and upper and lower KS2. The Chief Finance Officer has responsibility for finance and reporting. The Chief Operations Officer has responsibility for Capital and Estates, Procurement, data protection and Health and Safety.

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### Organisational structure

The Board of Trustees meets at least six times a year to receive reports and manage its strategic objectives.

The CEO is the Accounting Officer with responsibilities as described in HM Treasury's "Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money". They have personal responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which they are answerable and must ensure that in considering proposals relating to expenditure or income for which they have responsibilities, all relevant financial considerations are taken into account and full regard is given to any issues of propriety and regularity.

The main responsibilities include:

- the initial review and authorisation of the annual Trust budget;
- the regular monitoring of actual expenditure and income against budget at the Trust level;
- ensuring the annual accounts are produced in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 1985 and the DfE guidance issued to Academies;
- ensuring that the regular reports provided to the Directors are full and accurate;
- authorising orders and the award of contracts up to £50,000 and with the agreement of the Finance Committee any up to £100,000.

#### Sub-Committees:

The committee structure is as follows (with attendance figures published below)

#### **Finance Committee:**

The main responsibilities of the Finance Committee are detailed in written terms of reference which have been authorised by the Board of Trustees. The Chair of this Committee is a Trustee and other members are appointed by the board and include the Chief Finance Officer. The purpose of the committee is to assist with the decision making of the Board by enabling more detailed considerations to be given so the best means of fulfilling the Board's responsibility of ensuring the sound management of all the Trust's finances and resources, including proper planning, monitoring and probity can be carried out.

#### **Audit committee:**

The main responsibilities of the Audit committee are to ensure that an adequate programme of internal scrutiny is in place across the Trust and that risk management and internal control processes are robust. This committee is independent and obtains and reviews objective reports from external providers to form judgements and direct action for the reduction of risk, holding both executive leaders and Trustees to account.

#### **Pay and remuneration committee:**

The main responsibilities of the pay committee are to agree the pay recommendations for the Executive Leader and Headteachers and to ensure there is clear policy for Executive Leaders salaries and remuneration.

#### **Resources Committee:**

The main responsibilities of the resources committee is to ensure that the executives are held to account and that the employees of the Trust are subject to appropriate and fair performance management processes. This committee also ensures that the Trust positively promotes the wellbeing of all staff and compliance with employment law and statutory guidance.

#### **Education and Ethos committee:**

The main responsibilities of the standards and effectiveness committee are to hold executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, within a culture of high expectations and aspirations for all.



# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

All the members and the Trustees of the trust are volunteers and receive no direct or in-direct payment for their services to the Trust.

The Pay Policy for all staff within the Trust is agreed by the Trustees annually. The pay structure is in-line with STPCD handbook each year. The Trustees undertake the Performance management of the CEO with external advice. The Trustees ensure decisions about CEO pay follow a robust evidence-based process reflective of the individual's roles and responsibilities and that the approach to pay is transparent, proportionate and justifiable, in line with the Academy Trust Handbook

The CEO and Trustees undertake the performance management of the Headteachers and the Central Team. All other staff are managed by the Headteacher. All pay increases are agreed by the pay committee of the Trust or the Local Advisory Board pay committee.

All salaries are benchmarked against national comparators.

#### Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The Trust has an Service level agreement with Methodist Academies Schools Trust (MAST) to provide strategic oversight and school improvement support for the wider family of Methodist Schools. A formal SLA has been established between both Trust Boards. Julie-Ann Hewitt (CEO) and Amy Burkes (Director of Education/ Executive Headteacher at Bedford Hall) are providing the support. The finances related to this are paid directly to the Trust.

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### Objectives and activities

##### Objects and aims

The Company's object ("**the Object**") is specifically restricted to the following:

(a) 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 Academies which shall offer a broad and balanced curriculum and which shall include:

- Academies other than those designated Methodist, whether with or without a designated religious character; and
- Methodist academies designated as such which shall be conducted in accordance with the principles, purposes, practices and tenets of the Methodist Church both generally and in particular in relation to arranging for religious education and daily acts of worship (as required by the Funding Agreement) and in having regard to the advice of the Methodist Council.

The Trust has worked together to develop the vision and values for the Trust. The Epworth Education Trust is rooted in our communities, our profession and our faith. We work together to ensure that every child and young person can achieve excellence.

It now has a Charter which represents its commitment to the school, staff and pupils. This charter is known as 'The Roots':

The Trust's approach is anchored to six core principles. These are:

- We will build a family of schools with shared Methodist values, but who can support their individual communities in their own unique way
- Best practice will be delivered through school-based models of excellence
- Each school will deliver a dynamic and creative curriculum that holds no limits on the achievements and learning of all pupils
- A commitment to the highest standard of pastoral care and support
- Our education and ethos will be used to support and develop our local communities
- Our high-quality continuous professional development will enable staff to shine and advance in their career

The Trust continues to keep first things first and ensure that all activities within the Trust can be drawn back to our vision of ensuring excellence for our pupils. This ensures the Trust continues to stay sharply focused upon ensuring its schools are places that provide the best outcomes for all pupils whilst also being an employer of choice for staff.

We continued to experience some of the challenges of covid through staff and pupil absence and knowledge gaps that emerged. As a trust we worked together in order to overcome these.

Whilst a challenging time for all the Trust, schools and their leaders remained resolute in overcoming the barriers faced. As a result there is much to celebrate.

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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Over the course of this year and in spite of the many challenges it has brought, Epworth Education Trust has shown strength in a number of key areas:

- Staff in the Trust embraced the ethos of 'Every Child is Everybody's Responsibility'. This has developed an open culture in which best practise is shared and challenges overcome together.
- Local governance continues to strengthen through a unified approach to agenda setting, reports and the chairs forum.
- The CPD offer for Governance, including our first Governor conference, has been well received and feedback is that this is, impacting positively on governance performance.
- Networks across the Trust have become embedded and supported strong collaboration. These have included networks for Headteachers, Business Managers, LAB Chairs and subject leaders.
- The Inspiring Leaders training was very successful and has already had its second cohort of staff.
- Strong recruitment into key leadership positions in the Trust including a new Chief Finance and Operations Officer and Headteacher at Rosehill.
- A strong CPD offer for staff across the Trust.
- Launch of trust pupil projects including the trust art exhibition and development of the Trust song.
- Having success in awards – Headteacher of the Year in the MEN award, silver winner for Outstanding New teacher in the Pearson Awards and flagship status for the Quality Inclusion Mark.
- Epworth Specialist Leaders (ESLs) were launched enabling skilled practitioners to support schools across the trust where required.
- Collaborative development of key areas such as the SEND offer.
- Development of new provision including nursery at Summerseat and SEND provision at Rosehill.
- Strong program delivered for all ECTs across the trust.
- The Trust has benefited from successful CIF bids that have enhanced our physical environment.

#### **Wesley**

##### Achievements in 2022/23:

- OFSTED 'Good' grading - clear focus on the robust curriculum that all children are able to access with links to how there are high expectations for all children, including SEND. Strong leadership throughout school.
- SIAMS 'Excellent' grading - faith and values are a clear golden thread running through school with excellent work completed on spirituality and personal development.
- Community days/events - a range of events to build community spirit through a vigil held for Queen Elizabeth II, litter picks and Easter Bingo among a range of discos and fairs. We also completed our second 'Wesley Warriors' event raising over £1k for Edukids.
- RWI full staff training and implementation - following Ofsted this was one of our two next steps and this was complete in May 2023.
- Improvements to EYFS continuous provision - work was completed with the whole team and visits to Early Excellence to develop the continuous provision within school. Our PTA supported the purchases of new equipment and this has transformed our EYFS.
- Behaviour implementations for visible consistencies and expectations - work has been done to develop these through school and it is clear this has had a tremendous impact on behaviour around school and within the classrooms. The Headteacher has also completed training on these to Trust schools and to all RLE's and is now in place across a number of schools.
- Playground improvements - through amazing work from the School Business Manager, the school has budgeted to create long lasting improvements on both of our playgrounds. We had 5m pavilions installed on both playgrounds for the children, activity routes printed onto the floor on both playgrounds and then a state of the art activity trail installed on our KS1 playground.
- Gold Award from Woodland Trust - through incredible work from our Forest School Lead, we gained points through a range of activities last academic year to achieve our bronze, silver and finally our Gold award from the Woodland Trust where our plaque is now proudly placed with our Forest School display in school. We are now working on our platinum award!
- Tony Walsh and a wide range of author visits over the year. Every year group in school received author visits and one of our class role models visited us to complete work with 'his class' and then also completed workshops with all of our KS2 classes. Tony has been booked in to return this upcoming academic year too.

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### Key objectives:

##### **Quality of Education**

- Increase the rates of progress and raise attainment at both expected and greater depth levels in reading within Key Stage 1 and 2 with a specific focus on strengthening phonics and early reading outcomes.
- Drive further our pedagogical approaches to teaching, learning and assessment at Wesley Methodist to secure robust implementation across all subject areas, so that pupils are able to demonstrate that they know, remember and can apply the curriculum to their year group end points.

##### **Behaviour and Attitudes**

- To further develop consistency in pupil's behaviour and attitudes ensuring that all pupils demonstrate respect for diversity and difference in all forms across the school. As a result, all pupils show high levels of self-control and positive attitudes to their education.

##### **Leadership and Management**

- Enhance the rigorous strategic monitoring processes in place to ensure oversight of all subjects and data in order to secure the best outcomes for all children.
- Fully embed the implementation of the Trust SEND strategy to ensure swift identification and timely support is in place within the classroom.

##### **Westleigh**

##### **Achievements in 2022/23:**

- Thrive training is taking place to upskill staff in understanding pupils social, emotional and mental health needs further. Developing a whole school approach to supporting pupils.
- Uniform shop, cooking classes - supporting families in the cost of living crisis. Doing all we can in line with Methodist ethos.
- Strong communication to parents - feedback from parent governors that our home school communication was strong and they find the newsletters useful in sharing a range of information. Social media platforms used also.
- Playground behaviour improved
- Children supporting each other - development of children's chaplains and prefect roles as well as playleaders. Developing children as leaders in school
- Coronation celebration - bringing the community together to celebrate. We even got a letter back from Buckingham palace on behalf of the King.
- New shelter - allowing us to set up more permanent provision outdoors for EYFS pupils,
- Nurture- supporting children who could not cope within the classroom - children's SEMH needs met.
- Securing specialist provision for some children - children able to access the best support and specialist provision available to them to thrive and flourish where they struggled in a main stream school.
- Staff willingness to training - staff eager to attend courses, e.g. TA autism training. Subject leaders actively furthering their own skills.
- Maths data increased - heavy focus on moderation of the curriculum lead to more tailored planning. Impact seen in raised attainment in ks1 and 2 outcomes. Progress measures risen.
- Curriculums in place – statutory coverage, development of curriculum. - Subject leaders worked hard alongside SLT to develop progression of skills documents to support teachers with planning skills based learning. These are in place for all subject. Medium term planning developed alongside this to gain consistency across the curriculum.
- Robust safeguarding - safeguarding audit strong.
- Trips this year, wide range of them. A sharp increase seen last year in the number of trips and external visits and visitors. Enriching the curriculum further.
- BBC filming - showcasing the work done to support families and highlighting the impact of increased cost of living against government funding on schools.
- ELKLAN – communication friendly setting approved - staff able to support pupils with communication and language skills from Nursery upwards.

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### Objectives, strategies and activities

##### Key Objectives:

##### **Quality of Education**

- Increase the rates of progress and raise attainment across school, through a sharp focus on strengthening teacher pedagogy (with a focus on English).
- To ensure children achieve in line with or above the national standard within phonics at the end of year 1 and 2.

##### **Behaviour and Attitudes**

- To refine the consistent approaches to securing positive behaviour through an inclusive child-centred approach in line with the high expectations set by the school.
- Refine approaches to ensure and maintain rigour and a clear focus on improving attendance and punctuality so data is at least in line with national.

##### **Leadership and Management**

- Subject leaders to continuously evaluate their subjects, using the subject leader action plans, to drive continuous improvements and raise standards within their subject.
- Senior leaders to maintain strategic oversight of teaching and learning and provide the necessary CPD through the use of effective coaching and mentoring and pertinent PLR targets in order to strengthen pedagogy and raise standards.

##### **Quality of Years Education**

- To ensure the provision and teaching meets the full intent of the curriculum with a heavy focus on into developing high quality interactions that promote children's communication and language skills.

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### **Bedford Hall:**

Achievements in 2022/23:

- Excellent offer for SEND pupils. "Staff identify pupils with SEND early. Staff are well trained to meet pupils' additional needs, so that pupils with SEND achieve well. Teachers use a broad range of strategies to adapt the delivery of the curriculum appropriately. Pupils with SEND learn as well as their peers." Ofsted 22. SENDCo meets with staff half termly to evaluate Assess, Do, Plan, Review strategies and readjust targets. An Plan on a Page is in place for every child on the SEND register and this is shared with all staff to ensure a consistent approach. Parents meet with teachers at least termly to review progress and targets and feel well supported.
- Gold Active Mark for PE and Sport 22-23. The School Games Mark is a government led awards scheme launched in 2012 to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community. The GOLD Award acknowledges schools that provide competitive and participation opportunities for all pupil groups, including SEND and the disadvantaged.
- Music Mark School 2023. The Music Mark is recognition of the value of music education as part of a broad, balanced and progressive curriculum. The school has a strategy for music which provides for all children and a further strategy that promotes and enhances this education through extra-curricular activities. Bedford Hall offers individual and group extra curricular lessons to 35% of pupils. In addition, 23% of KS2 pupils are part bands through Rock Steady Music School and perform to parents termly.
- Wigan Sustainable Schools Award Winners June 23. The Eco Council's 'Reuse not refuse' campaign aimed to remove the stigma from buying second hand by educating pupils, parents and the community on the environmental impact of throwing old clothes, toys and books away. Throughout the year, they held book swaps, bring and buy toy sales, uniform exchange and had a 'Rag Bag' recycling clothing bin installed on school grounds. They competed against 15 schools in Wigan to have the most sustainable school, linking their project to the context and needs of their school community. They were awarded the top prize of £500 which has been used to purchase a large open-wardrobe to better organise and present preloved uniform.

#### Key Objectives:

##### **Quality of Education**

- Increase rates of progress and raise attainment at both EXP and GD levels in writing across the school, with a specific focus on extended writing and editing.
- Drive further our pedagogical approaches to teaching, learning and assessment through delivery, questioning, review and feedback.

##### **Behaviour and Attitudes**

Revise, develop and implement the positive behaviour curriculum across the school, which will in turn raise standards of conduct and aspirations for all pupils.

##### **Personal Development**

Achieve 'Eco School' status, by driving the school's sustainability initiatives, giving pupils a deep sense of belonging in our ever-changing world.

##### **Leadership and Management**

Further enhance the Christian culture and distinctiveness throughout school.

##### **Quality of Early Years Education**

Utilise wider outdoor learning opportunities to develop a life-long appreciation of the natural world, whilst enriching children's knowledge, skills and vocabulary.

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### **Nutgrove:**

##### Achievements in 2022/23:

- SIAMS: Our school was inspected in June 2023 and we received a judgement of Excellent in all areas.
- Included in our report: The Christian vision is deeply embedded in the school and wider community. As a result, the vision meets the context and needs of the school exceptionally well. Extremely strong Christian leadership and positive, trusting relationships ensure the vision relentlessly drives the strategic direction of the school. This enables pupils and adults to be aspirational, flourish and succeed. The impact of the school's engagement with formal partnerships is excellent. This means that areas of innovative practice within the school are shared, affecting the lives of pupils in other schools. Opportunities to share a wealth of knowledge around global partnerships are limited. The Christian vision seamlessly weaves through collective worship and the bespoke curriculum. This leads to a progressive, deepening spirituality for pupils. Curriculum opportunities to deepen this further in the natural environment are not yet fully developed. Provision for religious education (RE) is excellent. Experienced subject leadership and an enquiry-based curriculum result in pupils who confidently reflect on the impact of Christianity on people's lives and on their own.
- IQM - school retained Flagship status for the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) - Quotes from our report include: 'Nutgrove's curriculum intent is clearly articulated. The curriculum is underpinned by three key drivers: culture, diversity and global citizenship. The curriculum planning documentation shows comprehensive coverage of the national curriculum requirements as well as bespoke themes which encompass the drivers. Each subject is coherently planned to enable depth of coverage (knowledge and skills). The curriculum drivers provide a clear focus and encourage a broad range of topics. Within each curriculum area, the content and skills have been mapped carefully to develop secure progression of key skills and knowledge over time'.
- PE GOLD MARK – school achieved Gold Mark in PE and PE Co-ordinator passed the process of becoming a specialist leader for PESSPA (Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity) in the Epworth Trust (ESL-Epworth Specialist Leader).
- Embedding our Curriculum - Our foundation subject curriculum has been embedding from its redesign in September 2022. We are now seeing at least good or better teaching and learning in these subjects.
- Leadership and our Governing Body - Leadership has developed well and distributed leadership is flourishing. We have a proactive Governing Body, which is well represented by foundation governors.
- Attendance – Our attendance is above local attendance data in St Helens and we were able to reduce our Persistent Absentees PAs significantly from Dec to July 2023 so that this is lower than local data.
- PTFA – We now have a very active group of parents and friends of the school who are organising events and raising additional funds for the school. During 2022-23 raised over £2000 for our school.
- The Deputy Headteacher completed his Aspiring Leaders training successfully with the Trust and Year 2 teacher and Phonics lead has completed her first year of NPQL in Literacy.
- The school has completed all Eklan training and the Reception teacher has completed her Lead Practitioner training so that we have become a 'Communication Friendly School'.
- Our end of KS2 academic achievements were broadly in line nationally.

#### Key objectives:

#### **Quality of Education**

- Drive further our pedagogical approaches to TLA at Nutgrove to secure robust implementation of curriculum (designed to support children to know, remember and apply subject specific knowledge in all areas to year group end points).
- Teaching expertise is developed through a high quality, structured professional development programme across the year which focuses on key elements of pedagogy and effective curriculum implementation in line with the trust's Teaching and Learning Model..
- Further raise attainment in reading through our continued focus on early reading, phonics, love of reading, increased fluency and comprehension skills.
- Progress and attainment in phonics is rapid as a result of strong pedagogy and fidelity to the 'Little Wandle' scheme resulting in vast majority of children passing the phonics screening, achieving above national.

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### **Behaviour and Attitudes**

Further increase attendance and punctuality, with a focus on developing the shared accountability and engagement of all stake holders by creating an environment where all are valued and positive relationships are developed.

#### **Personal Development**

- Further develop and share the school's experience of global partnerships. This will ensure the school continues to have a transformative impact beyond the school gates.
- Provide further opportunities to develop the enquiry-based curriculum, through learning outside the classroom. This will further deepen pupils' spirituality in the natural world.

#### **Leadership and Management**

Further develop middle leadership and governance with a specific focus on monitoring, to accelerate the rates of progress and raise attainment in all core and foundation subjects to enable all to be achieving their 'Best, Always Everywhere'.

#### **Quality of Early Years Education**

To prioritise the development of Communication and Language and provide a language rich environment.

#### **Rosehill:**

Achievements in 2022/23:

- In May 2023 the school received a 'Good' Ofsted. Some of the strengths identified were; Pupils enjoy learning and are polite and courteous. Staff care for pupils and value them as individuals. This helps pupils to feel happy and safe; leaders have high expectations for pupils' achievement and behaviour, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND); pupils know where to get help if they are anxious or worried and many pupils take advantage of the leadership opportunities provided by the school.
- Pastoral staff work tirelessly to ensure that pupils attend school regularly. So far this school year, their work has led to a significant increase in pupils' attendance. These staff have greatly reduced the percentage of pupils who are regularly absent from school.
- Development of the pastoral team and environment - ensuring that our vulnerable children can access support in a calm and nurturing space. Children are able to access this space to self-regulate and also take part in specific interventions which target social and emotional needs. This is being further developed this year through the implementation of Thrive and Mini Minds Matters.
- School are very proud of our Forest School and during the school holidays parents and carers were invited to attend with their children. We worked together to build a fire and cook snacks on it. Families were able to explore the forest and use the mud slide and swing!
- The introduction of awards ceremonies in order to celebrate the successes of children in school that go beyond academic targets was a great success. Feedback from parents and carers was that this was a great way of recognising achievements beyond maths and English and focused on values and the arts, as well as contributions to sport and the wider community.
- All Y6 pupils have an individual iPad to further enhance their learning. This has enabled them to have access to apps such as Learning by Questions in order to develop their Maths knowledge, skills and understanding. We would now like to focus on developing the use of technology in other curriculum areas.



# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### Key objectives:

#### **Quality of Education**

- Drive the consistency of implementation across all subject areas, so that most pupils are able to demonstrate they know, remember and can apply the curriculum to their year group end points and in doing so demonstrate good progress.
- Increase the rates of progress and raise attainment, at both expected and greater depth levels in reading and writing across the school with a specific focus on developing phonics and early reading outcomes.
- Drive further our pedagogical approaches to teaching, learning and assessment at Rosehill Methodist Primary School, informed by the Trust's Teaching and Learning Model and research informed evidence.
- To ensure robust implementation of planning, policies and procedures are in place enabling the identified needs of SEND children (including within the Resource Base) to be fully met

#### **Behaviour and Attitudes**

To further drive a consistent approach to securing positive behaviour, by establishing clear routines and high expectations, with a focus on unstructured times.

#### **Personal Development**

To raise the profile of and explicitly reinforce SMSC across the curriculum, as part of the school's Christian distinctiveness.

#### **Leadership and Management**

Further demonstrate the impact of Leadership and Management through outlining clear roles, responsibilities and ownership of priorities of all leaders.

#### **Quality of Early Years Education**

Continue to ensure that high expectations for learning through high quality planning and enabling environments impacts positively on pupil outcomes from their starting points, especially within mixed age classes.

#### **Summerseat:**

Achievements in 2022/23

- The school has established a clear and sequential curriculum which is embedded and implemented with absolute consistency. This was identified as a key area of development in the last Ofsted inspection in March 2020 but has now been externally recognised as a strength of the school. As the Local Authority Quality Education Partner (QEP) explained, 'The curriculum is a triumph' (LA QEP Report Nov 2022)
- Summerseat was awarded the Bury Inclusion Award in the autumn term following a series of quality assurance visits. This involved discussion with pupils, staff and governors, lesson observations, book looks and consideration of key curriculum documents. It was awarded in recognition of the excellent support provided for children with Special Educational Needs in an inclusive and nurturing environment. Within the Inclusion report it noted, 'One of the key strengths demonstrated during this accreditation process has been the ethos, culture and attitudes underpinning inclusion across the whole school. ... It is a feat of great skill to be able to balance the individual needs of all of these learners at the same time as providing a quality learning environment and educational opportunities for all of the pupils on roll at the school.'
- Alongside other schools in Epworth Education Trust, Summerseat completed a year-long journey of Continued Professional Development for ALL staff with a focus on support for children with communication needs, resulting in accreditation as a communication friendly setting.
- Two Early Career Teachers successfully completed their induction period with the support of the mentor and induction tutor. The support from the school is strong as cited within Epworth Quality Assurance visits where following review and discussion with the ECTs, the support was described as 'exceptional'. The induction tutor is also a facilitator on the fully funded Early Career Teacher route in partnership with East Manchester Teaching Hub

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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- Significant amounts of funding has been secured for building improvement through Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) bids and requests to the Local Authority to ensure the building meets the needs of the pupils at Summerseat with high level needs. The following projects have been completed or are underway: Development of High-Level Needs space with disabled changing facilities, relocation of main school office, boiler and heating replacement system, window replacement, drains adaptations and roofing repairs.

#### Key objectives:

##### **Quality of Education**

Curriculum content is skillfully delivered as a result of rigorous and ongoing assessment, with swift and impactful support to ensure all children including those with SEND and DAP make exceptional progress across the curriculum from their starting point, with a particular focus on mathematics.

##### **Behaviour and Attitudes**

Behaviour in school is exceptional with clearly communicated expectations of behaviour, conduct and routines which are reflected in pupil's manner and attitude to learning, even during times without direct supervision, demonstrating excellent self-control.

##### **Personal Development**

Driven by our theologically rooted Trust and school vision, our Christian distinctiveness is a tangible part of all aspects of school life and all aspects of the revised SIAMs framework are understood and lived out by all members of our school community.

##### **Leadership and Management**

Subject leaders, including those new to role, ensure the school's curriculum is exceptional and is well tailored to the specific needs of all pupils from Nursery through to Year 6. (Assessment golden thread)

##### **Quality of Early Years Education**

All children make strong progress from their starting points, regardless of their backgrounds, circumstances or needs, with a particular focus on prime areas, resulting in an increase in the percentage achieving the expected standard by the end of the EYFS.

#### Public benefit

The Board of Trustees are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have had due regard to this in exercising their duties during the period. They fully comply with all statutory guidance and support wider educational objectives through a stronger community role.

The key public benefit delivered by the Trust is the maintenance and development of the high-quality broad all rounded education provided by the Schools, to the young people of Leigh and the communities, the operation of a before and after school club and the leading of the Startwell centre for the Leigh, Lowton and Golborne borough to aid development of 0-5 year olds and their families.

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### Strategic report

##### Achievements and performance

The Trust schools continue to be successful in providing the children with a good level of education.

Ofsted rating for academies within the trust

Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School – GOOD – December 2022

Westleigh Methodist Primary School – GOOD – October 2019

Rosehill Methodist Primary School – GOOD – May 2023

Wesley Methodist Primary School – GOOD – March 2023

Nutgrove Methodist Primary School – OUTSTANDING – June 2014

Summerseat Methodist Primary School – INADEQUATE – March 2020

SIAMS Inspections for faith schools within the Trust

Bedford Hall Methodist Primary – Excellent – May 2019

Westleigh Methodist Primary – OUTSTANDING – September 2017

Rosehill Methodist Primary School – OUTSTANDING – March 2017

Wesley Methodist Primary School – Excellent – January 2023

Nutgrove Methodist Primary School – Excellent – June 2023 Feb 2016

Summerseat Methodist Primary School – GOOD – February 2019

##### Key performance indicators

The Trust has had a successful year working alongside the schools and their leaders to ensure that there is a strong vision for the Trust. The schools work collaboratively for the benefit of all pupils.

The reputation of the Trust continues to grow and this has led to renewed interest from schools seeking to join the Trust. We have been developing a hub model approach to growth enabling us to ensure the ethos of the Trust remains strong as we develop into a national Trust which supports schools in the North of the country. A number of schools have made the decision to join the trust.

##### Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries and reviewing the 3 year budget, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the Board of Trustees continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the statement of accounting policies.

##### Financial review

The Trust's total incoming resources during the period were £10,227,241 (2022: £10,049,633). The majority of the Trust's income derives from central government funding via the Education & Skills Funding Agency, in the form of current grants. Total funding received for the School's educational operations in the period was £9,280,534 (2022: £8,881,227).

Total outgoing resources for the period were £10,059,066 (2022: £10,030,978), all of which related to the direct provision of educational operations. The excess of income over expenditure resulted in a surplus of £2168,175 (2022: £18,655).

At the period end the Trust's total reserves were £10,138,789 comprising: unrestricted funds of £662,091, restricted funds (excluding pension deficit) £803,066, restricted fixed asset fund of £8,857,692, less the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit of £184,000. The Trust does not have an obligation to settle this liability immediately and there are no indications that it will crystallise in the foreseeable future. Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to guarantee that, in the event of the Trust closing, outstanding local government pension scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education.

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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At 31 August 2023 all assets shown in the accounts were used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to students of the Trust's Schools. There are plans to use some reserves to assist Summerseat Methodist Primary school (a sponsorship school) as this school has some financial difficulty due to low pupil numbers.

The Trustees have agreed that all restricted GAG reserves and unrestricted reserves will be held centrally in the Trust's bank account. The academies can request to use these reserves for any one off project such as building work, IT resources or large curriculum projects. The money will not be used to support central services.

#### Reserves policy

Reserves held at 31 August 2023 were as follows:

	£
Total reserves	10,138,789
Add back pension reserve	184,000
Less reserves attributable to fixed assets	<u>(8,857,692)</u>
Unrestricted and general restricted funds	1,456,097
Less other restricted funds	<u>(803,006)</u>
Free reserves	<u>662,091</u>

#### Restricted GAG reserves

The level of reserves is determined by the Trustee Board annually and can fluctuate depending on operational needs but the Trustees have determined that the Trust in 2022/23 should aim to have a minimum of £200,000 held in reserves but no more than 20% of GAG income. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance.

At 31 August 2023 the Trust held GAG reserves of £459,676 which represents 7% of the GAG income for the year of £6,448,461, which is within the reserve policy.

#### Unrestricted reserves

In addition to the GAG reserve, which can only be utilised for the restricted purposes set out in the Funding Agreement, the school holds unrestricted reserves, which provide additional working capital which is not committed or designated. The level of reserves available for the operation of the Trust is determined by the amounts currently available in the Restricted General Purposes Reserve and the Unrestricted Reserve. It is recommended that this should remain above 1 month's total salary costs as a minimum and should it be above 10% then a plan for reinvestment in infrastructure of the Trust for the benefit of the children should be made. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance.

At 31 August 2023 the level of free/unrestricted reserves held was £662,091 which was mainly attributable to lettings income, before and after school income, income from staff consultancy work, sundry educational income and the balance of funds inherited on conversion. This is above the agreed reserves policy but is considered to be a prudent level of reserves in the light of the forthcoming increases to pension and salaries.

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### Investment policy

All investments are agreed by the Board of Directors, which has regard to the Charity Commission guidance in relation to charity investment policy. The Trust does not currently hold any investments other than cash, which is held for its normal operations. The Trust has adopted a low risk strategy to its cash holdings. Investment risk is managed through asset class selection and diversification with the aim of ensuring that security of deposits takes precedence over revenue maximisation.

The Trust is able to invest any excess funds (over and above the required day to day funds) in the following types of investment:

- Cash Management accounts;
- Term deposit accounts or instant access deposit account;

#### Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trust's financial objectives are as follows:

- Ensuring that all academies have effective financial performance and are financially sustainable into the long term
- Applying best value principles in the procurement of all goods and services
- Achieving economies of scale for each academy and the Startwell Centre through centralised procurement
- Maintaining pupil numbers
- Successful application of capital grants for building project
- Regularly monitoring controls in place to avoid risk of fraud.

A Risk Register is maintained at the Trust which is reviewed by all committees of the Trust and overseen by the Audit Committee. It identifies all of the risks, the likelihood of those risks occurring, their potential impact on the Trust and its academies and the actions being taken to reduce and mitigate the risks. Risks are prioritised using a consistent scoring system.

At the start of the year, the Audit committee met with executives to discuss these key risks. The Trust risk register was updated to reflect any new risks and in addition, key current risks for HR, finance, the Startwell Centre and the schools are identified and reviewed every term with the trustees and relevant senior leaders. Current risks are tabled at every Trustee Meeting for discussion and control measure resolution.

The Audit Committee have assessed the major risks to which the academies are exposed, in particular those relating to teaching, health and safety, school trips, child protection, and finances.

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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The majority of our academies do not face any financial risk associated with falling rolls. However, the uncertainties relating to budget reforms, increasing employment and salary costs as well as increasing premises costs are all contributing to cost pressure in future periods which increases the importance of maintaining robust levels of revenue reserves. The main risks that are within the Trust's majority control are:

- Setting a vision, ethos and governance approach appropriate for the merged academy Trust
- The loss of reputation resulting from a drop in standards, poor Ofsted result and/or academic performance at the schools
- Failure to safeguard our pupils
- Falling pupil numbers
- Pressures on growth which exceed Trust capacity
- Lack of succession planning within Trust governance and leadership
- Business interruption due to significant property related incidents
- Recruitment and retention difficulties
- Risk of breaching the Academy Trust Handbook

The principal risks and uncertainties identified that are not always within the Trust's control are:

- Pandemics – the covid virus created many risks for the schools financially, educationally and health and safety wise. Although the Trust can implement controls to help ease some of these risks, the pandemic is not under the Trust's control.
- Government Funding - The academies within the Trust have considerable reliance on continued government funding through the ESFA. Changes to national funding formula may have a detrimental effect.
- Pension Liabilities - Both academies are members of the LGPS which results in the recognition of a significant deficit on the Trust balance sheet. The financial statements report the share of the pension scheme deficit on the Trust's balance sheet in line with the requirements of FRS102. There is also uncertainty regarding the Teachers' Pension increased costs and the level and time length of funding that the Government will continue to support the increased costs.
- UIFSMs – this appears to be having a detrimental effect on the number of pupils signing up for FSMs in reception, Y1 and Y2 thus affecting pupil premium funding
- SEND – the amount of children being identified with SEND within school and the lack/lateness of funding to help support this child.
- Opening of Free schools within the area that may impact on pupil numbers
- Changes to Pay and Conditions that are unfunded
- A drop in birth rates in the areas where our schools are located

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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Operational systems have been evaluated during the year in order to minimise specific risks.

Control measures include:

- A continuously evolving Articles of association, Member structure and Board of Trustees to reflect the organisation of the trust.
- Updated Risk register – reflecting revised structure of the trust and its committees.
- A number of new financial and operational systems to ensure uniformity across the trust.
- Risk assessments continuously updated for Covid.
- Review of the Trust financial procedures in line with the Academies Handbook 2022.
- In-depth regular data analysis through the Quality Assurance programme, including Consortia validation and external peer reviews.
- Robust self-evaluation procedures and careful monitoring of learning and teaching linked to rigorous performance management.
- Financial planning, budgeting and regular monitoring reports highlighting key areas of financial risk.
- Ensuring academies are keeping to an “in-year” budget.
- Reserves to be used for only one-off projects and to be agreed by the CEO and the Trustees.
- Recruitment policy and vetting procedures as required by legislation for the protection of vulnerable children.
- Review of retention incentives including flexible working.
- Tabling of current risks at every Trustee meeting.
- Reviewing the business continuity plans for the Trust and its academies.

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Trust has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. They are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Trust and enable them to ensure the financial statements comply with the Companies Act. The Trustees also acknowledge responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- The Trust is operating efficiently and effectively;
- Its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- Proper records are maintained and financial information used within the Trust or for publication is reliable;
- The Trust complies with relevant laws and regulations.

### **Fundraising**

To date there has been no fundraising for the purpose of the Trust. The schools and the Startwell Centre undertake fundraising on behalf of other charities such as Comic Relief, Children in Need, local food banks. All funds are collected by the Finance department and paid to the relevant charity by cheque.

Where there is a PTA within a school they fundraise on behalf of the school through family events, socials and fun activities. All fundraising is optional and the Trust Leadership team ensure all activities are monitored at its schools, with its PTAs and the Startwell centre to ensure and PTA follow the Charity Commission's code of practice is followed.

The Trust is mindful of protecting vulnerable people and members of the public thus they ensure all donations for fundraising events are completely voluntary without undue pressure or persistent approaches.

The Trust does not work with professional fundraisers or commercial participators and has received no complaints in relation to its fundraising activities.

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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### Plans for future periods

During the next academic year we will build upon the successs of the Education strategy to implement the Trust pedagogy development plan delivered through high quality CPD and the implementation of the Teaching and Learning model. Working towards every pupil having the very best teacher in their classroom.

To continue to prioritise reading and the acquisition of strong phonic skills so all children become competent readers enabling them to access all areas of the curriculum.

The trust will double in size in the next academic year and a key priority will be to implement the hub model as planned within the growth strategy. This will enable each school to continue to receive bespoke support within the trust. Alongside this we will ensure strong onboarding to enable any new schools to quickly align with the trust policies and procedures.

### Auditor

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

The trustees would like to retender for the external audit for the period ending August 2024.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 18/12/2023 and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
**Rev S Ellis**  
**Chair**



# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### Scope of responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Epworth Education 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.

The Board of Trustees have delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Epworth Education Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

#### Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 4 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Rev S Ellis (Chair) (Appointed 20 July 2023)	2	3
Mr D A Harrison (Resigned Chair on 19 July 2023)	4	4
Miss C Bale (Resigned 20 March 2023)	0	2
Miss T Collier (Resigned 25 April 2023)	2	3
Mr J Inman	3	4
Mrs N Taylor	0	0
Mr T Harris (Resigned 31 December 2022)	0	1
Mrs B M Easton	3	4
Mr J Weaving	4	4
Mrs E E Cleland (Resigned 13 October 2022)	0	1
Mr K Meredith	4	4
Mr S Myers (Appointed 13 December 2022)	3	3
Mr G Roberts (Appointed 17 December 2022 and resigned 26 March 2023)	1	2
Mrs L Brookbanks (Appointed 20 July 2023 and resigned 3 October 2023)	0	0

#### Governance reviews

The Trustees are confident that the data that is provided to the board is fit for purpose. Data is cross checked and scrutinised in more detail on a regular basis. The CEO and Chairs committees review the data in detail on a regular basis with the key executives. Performance data is verified against external data (through benchmarking data from a number of sources including DfE data) to equip the Trustees with the understanding of the performance of the schools and wider Trust against national measures. The CEO and Chair each look in more detail at the data within individual schools and cohorts.

#### Review of value for money

As accounting officer the CEO has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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The accounting officer considers how the trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The accounting officer for the multi-academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Implementation of a procurement programme across all schools co-ordinated by the Chief Finance and Operations Officer
- Continued sharing software and licenses where possible between academies by purchasing as a Trust
- Continued review of Service Level Agreements with Local authorities and service contracts
- Compare the trust's performance and financial efficiency with other similar organizations to identify areas where further improvements can be made.
- Implement robust financial management practices to monitor and control costs, identify areas for cost reduction, and ensure responsible budgeting.
- Share administrative, HR, and financial services across the trust to reduce duplication and achieve economies of scale
- Implement energy-saving measures and sustainable practices to reduce utility costs and promote environmental responsibility.

The area of future focus will be to embed joint procurement and sharing of best practice across the newly merged trust.

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

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

#### **Capacity to handle risk**

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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### **The risk and control framework**

The Academy Trust's system of internal financial control is based on the Academy Trust Handbook which is documented in the Trust Financial Policy, procedures and regulations. The system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and the operation of a detailed process managed through the audit committee and considered regularly by all committees of the Trust. The resulting information is compiled and managed through the trust risk register. administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular it includes:

- Setting key performance indicators to measure financial and other performance;
- The use of standardised systems and processes across the different functional areas of the Trust to ensure consistency
- A system of internal scrutiny reported back to the audit committee and supported by the use of independent and objective external experts in specific risk areas
- Clearly defined financial, human resources, purchasing and other functional guidelines;
- Identification, regular review and management of risks through the Trust risk register.
- Benchmarking against other similar multi-academies.

The Trustees have considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the Trustees have appointed TSO Education to carry out an internal financial audit at each academy in the Trust. This role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Trust's financial systems. On a termly basis, they report to the Finance Committee and Trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities.

A meeting was held with the internal auditor to agree a program of works based on the key financial risks identified for the Trust.

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

- Testing of Cash and Bank transactions and cash flow management
- Testing of monthly financial closedown

On an annual basis, the results of the internal auditor's checks on the operation of the systems of control are reported to the board of trustees, through the audit committee.

TSO Education have delivered their schedule of work as planned. Minor issues have been raised and addressed by the Trust and school management on a timely basis. No significant weaknesses or discrepancies have been highlighted. Plans have already been put in place to address recommendations and a number have been completed.

## EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

### GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### Review of effectiveness

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

- The regular scrutiny of financial and other performance monitoring data by the Finance and the Audit Committee;
- The work of the external auditor;
- The financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- The internal audit checks carried out by Audit One;
- The work of the managers within the trust, who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework with clear levels of delegation and separation of duties.
- There being no material irregular or improper transactions and no instances of transactions which would not comply with the provisions of the Financial Handbook.

18/12/2023

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



**Rev S Ellis**  
**Chair**

## **EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST**

### **STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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

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

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



**Accounting Officer**

19/12/2023

.....

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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The trustees (who are also the directors of Epworth Education Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

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

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

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

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

18/12/2023

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



**Rev S Ellis**  
**Chair**

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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### Opinion

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

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 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;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.

### Basis for opinion

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

### Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

# **EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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### **Other information**

Other information includes Reference and Administrative details, Trustees Report, incorporating the Strategic Report and the Directors Report, the Governance Statement, the Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance and the Trustees Responsibilities Statement. The Trustees are responsible for the other information, which comprises the information included in the annual report other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and
- the Trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

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

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Academy Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report, including the incorporated strategic report.

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

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

### **Responsibilities of Trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the accounts, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts**

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



## EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

- Enquiries with management, including governors, about any known or suspected instances of noncompliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing internal audit reports;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Reviewing the systems for recording revenue and to ensure income has been recognised in the correct period; and
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness.

Because of the field in which the client operates, we identified the following areas as those most likely to have a material impact on the financial statements: Health & Safety; compliance with the Academy Trust Handbook; safeguarding and child protection; employment law; data protection and compliance with the UK Companies Act.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements in the financial statements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the ISAs (UK). For instance, the further removed non-compliance is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the auditor is to become aware of it or to recognize the non-compliance.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### Use of our report

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

*Nicola Mason*

**Nicola Mason (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of MHA Moore and Smalley  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor**

Richard House  
9 Winckley Square  
Preston  
PR1 3HP  
19/12/2023  
.....

# **EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST**

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

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 17 August 2016 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 Epworth Education Trust during the period 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 Epworth Education Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Epworth Education 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 Epworth Education Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

### **Respective responsibilities of Epworth Education Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Epworth Education Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 29 August 2013 and the Academies Financial 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 period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

### **Approach**

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes consideration of governance issues, an evaluation of the control environment of the Trust together with appropriate enquiry, analytical review and substantive testing of transactions.

## EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

### INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 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.



**Reporting Accountant**  
**MHA Moore and Smalley**

Richard House  
9 Winckley Square  
Preston  
PR1 3HP

19/12/2023

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# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted general funds	Restricted fixed asset funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	27,331	762,414	789,745	1,026,796
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	61,689	9,218,845	-	9,280,534	8,881,227
Other trading activities	5	156,758	-	-	156,758	141,365
Investments	6	204	-	-	204	245
<b>Total</b>		<u>218,651</u>	<u>9,246,176</u>	<u>762,414</u>	<u>10,227,241</u>	<u>10,049,633</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	7	-	-	-	-	45,594
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	9	181,359	9,638,493	239,214	10,059,066	9,985,384
<b>Total</b>	7	<u>181,359</u>	<u>9,638,493</u>	<u>239,214</u>	<u>10,059,066</u>	<u>10,030,978</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		37,292	(392,317)	523,200	168,175	18,655
Transfers between funds	19	(77,540)	(43,675)	121,215	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	21	-	697,000	-	697,000	6,710,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		(40,248)	261,008	644,415	865,175	6,728,655
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward		702,339	357,998	8,213,277	9,273,614	2,544,959
Total funds carried forward	19	<u>662,091</u>	<u>619,006</u>	<u>8,857,692</u>	<u>10,138,789</u>	<u>9,273,614</u>

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Intangible assets	13		279		1,395
Tangible assets	14		8,362,791		7,179,779
			<u>8,363,070</u>		<u>7,181,174</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	15	970,735		921,305	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,595,953		2,442,514	
		<u>2,566,688</u>		<u>3,363,819</u>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(597,947)		(576,615)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>1,968,741</u>		<u>2,787,204</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>10,331,811</u>		<u>9,968,378</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	17		(9,022)		(15,764)
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>			<u>10,322,789</u>		<u>9,952,614</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	21		(184,000)		(679,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>			<u><u>10,138,789</u></u>		<u><u>9,273,614</u></u>
<b>Funds of the Academy Trust:</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>	19				
- Fixed asset funds			8,857,692		8,213,277
- Restricted income funds			803,006		1,036,998
- Pension reserve			(184,000)		(679,000)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>			<u>9,476,698</u>		<u>8,571,275</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	19		<u>662,091</u>		<u>702,339</u>
<b>Total funds</b>			<u><u>10,138,789</u></u>		<u><u>9,273,614</u></u>

The accounts on pages 34 to 59 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 18/12/2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

*Stuart Ellis*

Rev S Ellis  
Chair

Company registration number 08638158 (England and Wales)

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	22		(188,072)		289,880
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		204		245	
Capital grants from DfE Group		771,954		1,146,666	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,421,113)		(816,559)	
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities</b>			(648,955)		330,352
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>					
Repayment of other loan		(9,534)		(12,321)	
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>			(9,534)		(12,321)
<b>Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>			(846,561)		607,911
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			2,442,514		1,834,603
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year</b>			1,595,953		2,442,514

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### 1 Accounting policies

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

##### 1.1 Basis of preparation

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

##### 1.2 Going concern

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

##### 1.3 Income

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

###### Grants

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

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

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

###### Sponsorship income

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

###### Donations

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

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### Other income

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

#### Donated goods, facilities and services

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

#### Donated fixed assets

Donated fixed assets are measured at fair value unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor is used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Academy Trust's accounting policies.

### 1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

#### Expenditure on raising funds

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

#### Charitable activities

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

### 1.5 Intangible fixed assets and amortisation

Intangible assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably. Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost net of amortisation and any provision for impairment.

Amortisation is provided on intangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

- Purchased computer software - over the length of the software license



# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

The land and buildings at Bedford Hall, Westleigh Methodist, Rosehill Methodist and Nutgrove Methodist are the subject of a deed from the Methodist Church which grants the Trust the use of the land and buildings until the earlier of the termination of the funding agreement or the Church giving the Trust two years notice to leave.

The guidance provided by the Academy Accounts Direction states that the key criteria for determining whether a value for land and buildings occupied under a Church licence agreement should be included in the accounts is whether or not the Church authority has retained control over the use of and access to the land and buildings or whether this has been passed to the Trust, and the extent to which the Church has given up the rights to consent to capital works being carried out.

In the light of this guidance, the Directors have concluded that the Trust does not have control and have adopted an accounting policy whereby the land and buildings occupied under the deed (including any subsequent improvements made to the land and buildings) are not recognised in the accounts. The alternative treatment whereby the Trust's occupation for the period may be recognised as a notional donation has not been adopted as the donated amount cannot be reliably measured.

This treatment excludes the school playing fields at Bedford Hall and a proportion of the land & buildings at Rosehill Methodist and Nutgrove Methodist schools which are under 125 year leases from Wigan Borough Council, Tameside Borough Council and St. Helens Borough Council. Therefore the control of these areas are with the Trust and as such has been included in the balance sheet.

Computer equipment costing £500 or more or other assets costing £750 or more are considered for capitalisation as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. The related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the Academy Trust's depreciation policy. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

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

Leasehold land and buildings	2%
Property alterations	2%
Computer equipment	20%
Furniture and equipment	33.3%
Motor vehicles	20%

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.

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.7 Liabilities

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

#### 1.8 Leased assets

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

#### 1.9 Financial instruments

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

##### Financial assets

Trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

##### Financial liabilities

Trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition.

Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

#### 1.10 Taxation

The Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by 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.

#### 1.11 Pensions benefits

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

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

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

#### 1.12 Fund accounting

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

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

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received and include grants from the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

#### Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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### 2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

(Continued)

#### Impairment of fixed assets

At each balance sheet date, management undertake an assessment of the carrying value of tangible fixed assets to determine whether there is any indication that the value has been impaired. Where necessary, an impairment is recorded as an impairment loss.

#### Impairment of trade debtors

At each balance sheet date, management undertake a review of outstanding debtor balances and consider whether there is any indication of impairment or any balances requiring provision.

This calculation is based on the financial position of the customers, the payment history and any ongoing discussions.

#### Valuation of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 21, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2013 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

#### Critical areas of judgement

##### Classification and valuation of the playing fields at Bedford Hall, the nursery & sports pitch at Rosehill and property at Nutgrove:

The playing fields at Bedford Hall, the nursery and sports pitch at Rosehill and the main site at Nutgrove are held under a 125 year lease and are wholly used in the course of the academy's business and are held within the academy.

At the date of transition, the long leasehold land and buildings were measured at their fair value at 1 September 2014 (Bedford Hall) and 14 November 2019 (Rosehill and Nutgrove Methodist), which upon transition, has been interpreted as deemed cost. Subsequent purchases of land and buildings are initially measured at cost.

##### Classification and valuation of long leasehold land and buildings owned by the Methodist Church

The buildings occupied by the Trust, and the land on which the buildings are situated are the subject of a deed from the the Methodist Church, which grants the school the use of these land and buildings until the earlier of the termination of the funding agreement or the members giving the school two years notice to leave. Following guidance from the Academy Accounts Direction, the land and buildings (excluding the assets noted above) are not recognised in the accounts on the grounds that the Methodist Circuit retains control over the use of and access to the land and buildings. Further information on the accounting treatment adopted can be found in the tangible fixed assets accounting policy.

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Capital grants	-	762,414	762,414	976,601
Other donations	-	27,331	27,331	50,195
	-	789,745	789,745	1,026,796

The income from donations and capital grants was £789,745 (2022: £1,026,796) of which £27,331 was restricted (2022: £50,195) and £762,414 was restricted fixed assets (2022: £976,601).

### 4 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	6,448,461	6,448,461	6,432,928
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- UIFSM	-	137,374	137,374	144,951
- Pupil premium	-	607,809	607,809	585,189
- Others	-	606,659	606,659	367,321
	-	7,800,303	7,800,303	7,530,389
<b>Other government grants</b>				
Local authority grants	-	1,095,823	1,095,823	999,737
Special educational projects	-	1,705	1,705	-
	-	1,097,528	1,097,528	999,737
<b>Other incoming resources</b>	61,689	321,014	382,703	351,101
<b>Total funding</b>	61,689	9,218,845	9,280,534	8,881,227

The income from funding for educational operations was £9,280,534 (2022: £8,881,227) of which £61,689 was unrestricted (2022: £60,306) and £9,218,845 was restricted (2022: £8,820,921).

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Hire of facilities	5,242	-	5,242	3,176
Other income	151,516	-	151,516	138,189
	<u>156,758</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>156,758</u>	<u>141,365</u>

The income from other trading activities was £156,758 (2022: £141,365) of which £156,758 was unrestricted (2022: £141,365).

### 6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Short term deposits	204	-	204	245

The income from funding for investment income was £204 (2022: £245) of which £204 was unrestricted (2022: £245).

### 7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure Premises £	Other £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	-	-	-	-	45,594
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	6,005,896	65,787	745,189	6,816,872	6,588,384
- Allocated support costs	1,688,570	852,752	700,872	3,242,194	3,397,000
	<u>7,694,466</u>	<u>918,539</u>	<u>1,446,061</u>	<u>10,059,066</u>	<u>10,030,978</u>

The expenditure on raising funds was £- (2022: £45,594) of which £- was unrestricted (2022: £45,594).

#### Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	239,214	203,797
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	18,330	15,300
- Other services	8,845	8,040
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	<u>22,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

#### 8 Central services

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

- Human resources
- Financial services
- Legal services
- Health & Safety services
- GDPR services

The central service charge is based on an estimate of budgeted central costs, which is 5% of each academy's GAG funding for that year.

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School	49,933	46,299
Westleigh Methodist Primary School	51,997	49,858
Rosehill Methodist Primary School	92,819	96,241
Wesley Methodist Primary School	69,961	65,327
Nutgrove Methodist Primary School	46,632	43,553
Summerseat Methodist Primary School	20,687	20,369
	<u>332,029</u>	<u>321,647</u>

#### 9 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Direct costs</b>				
Educational operations	49,302	6,767,570	6,816,872	6,588,384
<b>Support costs</b>				
Educational operations	132,057	3,110,137	3,242,194	3,397,000
	<u>181,359</u>	<u>9,877,707</u>	<u>10,059,066</u>	<u>9,985,384</u>

The expenditure on charitable activities was £10,059,066 (2022: £9,985,384) of which £181,359 was unrestricted (2022: £124,609), £9,638,493 was restricted (2022: £9,656,978) and £239,214 was restricted fixed assets (2022: £203,797).

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 9 Charitable activities

(Continued)

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Analysis of support costs</b>		
Support staff costs	1,688,570	2,068,369
Depreciation	173,427	138,354
Premises costs	546,380	486,162
Legal costs	21,640	7,496
Other support costs	764,485	643,095
Governance costs	47,692	53,524
	<u>3,242,194</u>	<u>3,397,000</u>

### 10 Staff

#### Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	5,484,026	5,162,546
Social security costs	487,562	422,353
Pension costs	1,395,186	2,042,500
Staff costs - employees	<u>7,366,774</u>	<u>7,627,399</u>
Agency staff costs	245,426	214,518
Staff restructuring costs	82,266	-
Total staff expenditure	<u>7,694,466</u>	<u>7,841,917</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy payments	<u>82,266</u>	<u>-</u>
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#### Severance payments

The Academy Trust paid 10 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

£0 - £25,000	10
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# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 10 Staff

(Continued)

#### Staff numbers

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Teachers	62	68
Administration and support	146	144
Management	11	10
	<u>219</u>	<u>222</u>

#### Higher paid staff

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	7	2
£70,001 - £80,000	2	1
£110,001 - £120,000	-	1
£130,001 - £140,000	1	-
	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>

The above employees participated in the Teachers' Pension Scheme. During the year ended 31 August 2023 employer's pension contributions for these members of staff amounted to £138,894 (2022: £75,200).

#### Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £813,761 (2022: £437,160).

### 11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

The Headteacher and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Headteacher and staff, and not in respect of their services as Trustees. Other Trustees did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the academy trust in respect of their role as Trustees. During the year, travel and subsistence payments totalling £nil (2022: £1,722) were reimbursed to Trustees. The reduction in travel and subsistence payments is due to a reduction in travel expenses with meetings being held virtually.

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 12 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £1,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £530 (2022: £530).

The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

### 13 Intangible fixed assets

	Computer software £
<b>Cost</b>	
At 1 September 2022 and at 31 August 2023	3,348
<b>Amortisation</b>	
At 1 September 2022	1,953
Charge for year	1,116
At 31 August 2023	3,069
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
At 31 August 2023	279
At 31 August 2022	1,395

### 14 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Property alterations £	Computer equipment £	Furniture and equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>						
At 1 September 2022	5,010,114	2,257,656	329,719	304,659	22,974	7,925,122
Additions	425,473	856,790	22,833	116,017	-	1,421,113
At 31 August 2023	5,435,587	3,114,446	352,552	420,676	22,974	9,346,235
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At 1 September 2022	130,118	139,293	223,273	240,407	12,255	745,346
Charge for the year	77,835	57,523	64,671	33,473	4,596	238,098
At 31 August 2023	207,953	196,816	287,944	273,880	16,851	983,444
<b>Net book value</b>						
At 31 August 2023	5,227,634	2,917,630	64,608	146,796	6,123	8,362,791
At 31 August 2022	4,879,997	2,118,364	106,447	64,252	10,719	7,179,779

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 15 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	101,357	43,539
VAT recoverable	115,222	111,904
Other debtors	9,175	-
Prepayments and accrued income	744,981	765,862
	<u>970,735</u>	<u>921,305</u>

### 16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other loans	6,743	9,535
Trade creditors	215,580	297,220
Other creditors	-	1,247
Accruals and deferred income	375,624	268,613
	<u>597,947</u>	<u>576,615</u>

### 17 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other loans	<u>9,022</u>	<u>15,764</u>
<b>Analysis of loans</b>	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
Wholly repayable within five years	15,765	25,299
Less: included in current liabilities	(6,743)	(9,535)
	<u>9,022</u>	<u>15,764</u>
<b>Loan maturity</b>		
Debt due in one year or less	6,743	9,535
Due in more than one year but not more than two years	6,743	9,535
Due in more than two years but not more than five years	2,279	6,229
	<u>15,765</u>	<u>25,299</u>

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 17 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

(Continued)

Included within other creditors payable within and greater than one year, are five Salix loans totalling £37,619. The first loan is repayable in instalments of £2,789 every six months, commencing from 1 March 2015. The second and third loans are repayable in instalments of £290 each every six months, commencing from 1 March 2016. The fourth loan is repayable in instalments of £1,070 every six months, commencing from 1 March 2017. The fifth loan is repayable in instalments of £1,720 every six months, commencing from 1 March 2019.

### 18 Deferred income

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	84,128	93,830
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	93,830	129,556
Released from previous years	(93,830)	(129,556)
Resources deferred in the year	84,128	93,830
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	84,128	93,830
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

At the balance sheet date the Trust was holding funds received in advance in relation to the Universal Free School Meals grant and Local Authority Start Well Centre funding.

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 19 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	741,691	6,448,461	(6,609,261)	(121,215)	459,676
UIFSM	-	137,374	(137,374)	-	-
Pupil premium	9,000	607,809	(616,809)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	606,659	(606,659)	-	-
Other government grants	310,942	1,097,528	(1,065,140)	-	343,330
Other restricted funds	(24,635)	348,345	(401,250)	77,540	-
Pension reserve	(679,000)	-	(202,000)	697,000	(184,000)
	<u>357,998</u>	<u>9,246,176</u>	<u>(9,638,493)</u>	<u>653,325</u>	<u>619,006</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited on conversion	5,139,165	-	(96,216)	-	5,042,949
DfE group capital grants	2,684,282	762,414	(103,888)	-	3,342,808
Capital expenditure from GAG	389,830	-	(39,110)	121,215	471,935
	<u>8,213,277</u>	<u>762,414</u>	<u>(239,214)</u>	<u>121,215</u>	<u>8,857,692</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>8,571,275</u>	<u>10,008,590</u>	<u>(9,877,707)</u>	<u>774,540</u>	<u>9,476,698</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	<u>702,339</u>	<u>218,651</u>	<u>(181,359)</u>	<u>(77,540)</u>	<u>662,091</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>9,273,614</u>	<u>10,227,241</u>	<u>(10,059,066)</u>	<u>697,000</u>	<u>10,138,789</u>

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

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

General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running expenses of the Trust and any amounts carried forward at the end of a financial period must be used in accordance with the terms of the Funding Agreement.

Other DfE/ESFA grants comprise additional funding received for the furtherance of education, which must be used in accordance with the specific terms of each grant.

Other government grants include LA funding for Special Educational Needs, Early Years funding, Growth funding and Start Well Centre funding.

The pension reserves represents the value of the Trust's share of the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Restricted fixed asset funds include Bedford Hall playing field, expenditure out of GAG and other capital grants during the period. Depreciation is charged against the fund.

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 19 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	393,025	6,432,928	(6,067,998)	(16,264)	741,691
UIFSM	-	144,951	(144,951)	-	-
Pupil premium	15,400	585,189	(591,589)	-	9,000
Other DfE/ESFA grants	221,742	367,321	(589,063)	-	-
Other government grants	288,322	999,737	(972,514)	(4,602)	310,943
Other restricted funds	(25,763)	340,990	(339,863)	-	(24,636)
Pension reserve	(6,448,408)	-	(951,000)	6,720,408	(679,000)
	<u>(5,555,682)</u>	<u>8,871,116</u>	<u>(9,656,978)</u>	<u>6,699,542</u>	<u>357,998</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited on conversion	5,583,901	-	(96,204)	-	5,487,697
DfE group capital grants	1,440,636	976,601	(75,335)	(6,152)	2,335,750
Capital expenditure from GAG	405,478	-	(32,258)	16,610	389,830
	<u>7,430,015</u>	<u>976,601</u>	<u>(203,797)</u>	<u>10,458</u>	<u>8,213,277</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>1,874,333</u>	<u>9,847,717</u>	<u>(9,860,775)</u>	<u>6,710,000</u>	<u>8,571,275</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	<u>670,626</u>	<u>201,916</u>	<u>(170,203)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>702,339</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>2,544,959</u>	<u>10,049,633</u>	<u>(10,030,978)</u>	<u>6,710,000</u>	<u>9,273,614</u>

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 19 Funds

(Continued)

#### Total funds analysis by academy

	2023 £	2022 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:		
Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School	-	109,848
Westleigh Methodist Primary School	-	615,516
Rosehill Methodist Primary School	-	352,247
Wesley Methodist Primary School	-	180,802
Nutgrove Methodist Primary School	-	(18,152)
Summerseat Methodist Primary School	-	84,148
Central fund	1,465,097	415,288
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	1,465,097	1,739,697
Restricted fixed asset fund	8,857,692	8,213,277
Pension reserve	(184,000)	(679,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds	10,138,789	9,273,974
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Note the funds balance for Westleigh Methodist Primary School shown above also includes the Startwell Centre.

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 19 Funds

(Continued)

#### Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff	Other support staff costs	Educational supplies	Other costs excluding depreciation	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School	1,016,110	73,012	103,449	180,386	1,372,957	1,304,976
Westleigh Methodist Primary School	912,033	418,717	108,310	210,054	1,649,114	1,582,634
Rosehill Methodist Primary School	1,784,334	389,598	154,617	337,869	2,666,418	2,660,257
Wesley Methodist Primary School	1,021,436	89,758	110,466	237,392	1,459,052	1,551,411
Nutgrove Methodist Primary School	711,307	115,402	114,195	137,430	1,078,334	1,111,297
Summerseat Methodist Primary School	369,690	77,392	43,607	103,657	594,346	(68,943)
Central services	233,758	366,918	110,544	173,408	884,628	1,044,695
	<u>6,048,668</u>	<u>1,530,797</u>	<u>745,188</u>	<u>1,380,196</u>	<u>9,704,849</u>	<u>9,186,327</u>

### 20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds:		Total Funds
	£	General	Fixed asset	£
		£	£	
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:</b>				
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	279	279
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	8,362,791	8,362,791
Current assets	1,269,060	803,006	494,622	2,566,688
Current liabilities	(597,947)	-	-	(597,947)
Non-current liabilities	(9,022)	-	-	(9,022)
Pension scheme liability	-	(184,000)	-	(184,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>662,091</u>	<u>619,006</u>	<u>8,857,692</u>	<u>10,138,789</u>



# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 20 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:</b>				
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	1,395	1,395
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	7,179,779	7,179,779
Current assets	1,750,159	1,613,660	-	3,363,819
Current liabilities	15,811	(592,426)	-	(576,615)
Non-current liabilities	(31,528)	15,764	-	(15,764)
Accruals and deferred income	(1,032,103)	-	1,032,103	-
Pension scheme liability	-	(679,000)	-	(679,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>702,339</b>	<b>357,998</b>	<b>8,213,277</b>	<b>9,273,614</b>

### 21 Pension and similar obligations

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

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

Contributions amounting to £nil were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022: £119,874) and are included within creditors.

#### Teachers' Pension Scheme

##### Introduction

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

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

##### Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 21 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

The employers pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £474,792 (2022: £676,873).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website.

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

#### Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.3 to 21% for employers and 5.5 to 12.5% for employees.

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

Total contributions made	2023 £	2022 £
Employer's contributions	516,000	435,000
Employees' contributions	129,000	122,000
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Total contributions	645,000	557,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Principal actuarial assumptions	2023 %	2022 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.86	3.9
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.94	3.02
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.20	4.26
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.80	2.8
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# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 21 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2023 Years	2022 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	20.5	20.4
- Females	23.3	23.4
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	20.7	21.8
- Females	24.3	25.3

#### The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme

	2023 Fair value £	2022 Fair value £
Equities	4,969,000	4,474,000
Bonds	983,000	916,000
Cash	551,000	510,000
Property	588,000	596,000
Other assets	97,000	69,000
Total market value of assets	7,188,000	6,565,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £15,000 (2022: £70,000).

#### Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Current service cost	537,000	1,285,000
Past service cost	158,000	-
Interest income	(292,000)	(102,000)
Interest cost	314,000	202,000
Administration expenses	1,000	1,000
Total operating charge	718,000	1,386,000

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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21 Pension and similar obligations	(Continued)
<b>Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>
At 1 September 2022	7,244,000
Current service cost	537,000
Interest cost	314,000
Employee contributions	129,000
Actuarial gain	(974,000)
Benefits paid	(36,000)
Past service cost	158,000
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At 31 August 2023	7,372,000
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<b>Changes in the fair value of the Academy Trust's share of scheme assets</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>
At 1 September 2022	6,565,000
Interest income	292,000
Actuarial loss	(277,000)
Employer contributions	516,000
Employee contributions	129,000
Benefits paid	(36,000)
Effect of non-routine settlements and administration expenses	(1,000)
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At 31 August 2023	7,188,000
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Two of the schools had a surplus valuation in relation to the Local Government Pension Scheme totalling £444,000. This surplus has not been provided as the Trust does not have an unconditional right to receive this surplus. The value of the scheme for these schools has been included as £Nil.

# EPWORTH EDUCATION TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 22 Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		168,175	8,247
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(762,414)	(1,161,662)
Investment income receivable	6	(204)	(245)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	21	180,000	851,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	21	22,000	100,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		239,214	203,797
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(49,430)	466,735
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		14,590	(177,992)
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities</b>		<b>(188,069)</b>	<b>289,880</b>

### 23 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	31 August 2023 £
Cash	2,442,514	(846,561)	1,595,953
Loans falling due within one year	(9,535)	2,792	(6,743)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(15,764)	6,742	(9,022)
	<b>2,417,215</b>	<b>(837,027)</b>	<b>1,580,188</b>

### 24 Contingent liabilities

The academy had no contingent liabilities at 31 August 2022.

### 25 Related party transactions

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain Trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 11.

### 26 Members' liability

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