Company Registration Number: 09353480 (England)

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND STROUD ACADEMY TRUST

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Bishop Fleming

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND STROUD ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND STROUD ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	V Bragg I Lewis (resigned 7 February 2024) L Boutle N Ricketts South Gloucestershire and Stroud College
Trustees	N Johnson, (Resigned as Chair 1 September 2023) Trustee (until 7 November 2024) P Eames, Trustee C Berry, (Vice Chair) G Reynolds, Trustee (resigned 8 November 2024) L Craig, Trustee A Downing, (appointed Interim Chair 1 September 2023) J Hayward, Trustee (deceased 14 February 2024) R Morley, Trustee (appointed 11 October 2023, resigned 23 October 2024) S Jones, Trustee (appointed 11 October 2023) S Knights, Trustee (appointed 28 March 2024, resigned 12 July 2024)
Company registered number	09353480
Company name	South Gloucestershire And Stroud Academy Trust
Principal and registered office	GL5 4AH
Company secretary	J Saunderson
Chief executive officer	Alan Dane (appointed on an interim basis on 1 August 2024)
Senior management team	A Dane, Acting Chief Executive Officer (appointed 1 August 2024) J Saunderson, Chief Financial Officer M Foster-Fitzgerald, Chief Operating Officer (appointed 1 August 2024) A Dane, Director of Education (role ended 31 July 2024) K Hamblin, Chief Executive Officer (left 31 July 2024) C Price, Interim Executive Headteacher
Independent auditors	Bishop Fleming LLP Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors 10 Temple Back Bristol BS1 6FL
Bankers	Lloyds Bank PLC Canons House Canons Way Bristol BS1 5LL

Solicitors	Foot Anstey LLP Salt Quay House 4 North East Quay Sutton Harbour Plymouth PL4 0BN

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the Charitable Company for the year ended 31 August 2024. The annual report serves the purpose of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

South Gloucestershire and Stroud Academy Trust ("SGSAT") was incorporated on 12 December 2014 and operates three academies serving catchment areas in greater Gloucestershire, including Local Authority areas of Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire. It's first school, SGS Forest High School, joined as a sponsored academy on 1 March 2015 and is a secondary academy for pupils aged 11 to 16 serving Cinderford in the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire.

SGS Berkeley Green University Technical College opened in September 2017 and is a 14-19 school with a curriculum specialising in Advanced Manufacturing and Digital Technologies.

SGSAT also opened a Special Free School (SGS Pegasus School) in September 2017, supporting students within South Gloucestershire and North Bristol who have a statement diagnosing that they have Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC). A purpose built, £7.5m new school was opened in Autumn 2019.

SGSAT schools have a combined pupil capacity of 1050 and had a roll of 770 as at the October 2024 school census.

Staffing
The Trust's founding Chief Executive Officer stepped down at the end of academic year 23/24 and has been replaced on an interim basis by the Headteacher of Forest High School, who was also the Trust's Interim Director of Education; the Head of School at Forest High has been promoted to the Acting Headteacher role. The Headteacher of Pegasus School left the Trust just after Easter 2024; she has been replaced on an interim basis by the Deputy Headteacher who became Head of School, supported by an externally appointed Interim Executive Headteacher who also has the trust wide school improvement responsibility held by the Interim Director of Education until he became Acting Chief Executive Officer. For all interim appointments made, recruitment for substantive postholders is in progress.

Students
The combined number of students on roll across the Trust increased from 761 in the October 2023 census to 770 in the October 2024 census. The marginal overall growth in numbers comes from Berkeley (381 students) and Pegasus (127 students), offset against a decline in student numbers at Forest (262) in line with local demographics.

Data
All three schools achieved strong exam results performance, relative to their respective stages of improvement in August 2024. Berkeley's KS4 and Post 16 results continue to place it among the best performing UTCs and compare favourably with mainstream schools in many respects. Attainment of Forest KS4 students increased significantly, while progress from last year continues to put the school among the most improved in its national family of schools. The first set of KS4 results at Pegasus saw every student achieving as expected and securing a Post 16 destination.

School Improvement
The Trust is developing a strengthened school improvement strategy, with increased central capacity alongside greater collaboration between leaders and experts in each of the schools.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

SGSAT is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The Trustees of South Gloucestershire and Stroud Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as South Gloucestershire and Stroud Academy Trust.

Details of the Trustees who served throughout the period, and to the date the accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administration Details.

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 a Member, or within one year after the Member ceases to be a Member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10, for the debts and liabilities contracted before they cease to be a Member.

Trustees' Indemnities

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (section 236) every Trustee or other officer of SGSAT shall be indemnified out of the assets of SGSAT against any liability incurred by them in that capacity in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, to which judgement is given in favour or in which he is acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to him by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to affairs of SGSAT.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The Articles of Association of the Trust were updated and adopted by the Members on 11 December 2020. As set out in the Articles, the following describes the name of any Body or person entitled to nominate or apportion one or more Trustees:

- The Members may appoint Trustees through such process as they may determine. South Gloucestershire and Stroud College, as Sponsor of the Trust, also has the option to directly appoint two Trustees;
- Parent Trustees and Parent Local Governors (Note: In July 2019, the SGSAT Board approved the use of the terminology of Local School Board and School Board member for its constituent academies) shall be elected or appointed in accordance with the terms of reference determined by SGS Trustees from time to time. The elected or appointed Parent Local School Board member must be a parent of a registered pupil at one or more Academies at the time when he/she is elected or appointed;
- The Chief Executive Officer may, if they agree to so act and their appointment is ratified by the Members, be a Trustee; and
- The Trustees may appoint Co-opted Trustees.

The total number of Trustees including the Chief Executive Officer who are employees of the Company shall not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees. An employee of SGSAT cannot be a member of SGSAT.

Each school year the Trustees shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from among their number. A Trustee employed by SGSAT shall not be eligible for election as Chair or Vice-Chair.

Academy Trusts must also designate a named individual as its Accounting Officer. The Chief Executive Officer has been designated as the Accounting Officer for SGSAT.

Trustees are also responsible for the appointment of the Chief Financial Officer, Clerk to The Trustees and Headteachers of the Academies.

Arrangement for appointment of Staff School Board members are outlined in constituent Academies Terms of Reference documents. There are currently two positions of Staff School Board members who sits on the School's Board at SGS Forest High School. These are elected by staff members of the Academy and must be a member of staff at the time of election. Due to the growth to full capacity in student numbers and staff of SGS Berkeley Green UTC and SGS Pegasus, requirements for staff member roles in these academies will be reviewed in due course. Responsibilities are included in the Lead Roles of the Local School Board for oversight of staff wellbeing considerations at all Schools in SGSAT.

Requirement for Parent School Board members (previously called Parent Governors) are included in SGSATs Memorandum and Articles of Association which outline requirements of appointment at Local School Board level. Arrangements for appointment of Parent School Board members are also outlined in constituent Academies Terms of Reference documents. Parent School Board members have been appointed for the Local School Boards of SGS Forest High School, SGS Berkeley University Technical College and SGS Pegasus School.

When searching for new Trustees, the Board of Trustees undertakes a skills/experience audit, which incorporates requirements outlined in the DfE Competency Framework for Governance and National Governance Association guidance. Outcome from this provides the direction needed to search for new Trustees. The Board has also used the DfE advised routes of Inspiring Governance and Academy Ambassadors to search for new Trustees during the reporting period. The Trust also has the option to use the South Gloucestershire and Stroud College Corporation Search Committee as part of this process. The Trust has highlighted considerations relating to Equality and Diversity in recruitment through approach to dedicated search organisations and Academy Ambassadors during the period. During the reporting period two Trustees resigned, one deceased, and two new Trustees were appointed on 11 October 2023 and one on 28 March 2024.

All prospective Trustees are required to complete an application form, equal opportunities monitoring form and skills/experience audit form and are invited to meet with the Board of Trustees, should they possess the required skills/experience being sought. Following this meeting the Trustees then decide whether appointment is to be recommended. Appointment of new Trustees can either be via a recommendation from the Trustees to the Members or Trustees may appoint Co-opted Trustees.

Policies and Procedures adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

The Board of Trustees has an agreed Trustee Induction and Training Policy which is reviewed annually. This policy outlines arrangements which include Trustee induction training for the purpose of introduction to the work of SGSAT, understanding Trustees responsibilities and of Trust strategy and structure. A mentoring system is in place to enable an experienced Trustee to be paired with a newly appointed Trustee to mentor and support through the first six to nine months of appointment.

High quality training and development arrangements via the National Governance Association, National College and other providers are made available both for individual Trustees, the Board of Trustees as a whole and Local School Board members so that collectively the Board of Trustees has the necessary skills and understanding to fulfil its responsibilities and to enable Trustees to make and effective contribution to the work of the Board. This includes mandatory training for all levels of Governance within the Trust. The Board of Trustees and Local School Boards undertake review of Board compilation of their skills/experience audit. This takes place annually as part of the approved calendar of business, or more frequently as required.

Organisational Structure

Members
The Trust has four members; Jan Royall, a previous member, remains as a Patron of the Trust.

The Members held an Annual General Meeting on 7 February 2024. The Members role and responsibilities is outlined in the Trust Articles of Association and Company Law.

Trust Board
The Board currently comprises of five Trustees. The Board appointed an Interim Chair at their meeting of 11 October 2023, from 1 September 2023 when Nigel Johnson stepped down. Please refer to the Governance statement on Page 14 for further information.

Members of the Senior Management Team are "in attendance" at Board meetings but have no voting rights. During 2020/21 the Committee increased the number of meetings held to six per year to better manage the work requirements of the Committee.

To support the work of the Board it has established a Finance and Audit Committee which undertakes financial scrutiny. The Board has approved Terms of References for this committee. Membership of this committee is three Trustees. The Committee benefits from the involvement of an external independent co-opted member to provide an external prospective to the work of the committee.

The Board has also established a Curriculum and Quality Committee to enhance educational focus for SGSAT Board and its constituent Schools. The committee meets four times a year and membership of this committee is four Trustees. The Committee benefits from the involvement of an external independent co-opted member to provide specialist educationalist knowledge and perspective to the work of the Committee. The Director of Education is in attendance with effect from 1 September 2023. The Terms of Reference and calendar of business of this committee have been reviewed during the period and as part of annual processes and approved by the Board of Trustees.

In February 2021, the Board approved the establishment of the Performance and Remuneration Committee which advises the Board of Trustees and maintains oversight of the execution of the Trust's Performance Management process and remuneration of senior staff in line with the SGS AT Pay Policy. Membership of this Committee is three Trustees and one meeting was held during 2023/24.

The Scheme of Delegation explains the ways in which the Board of Trustees fulfil their responsibilities for the leadership and governance of SGSAT, the respective roles and responsibilities of the Members, Trustees, Executive and the Local School Board. This covers the Structure, Roles and Responsibilities of Members, Trustees, Board Committees, Chief Executive Officer/Accounting Officer, School Headteacher, Local School Board, Central Functions, Budget Setting, Reporting, Associated Policies and a Strategic Decision grid which outlines levels of decision making in the Trust structure. The Scheme of Delegation should be read in conjunction with the Articles and is reviewed on an annual basis by the SGSAT Board of Trustees.

Terms of References
The Board of Trustees have agreed the terms of reference for the Local School Boards which clearly states their role, purpose, accountability and the quoracy requirements for each School.

The main responsibilities of the Board are prescribed in the Funding Agreement between the Academy Trust, and the Education and Skills Funding Agency and in the Academy Trust Handbook. The Chief Executive Officer is the Accounting Officer for SGSAT.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel
The setting of pay and remuneration of key management personnel within SGSAT such as Headteachers is undertaken with support from the SGSAT Human Resources function. These pay ranges are currently informed by the national agreed Teachers pay scales and decisions are made in line with affordability of SGSAT. The Board of Trustees review performance management processes, appraisal and objective setting and agree the pay and remuneration of key management personnel within SGSAT. Since February 2021, this has been undertaken by the Trust Performance and Remuneration Committee with recommendation to the Board.

Remuneration and setting of pay for the Chief Executive Officer is set through a defined appraisal and objective setting and review system by the Board of Trustees via the Performance and Remuneration Committee.

Trade union facility time

Under the provisions of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017, where an academy trust has more than 49 full time equivalent employees throughout any 7 months within the reporting period, it must include the following information included in Schedule 2 of the Regulations:

Trade Union Facility Time

Relevant Union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
1 trade union	5

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	
1% - 50%	5
51% - 99%	
100%	

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	£5,280
Total pay bill	£5,775,278
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	0.09%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility hours calculated as: (total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period + total paid facility tome hours) x 100	7.73% 15 hours / 195 x100

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

The establishment of SGSAT was facilitated by SGS College as its foundation Sponsor. SGS College continues to provide support and assistance to SGSAT and both organisations, although separate legal entities, operate with the aim of being mutually supportive, within the overarching group mission and strategic focus to address gaps in education provision in the greater Gloucestershire area for the benefit of the students and communities which they serve. A Memorandum of Understanding is in place and this was reviewed and updated early in the 2021/22 academic year.

SGSAT renewed a Service Contract with the SGS College, for a period of three years commencing 1 September 2023, and the associated Service Level Agreements with SGS College. The Service Level Agreements cover the areas of; Careers, Estates, Finance, IT, Payroll, Quality, Marketing, Procurement and Professional Development and are reviewed on an annual basis.

In 2016 a lease agreement relating to land at Berkeley was signed by the South Gloucestershire and Stroud College Commercial Services Limited (SGSCSL) as landlord and the Academy Trust as tenant. SGSCSL was a wholly owned subsidiary of SGS College and as such, a related party to the Academy Trust. SGS College disposed of its shareholding in SGSCSL on 21 August 2024, at which point SGSCSL (now renamed Chiltern Vital Berkeley Limited) ceased to be a related party to the Academy Trust.

Under the terms of the lease agreement, services provided by the landlord are payable by the tenant. All payments made to SGSCSL up to 21 August 2024 are disclosed as related party transactions and were compliant with Academy Trust Handbook requirements.

In respect of key roles between SGS College and SGSAT, SGS Corporation is one of the Members of SGSAT. P Eames is a Trustee of SGSAT and Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee and is also a Governor of SGS College Corporation. L Craig is a Trustee of SGSAT and is also a Governor of SGS College Corporation.

K Hamblin, Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer until 31 July 2024, is also the Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer and a Governor of SGS College. J Saunderson the Chief Financial Officer for SGSAT is also the Group Chief Financial Officer for SGS College.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and Aims

The Objects and Aims as set out in SGSAT's Articles of Association as the Governing document, are outlined as follows:

The purpose of the Academy Trust is to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools ("the mainstream Academies") offering a broad and balanced curriculum or educational institutions which are principally concerned with providing full-time or part-time education for children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless alternative provision is made for them ("the alternative provision Academies") or 16 to 19 Academies offering a curriculum appropriate to the needs of its students ("the 16 to 19 Academies") or schools specially organised to make special educational provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs ("the Special Academies").

SGSAT has an aspiration to be a thriving, high-quality trust1 and to grow, primarily through providing school places in localities of Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and the wider South West or in areas of educational specialism such as SEND or vocational learning.

These Objects and Aims are iterated through SGSAT's purpose, priorities and values:

Our Purpose

We exist so that every child has the best education and every community has the best school.

Our Priorities

1. Providing effective, inclusive and ambitious education.
2. Becoming an employer of choice and a community anchor.
3. Securing our future as a thriving and growing trust.

Our Values

Inclusive – We want everyone in our Trust to feel they belong.
Ambitious – We want everyone in our Trust to fulfil their potential.
Fearless – We want everyone in our Trust to be true to themselves.

[1] Department for Education: *Commissioning High-Quality Trusts*

Public Benefit
SGSAT confirms that it has complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit in exercising its powers or duties.

SGSAT was established to maintain, carry on, manage and develop, for the public benefit education in Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and the West of England.

SGS Berkeley Green UTC was developed to bridge the skills priority gap in Gloucestershire. The UTC is employer-led and specialises in Digital Technology and Engineering.

SGS Pegasus School was developed to provide specialist school provision for children with a diagnosis of autism and an Education, Health & Care Plan that supports this.

All Trust schools work towards their educational achievement targets and areas of improvement as set out in their School Improvement Plans.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievements and Performance
Ofsted judgements:
Berkeley – Good (February 2022)
Forest – Requires Improvement (January 2024)
Pegasus – Requires Improvement in all four categories (October 2024)

Due to being placed in Special Measures following the Inadequate judgement of May 2022, SGS Forest High School was subject to two Ofsted monitoring visits (March and September 2023), followed by a full graded inspection which judged the school to no longer be Inadequate and to be achieving a Good standard in three out of four categories for the first time in the school's history.

As a Requires Improvement in all categories school, the window for Pegasus' re-inspection opens in September 2025, with the window for Berkeley likely to be from February 2026 onwards.

As referenced on page 7, each school achieved strong academic performance in the summer 2024 examination series relative to its stage of school improvement and its educational context.

Student attendance is an ongoing performance focus across the Trust, against the backdrop of a national crisis in school attendance.

Key Performance Indicators
The three Local School Boards and the Trust's Curriculum and Quality Committee receive reports and data using a wide range of criteria. Quantitate data on student numbers, examinations and destinations, plus qualitative data on teaching and learning, attendance and behaviour. Members of the Trust Executive Team report to the Trust Board on areas of Finance, HR, Estates, Safeguarding and Health & Safety.

Going Concern
The Board have considered Going Concern as a separate report item in line with guidance, at meetings of F&A on 26 November 2024 and Board 11 December 2024, thus the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

SGSAT receives funding from the Secretary of State for Education under the Academies Act 2010 in the form of a grant towards the normal running costs and capital expenditure of each of its Academies, based on projected student numbers. The amount of grant funding is determined annually by the Secretary of State.

The Trustees have prepared cash flow forecasts for a period of twelve months from the date of approval of these financial statements. After reviewing these forecasts, including the level of grant funding and projected student numbers for 2024-25, the Trustees are of the opinion that, taking account of severe but plausible downsides, the Trust has adequate resources to continue to meet its liabilities over the period of twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements (the going concern assessment period).

For this reason, SGSAT continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

SGSAT reports net expenditure of £77,090 (2023: £371,107) for the financial year, represented as follows:

	2023/24 Actual £'000	2022/23 Actual £'000
Net income / (expenditure)	(77)	(371)
Depreciation	825	805
Amortisation	1	1
Capital Funding	(109)	(112)
Actuarial Adjustments	(21)	(387)
GAG asset purchases	(87)	(325)
Operating surplus in year	553	(2)

Net assets for SGSAT at the year-end were £23,589k (2023: £23,742k) with the year on year improvement being attributable to ordinary operational activities. Net assets include the pension liabilities of £nil (2023: Liabilities of £nil). Net current assets at 31 August 2024 were £2,251k (2023: £1,800k).

As at 31 August 2023 SGSAT had cash reserves of £2,569k (2023: £2,240k) and the net book value of both tangible and intangible fixed assets was £21,458k (2023: £22,118k).

The operating surplus for the year was £553k (2023: £(2k) being an improvement on prior year due to tight financial control exercised throughout the year supported with 'protection' funds received from the Local Authority in respect to our SEN provision following the implementation of a revised Needs based funding model.

The majority of the Trust's income is derived from grants provided by the ESFA (Education & Skills Funding Agency) in the form of recurrent grants. In addition, income relating to special needs funding has also been received from the Local Authority (LA).

The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2024 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

Reserves Policy

The principal policy on reserves is that accumulation of unspent GAG balances should not breach any limits thereon set out in the Funding agreement. The level of reserves held by the Trust should never be in deficit, excluding the deficit on the pension scheme. The minimum reserves to be held are equivalent to 5% of budgeted turnover at the start of the year and targeted reserves held are to be equivalent to 2 month's pay costs.

The SGS Academy Trustees consider the level of reserves each Academy should hold. Levels of reserves which are too high tie up money which should be spent on current school activities. Levels of reserves which are too low may put the future activities of the school at risk.

The Academy Trust's reserves policy assists in strategic planning by considering how well new projects or activities will be funded; informs the budget process by considering whether reserves need to be used during the financial year or built up for future projects; and informs the budget and risk management process by identifying any uncertainty in future income streams.

During the financial year the Trustees identify when reserves are drawn on, so that they understand the reasons for this and can consider what corrective action, if any, needs to be taken; when reserve levels rise significantly above target so that they understand the reasons and can consider the corrective action, if any that needs to be taken; where the reserves level is below target, and consider whether this is due to short-term circumstance or longer-term reasons which might trigger a broader review of finances and reserves.

When considering an appropriate level of reserves the financial risks identified determine the amount of reserves the academy targets to hold. The Trustees consider: the risk of unforeseen emergency or other unexpected need for funds; covering unforeseen day-to-day operational costs, for example employing temporary staff to cover a long-term sick absence; a fall in a source of income, such as lettings; planned commitments, or designations, that cannot be met by future income alone, for example plans for a major capital project; and the need to fund potential deficits in a cash budget, for example money may need to be spent before a funding grant is received.

The amount of total funds at 31 August 2024 amount to £23,589k (2023: £23,742k) with restricted funds, not available for general purposes of the Academy Trust at 31 August 2024 being £22,564k (2023: £22,842k). The defined benefit pension scheme reserve has a positive balance. The effect of the surplus position of the Pension scheme is that the Academy Trust is paying lower employers' pension contributions over a period of years. The lower employers' pension contributions will be met from the Academy Trust's budgeted annual income. With this there will not be any direct impact on the free reserves of the Academy Trust.

Investment Policy
Officers regularly monitor cash flow and current account balances to ensure immediate financial commitments can be met and that the current account has adequate balances to meet forthcoming commitments. If any funds were identified which were surplus to requirement, these could be invested in accordance with The Academy Trust's Investment Policy in furtherance of the Academy's charitable aims and to ensure that investment risk is properly and prudently managed. During the year under review, surplus funds were placed on fixed term deposits with the Trust's bankers.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES
The Board of Trustees is responsible for the management of risks faced by the SGSAT. A review of Risk Management Policy, approach and appetite was undertaken during 2020/21 in line with changes in guidance and approved by the Board. The renewed approach was adopted during the 2021/22 academic year and has continued.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which SGSAT is exposed, in particular those relating to academic performance/finances/child welfare. The Board of Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the Academy Trust faces, and have developed policies and procedures to mitigate those risks. Where significant financial risk still remains, they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. SGSAT has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement.

The risk management process has been codified in a risk register implemented by the Senior Management Team and overseen by Trustees. This includes monitoring of movement in risks following mitigating actions taken.

The main risks to SGSAT which have been identified are :

- Sustained poor economic climate as a result of the 'cost of living' crisis may see the Trust move into an in-year deficit.
- National shortage of educational support workers i.e. TA's, LSA's

Significant risks to individual schools within SGSAT are as follows:

- School continues to operate with in-year deficits (FHS)
- Sustained poor economic climate as a result of the 'cost of living' crisis may see any one of the schools move into an in-year deficit (all)
- Deterioration of buildings at SGS Forest and the complexities of compliance due to the age and condition of those buildings.
    - Windows at end of life
    - Heating system fails
    - Concrete cladding system fails
    - Injury due to uneven footpaths and circulation areas
- Presence of deletarious materials (FHS)
- Higher than planned Pay costs for specialist teaching and Learner Support staff (Pegasus)
- Curriculum currently requires improvement (Pegasus)
- Revised banding levels introduced by South Glos. Long term impact affecting extent of 'top up' funding available unknown. (Pegasus)
- High staff absence (Pegasus)
- Risk factor associated to the on-site building works (additional 4 classrooms) (Pegasus)
- Ofsted inspection at SGS Forest resulted in Special Measures resulting in loss of community confidence.
- Inability to attract enough pupils to the UTC - post 16s recruitment
- Low Pupil numbers impacts financial viability at the UTC

FUNDRAISING

The Friends of Forest High School (FoFH) have raised funds for SGS Forest High School since their inception in February 2017. They hold various activities and all events are held with permission by the school and the small amount of funding raised is used to benefit students and/or in aid of registered charities chosen by students and staff. FoFH hold a separate bank account and their funds are audited annually.

SGS Berkeley Green UTC and SGS Pegasus have not undertaken any fundraising activities during this year. A Friends of Pegasus School group was established in September 2021.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

SGSAT is currently focused on becoming a strong and thriving Trust with three schools whose futures are secure, meeting student needs that would otherwise go unmet for communities that would otherwise go unserved.

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 auditors, Bishop Fleming LLP, are willing to continue in office and a resolution to appoint them will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 11 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Andrew Downing
Chair of Trustees

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, 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 South Gloucestershire and Stroud Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

GOVERNANCE

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 6 times during the year. Meetings held during 2023/2024 have been held virtually via Microsoft Teams and in person (4 meetings) as permissible in the Articles of Association and SGSAT Standing Orders.

Three Trustees resigned during the year, one Trustee did not renew at the end of their tenure and one Trustee is now deceased. Three Trustee appointments were made on 11 October 2023.

The Finance and Audit and Curriculum and Quality Committees of the Board have undertaken self-evaluation of effectiveness against their terms of reference at their last meeting of the 2022/23 academic year meeting cycle and this has been formally reported to the Trust Board.

The Board receives high quality reporting from members of the Executive Team and uses a standardised reporting format which identifies decisions required, key messages in support of these, the impact of them and how they will be implemented. Both the Finance and Audit Committee and Curriculum and Quality Committee receive standardised information reports on Academy and Trust level Financial and School performance data which is also available to all Trustees through its secure online document management system.

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

Trustees	**Meetings**	**Out of a possible**
N Johnson (until 7 November 2024)	5	6
C Berry	6	6
P Eames	6	6
L Craig	5	6
G Reynolds (resigned 8 November 2024)	4	6
A Downing	6	6
J Hayward (deceased 14 February 2024)	2	6
R Morley (appointed 11 October 2023 resigned 23 October 2024)	3	5
S Jones (appointed 11 October 2023)	1	5
S Knights (appointed 28 March 2024 resigned 15 July 2024)	1	3

The Finance and Audit Committee is a committee of the Board of Trustees and its purpose is to provide assurance over the suitability of, and compliance with, its financial systems and controls.

The Finance and Audit Committee held 6 meetings during the 2023/24 academic year, in line with its terms of reference. Meetings held during 2023/2024 have been held virtually via Microsoft Teams. Terms of reference of the Committee was reviewed in line with annual review requirements.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
P Eames (Chair)	6	6
C Berry (Vice Chair)	5	6
S Jones	1	4

The Finance & Audit Committee benefits from the involvement of an external independent co-opted member, R Milford who provides financial skills and experience, an external perspective to the work of the committee and has attended all Finance & Audit Committee meetings in the academic year 2023/2024.

The SGSAT Executive and Leadership Teams meet regularly and consider finance matters. The Strategic Risk Register was an agenda item at three of the Finance and Audit Committee meetings during 2023/24 and nominated a Lead Senior Management Team member for each risk. A comprehensive review of Risk Management, appetite and scoring was undertaken during the period and approach approved by the Board for progression during the 2023/24 academic year. SGSAT has comprehensive financial regulations applicable to all schools and these are reviewed on an annual basis or sooner if required.

In July 2019 the Board approved the establishment of a Curriculum and Quality Committee to enhance educational focus and oversight for SGSAT Board and its constituent Schools. The Committee scheduled meetings during the 2023/24 academic year.

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
A Downing (Chair)	4	4
L Craig (Vice Chair)	3	4
G Reynolds	4	4
R Morley (appointed 11 October 2023)	2	3

In February 2021, the Board approved the establishment of the Performance and Remuneration Committee which advises the Board of Trustees and maintain oversight of the execution of the Trust's Performance Management process and remuneration of senior staff in line with the SGSAT Pay Policy. Membership of this Committee is 3 Trustees with one meeting having taken place during the 2023/24 academic year.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
A Downing (Chair)	1	1
P Eames	1	1
C Berry	1	1

Governance Review

The Trust participated in the DfE Funded programme of Board Development during 2019/20 and during this period received the support of a National Governance Association (NGA) Governance advisor and the process was facilitated by online tools provided by the NGA. Outcomes and action plans from this process were included in review work early in the period, alongside Covid-19 and other Governance required priorities.

An external review of Governance was completed by a Senior National Leader for Governance in early in 2021 and presented to the Board at their meeting of 19 May 2021. This review incorporated observation of Board and Committee meetings. The outcome of this report was positive and an action plan for progression of development areas has been presented to the Board and was regularly reviewed as part of the business plan for 2021/22 academic year.

REVIEW OF VALUE FOR MONEY

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

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

- SGSAT has worked closely with its sponsor to reduce procurement costs. Catering provision was re-tendered prior to the pandemic in 2019, which saw the catering at SGS Forest contributing a small income annually, rather than previously being subsidised. The impact of the pandemic has meant significant changes in requirements and the caterers are currently providing the provision on a cost-plus management fee basis;
- Energy is procured via Dukefield, sole supplier to the Crescent Purchasing Consortium for Energy Procurement. During the financial year ended 31 August 2022, Electricity contracts were renewed taking a 24-month renewal on a blended tariff to smooth the impact of recent significant increases in wholesale Gas and Electricity prices;
- Stationery framework - The CPC framework provider has been rolled out across the Academy Trust generating savings. The appointed supplier Banner offer extremely low prices against a large basket of goods;
- Insurance - The Non-RPA elements of insurance are supplied by Zurich, the College insurer (Motor, Travel, Engineering inspection). The RPA scheme remain in operation across the Schools for general insurance;
- Health and Safety - SGSAT utilises the College agreement with Worknest and usage is broken down across the group into a daily rate to ensure best value;
- Estates funding – SGSAT has continued to progress projects funded by CIF, with a contribution from reserves, to improve electrical installation compliance at the Forest High School. In 23/24 further CIF bids were made for roof repairs and window replacement at the school, both scored highly but were unsuccessful. Bids are prepared with input from suitably experienced and qualified project managers to provide detailed specifications and obtain 3 quotes from contractors to ensure value for money. SGSAT utilises yearly Health & Safety audits along with Condition Data Collection information and its own independent condition surveys to inform and plan its approach to estates safety and management, with the resources available;

- Supply teachers framework – The Crown Commercial Service (CCS) framework is being utilised, initially by SGS Pegasus School, for sourcing both qualified and unqualified SEN teachers and SEN educational support staff. This approach helps to deliver value for money when using an agency to recruit temporary staff and avoid agencies that charge excessive fees.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks 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 South Gloucestershire and Stroud Academy Trust for the period from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

The Chief Financial Officer has responsibility to ensure that the system of internal control is embedded within SGSAT.

CAPACITY TO HANDLE RISK

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

THE RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees;
- regular reviews by the Finance and Audit Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts;
- clearly defined purchasing;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has appointed RSM as Internal Auditor.

The role of the Internal Auditor includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks On SGSAT's financial systems. In line with the Academies Financial Handbook issued with effect from 1 September 2023 the internal auditors undertook a review of core controls in respect of financial areas (such as delegated financial authorities, budgeting processes and financial management), and operational areas (such as governance, business planning and risk management arrangements). In addition, during 2023/24 Internal Auditors reviewed Pre-16 Pupil Records Controls in the Trust.

The Auditors report to the Board of Trustees six times a year, through the Finance and Audit Committee on operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of Trustees' financial responsibilities.

The Internal Auditor schedule of works for 2023/24 have been delivered in accordance with the pre-agreed schedule. Internal Audit schedule of works for 2024/25 have been agreed.

The annual Key Operational Controls audit review identified some low-level control action points for the financial controls and 3 control action points for the general and governance controls as a result the report gave reasonable assurance that controls are suitably designed and consistently applied.

The Pre-16 Pupil Records Controls audit review identified 5 findings where management have identified actions to address the issues raised. The audit opinion in relation to this review was that reasonable assurance can be taken that the controls upon which the organisation relies to manage this risk are suitably designed, consistently applied and effective.

The Trustees monitor recommendations through an audit action plan which it reviews at each Finance and Audit Committee.

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

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

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process and the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the Chief Financial Officer within the Academy Trust who has responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Conclusion

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

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

Andrew Downing
Chair of Trustees

Alan Dane
Accounting Officer

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND STROUD ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of South Gloucestershire and Stroud Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy 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 and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Trust Handbook 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

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

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

A Dane
Accounting Officer
Date:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Andrew Downing
Chair
Date:

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND STROUD ACADEMY TRUST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of South Gloucestershire and Stroud Academy Trust (the 'academy') for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Academy's affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

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

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

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

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

Use of our report

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

Simon Morrison FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
Bishop Fleming LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
10 Temple Back
Bristol
BS1 6FL

Date:

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND STROUD ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 10 September 2024 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by South Gloucestershire and Stroud Academy Trust during the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of South Gloucestershire and Stroud Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of South Gloucestershire and Stroud Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 27 February 2015 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes:

- An assessment of the risk of material irregularity and impropriety across all of the Trust's activities;
- Further testing and review of the areas identified through the risk assessment including enquiry, identification of controls processes and examination of supporting evidence across all areas identified as well as additional verification work where considered necessary; and
- Consideration of evidence obtained through the work detailed above and the work completed as part of our audit of the financial statements in order to support the regularity conclusion.

In line with the Framework and guide for external auditors and reporting accountants of academy trusts issued March 2024, we have not performed any additional procedures regarding the Trust's compliance with safeguarding, health and safety and estates management.

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Reporting Accountant
Bishop Fleming LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors

10 Temple Back
Bristol
BS1 6FL

Date:

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND STROUD ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
INCOME FROM:						
Donations and capital grants	4	**-**	**-**	**109,499**	**109,499**	112,326
Other trading activities		**108,519**	**50,986**	**-**	**159,505**	149,332
Investments	7	**54,156**	**14,000**	**-**	**68,156**	6,896
Charitable activities		**2,090**	**9,146,763**	**-**	**9,148,853**	7,465,670
TOTAL INCOME		**164,765**	**9,211,749**	**109,499**	**9,486,013**	7,734,224
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Charitable activities	9	**39,343**	**8,717,648**	**806,112**	**9,563,103**	8,105,331
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		**39,343**	**8,717,648**	**806,112**	**9,563,103**	8,105,331
NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE)		**125,422**	**494,101**	**(696,613)**	**(77,090)**	(371,107)
Transfers between funds	21	**-**	**(87,023)**	**87,023**	**-**	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS/(LOSSES)		**125,422**	**407,078**	**(609,590)**	**(77,090)**	(371,107)
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS/(LOSSES):						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	29	**-**	**235,000**	**-**	**235,000**	704,000
Pension surplus not recognised	29	**-**	**(311,000)**	**-**	**(311,000)**	(265,000)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**125,422**	**331,078**	**(609,590)**	**(153,090)**	67,893
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:						
Total funds brought forward		**899,968**	**905,039**	**21,937,011**	**23,742,018**	23,674,125
Net movement in funds		**125,422**	**331,078**	**(609,590)**	**(153,090)**	67,893
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**1,025,390**	**1,236,117**	**21,327,421**	**23,588,928**	23,742,018

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

The notes on pages 30 to 61 form part of these financial statements.

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND STROUD ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
REGISTERED NUMBER:09353480

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note		2024 £		2023 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	16		**383**		1,533
Tangible assets	17		**21,457,716**		22,116,936
			21,458,099		22,118,469
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	18	**300,286**		379,922	
Cash at bank and in hand		**2,568,616**		2,240,441	
		2,868,902		2,620,363	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	**(617,989)**		(820,569)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			**2,250,913**		1,799,794
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			**23,709,012**		23,918,263
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	20		**(120,084)**		(176,245)
NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION ASSET			**23,588,928**		23,742,018
TOTAL NET ASSETS			**23,588,928**		23,742,018
FUNDS OF THE ACADEMY					
RESTRICTED FUNDS:					
Fixed asset funds	21	**21,327,421**		21,937,011	
Restricted income funds	21	**1,236,117**		905,039	
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	21		**22,563,538**		22,842,050
UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS	21		**1,025,390**		899,968
TOTAL FUNDS			**23,588,928**		23,742,018

The financial statements on pages 27 to 61 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:

Andrew Downing
Chair of Trustees
Date:

The notes on pages 30 to 61 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net cash provided by operating activities	23	**353,334**	483,091
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	25	**(1,790)**	(454,755)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	24	**(23,369)**	(10,364)
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE YEAR		**328,175**	17,972
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		**2,240,441**	2,222,469
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	26, 27	**2,568,616**	2,240,441

The notes on pages 30 to 61 form part of these financial statements

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

South Gloucestershire And Stroud Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Stratford Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 4AH.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

2.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

South Gloucestershire and Stroud Academy Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

2.2 GOING CONCERN

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

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.3 INCOME

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

- **Grants**

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

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

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

- **Other income**

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

- **Donated goods, facilities and services**

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

2.4 EXPENDITURE

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

- **Charitable activities**

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

  All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.5 INTEREST RECEIVABLE

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

2.6 TAXATION

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

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

2.7 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

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 assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life.

The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Website development	-	5 years

2.8 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.8 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (CONTINUED)

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold land	- not depreciated
Freehold buildings	- up to 50 years
Leasehold land	- length of the lease
Leasehold buildings	- length of lease or useful economic life, if lower
Furniture and equipment	- up to 5 years
Computer equipment	- up to 5 years
Motor vehicles	- 5 years

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

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

2.9 DEBTORS

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

2.10 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

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

2.11 LIABILITIES

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

2.12 PROVISIONS

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

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.13 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

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

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 19 and 20. 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.

2.14 OPERATING LEASES

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

2.15 PENSIONS

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

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

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

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

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.16 FUND ACCOUNTING

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

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

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

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

3. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND AREAS OF JUDGEMENT

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 29, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement:

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

4. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Capital Grants	109,499	**109,499**	112,326

5. FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY'S CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
EDUCATION				
DFE/ESFA GRANTS				
General Annual Grant	-	4,385,219	**4,385,219**	3,939,551
OTHER DFE/ESFA GRANTS				
Start up Grants	-	-	**-**	10,000
Pupil Premium	-	191,927	**191,927**	173,122
Teachers Pay and Pension Grant	-	188,857	**188,857**	55,815
16-19 Funding	-	1,127,459	**1,127,459**	837,487
Rates Rebate	-	40,072	**40,072**	41,601
PE and Sport Grant	-	16,240	**16,240**	16,250
School Supplementary Grant	-	-	**-**	94,753
Other DFE/ESFA Grants	-	79,186	**79,186**	26,168
Mainstream Additional School Allowance	-	115,914	**115,914**	48,298
	-	6,144,874	**6,144,874**	5,243,045
OTHER GOVERNMENT GRANTS				
High Needs	-	2,840,769	**2,840,769**	2,022,791
Kickstart Grant	-	-	**-**	3,256
Other Government Grants	-	108,157	**108,157**	96,554
	-	2,948,926	**2,948,926**	2,122,601
COVID-19 ADDITIONAL FUNDING (DFE/ESFA)				
Recovery Premium	-	42,297	**42,297**	77,347
National Tutoring Programme	-	10,666	**10,666**	21,578
	-	52,963	**52,963**	98,925
OTHER FUNDING				
Other Income	2,090	-	**2,090**	1,099
	2,090	-	**2,090**	1,099
	2,090	9,146,763	**9,148,853**	7,465,670
TOTAL 2023	1,099	7,464,571	7,465,670	

National Tutoring Programme has been reclassed from Other DFE/ESFA Grants.

6. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Hire of facilities	92,983	-	**92,983**	108,792
Other trading income	15,536	50,986	**66,522**	40,540
	108,519	50,986	**159,505**	149,332
TOTAL 2023	127,502	21,830	149,332	

7. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Bank interest	54,156	-	**54,156**	6,896
Pension income	-	14,000	**14,000**	-
	54,156	14,000	**68,156**	6,896
TOTAL 2023	6,896	-	6,896	

8. EXPENDITURE

	Staff Costs 2024 £	Premises 2024 £	Other 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
EDUCATION:					
Direct costs	3,918,604	-	315,704	**4,234,308**	3,816,568
Allocated support costs	2,671,412	668,424	1,988,959	**5,328,795**	4,288,763
	6,590,016	668,424	2,304,663	**9,563,103**	8,105,331
TOTAL 2023	5,510,012	588,289	2,007,030	8,105,331	

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Education	39,343	9,523,760	**9,563,103**	8,105,331
TOTAL 2023	58,008	8,047,323	8,105,331	

10. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Education	4,234,308	5,328,795	**9,563,103**	8,105,331
TOTAL 2023	3,816,568	4,288,763	8,105,331	

ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS

	Education 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Staff costs	3,918,604	**3,918,604**	3,535,097
Educational Supplies	173,809	**173,809**	147,594
Examination Fees	102,702	**102,702**	92,018
Staff Development	39,193	**39,193**	41,859
	4,234,308	**4,234,308**	3,816,568

10. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Education 2024 £	**Total funds 2024 £**	Total funds 2023 £
Pension finance costs	-	**-**	19,000
Staff costs	2,671,412	**2,671,412**	1,974,915
Depreciation	806,112	**806,112**	805,893
Staff Development	24,120	**24,120**	8,701
Other Costs	15,422	**15,422**	13,060
Recruitment and Support	27,647	**27,647**	20,572
Maintenance of Premises and Equipment	133,349	**133,349**	120,994
Cleaning	116,601	**116,601**	91,522
Utilities and Rates	331,922	**331,922**	345,980
Insurance	24,540	**24,540**	17,719
Security and Transport	86,552	**86,552**	29,793
Catering	120,411	**120,411**	96,822
Technology Costs	145,384	**145,384**	98,698
Office overheads, including service level agreement	352,973	**352,973**	304,851
Legal and Professional	408,580	**408,580**	302,768
Bank interest and charges	4,763	**4,763**	3,305
Governance costs	59,007	**59,007**	34,170
	5,328,795	**5,328,795**	4,288,763

11. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	**824,665**	804,741
Amortisation of intangible assets	**-**	1,150
Fees paid to auditor for:		
- audit	**20,850**	19,850
- other services	**5,185**	4,950

12. STAFF

a. STAFF COSTS AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	**4,614,426**	4,058,122
Social security costs	**475,643**	393,542
Pension costs	**1,000,313**	861,147
	6,090,382	5,312,811
Supply staff costs	**499,634**	107,239
Staff restructuring costs	**-**	89,962
	6,590,016	5,510,012

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	2024 £	2023 £
Redundancy payments	**-**	53,212
Severance payments	**-**	35,600
Other restructuring costs	**-**	1,150

b. STAFF NUMBERS

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

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Teachers	**52**	54
Administration and support	**69**	67
Management	**12**	13
	133	134

12. STAFF (CONTINUED)

b. STAFF NUMBERS (CONTINUED)

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Teachers	**49**	51
Administration and support	**55**	48
Management	**11**	10
	115	109

c. HIGHER PAID STAFF

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

	2024 No.	2023 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	**2**	5
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	**2**	1
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	**2**	-
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	**-**	2
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	**1**	-

d. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The key management personnel of the Academy comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy was £238,306 (*2023* - £281,187).

13. CENTRAL SERVICES

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

- Recruitment and Human Resources
- Finance Services
- Premises Support
- Executive Headship
- Educational Support

The Academy charges for these services on the following basis:

The Trust charges a maximum of 4.9% of General Annual Grant.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
The Forest High School	**105,945**	97,586
SGS Pegasus School	**44,100**	41,787
SGS Berkeley Green UTC	**110,712**	101,684
TOTAL	**260,757**	241,057

14. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

Staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of their services they provide undertaking their role as staff under their contracts of employment, 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 roles as Trustees.

The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits in the year was as follows: K Hamblin: Remuneration £20,000 - £25,000. Employer's pension contributions £NIL.

The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits in the prior year was as follows: K Hamblin: Remuneration £20,000 - £25,000. Employer's pension contributions £NIL.

During the year ended 31 August 2024, expenses totalling £463 were reimbursed or paid directly to 3 Trustees (2023: £189).

15. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

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

16. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Website development £
COST	
At 1 September 2023	**5,750**
At 31 August 2024	**5,750**
AMORTISATION	
At 1 September 2023	**4,217**
Charge for the year	**1,150**
At 31 August 2024	**5,367**
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 August 2024	**383**
At 31 August 2023	1,533

17. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold land and buildings £	Leasehold land and buildings £	Assets under construction £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer hardware £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION							
At 1 September 2023	**6,129,819**	**20,968,504**	**363,980**	**296,961**	**883,079**	**16,795**	**28,659,138**
Additions	**-**	**-**	**47,859**	**73,647**	**52,503**	**-**	**174,009**
Disposals	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(8,181)**	**(25,839)**	**-**	**(34,020)**
Transfers between classes	**193,897**	**-**	**(248,500)**	**54,603**	**-**	**-**	**-**
At 31 August 2024	**6,323,716**	**20,968,504**	**163,339**	**417,030**	**909,743**	**16,795**	**28,799,127**
DEPRECIATION							
At 1 September 2023	**3,559,104**	**1,987,597**	**-**	**181,273**	**799,295**	**14,933**	**6,542,202**
Charge for the year	**349,802**	**390,823**	**-**	**51,596**	**31,912**	**532**	**824,665**
On disposals	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(1,909)**	**(23,547)**	**-**	**(25,456)**
At 31 August 2024	**3,908,906**	**2,378,420**	**-**	**230,960**	**807,660**	**15,465**	**7,341,411**
NET BOOK VALUE							
At 31 August 2024	**2,414,810**	**18,590,084**	**163,339**	**186,070**	**102,083**	**1,330**	**21,457,716**
At 31 August 2023	2,570,715	18,980,907	363,980	115,688	83,784	1,862	22,116,936

18. DEBTORS

	2024 £	2023 £
DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
Trade debtors	**19,003**	1,378
Other debtors	**8**	8,322
Prepayments and accrued income	**200,679**	250,240
VAT recoverable	**80,596**	119,982
	300,286	379,922

19. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Other loans	**59,152**	26,360
Trade creditors	**44,166**	342,731
Payroll creditors	**270,937**	229,730
Other creditors	**24,619**	13,967
Accruals and deferred income	**219,115**	207,781
	617,989	820,569

Other loans totalling £233,694 from the DfE by way of urgent capital support which is provided on the following items:

- The Forest High School roofing project, £103,629 repayable over 10 years to at Public Works Loan Board interest rate of 2.29%. Loan repayments of £960 per calendar month to commence 6 months following completion of the project and will be made by abatement of revenue funding paid to the Academy Trust.
- The Forest High School fire proofing works project, £130,065 repayable over 10 years at Public Works Loan Board interest rate of 2.31%. Loan repayments of £1,221 per calendar month to commence 6 months following completion of the project and will be made by abatement of revenue funding paid to the Academy Trust.

At the year end there is an outstanding liability of £179,236 (2023: £202,605) in relation to these loans, £59,152 (2023: £26,360) due within one year and £120,084 (2023: £176,245) due after more than one year.

Both loans are unsecured.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	**38,658**	40,697
Resources deferred during the year	**2,185**	38,658
Amounts released from previous periods	**(38,658)**	(40,697)
	2,185	38,658

20. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other loans	**120,084**	176,245

21. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
General Funds - all funds	**899,968**	**164,765**	**(39,343)**	**-**	**-**	**1,025,390**

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS						
General Annual Grant	**905,039**	**4,385,219**	**(3,967,118)**	**(87,023)**	**-**	**1,236,117**
Pupil Premium	**-**	**191,927**	**(191,927)**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Rates Relief	**-**	**40,072**	**(40,072)**	**-**	**-**	**-**
High Needs	**-**	**2,840,769**	**(2,840,769)**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Teachers Pay and Pension Grants	**-**	**188,857**	**(188,857)**	**-**	**-**	**-**
16-19 Funding	**-**	**1,127,459**	**(1,127,459)**	**-**	**-**	**-**
PE and Sport Grant	**-**	**16,240**	**(16,240)**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Other DfE Grants	**-**	**132,149**	**(132,149)**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Other LA Grants	**-**	**108,157**	**(108,157)**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Other Restricted	**-**	**50,986**	**(50,986)**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Mainstream Additional Allowance	**-**	**115,914**	**(115,914)**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Pension reserve	**-**	**14,000**	**62,000**	**-**	**(76,000)**	**-**
	905,039	**9,211,749**	**(8,717,648)**	**(87,023)**	**(76,000)**	**1,236,117**

21. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS						
Transfer on of fixed assets on conversion	**12,984,396**	**-**	**(474,764)**	**-**	**-**	**12,509,632**
DfE/ESFA capital grants	**8,583,607**	**109,499**	**(317,856)**	**-**	**-**	**8,375,250**
Capital expenditure from GAG	**325,496**	**-**	**(11,901)**	**87,023**	**-**	**400,618**
Capital Expenditure from Unrestricted Reserves	**43,512**	**-**	**(1,591)**	**-**	**-**	**41,921**
	21,937,011	**109,499**	**(806,112)**	**87,023**	**-**	**21,327,421**
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	**22,842,050**	**9,321,248**	**(9,523,760)**	**-**	**(76,000)**	**22,563,538**
TOTAL FUNDS	**23,742,018**	**9,486,013**	**(9,563,103)**	**-**	**(76,000)**	**23,588,928**

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

Restricted general funds are held to be applied to delivering, developing and supporting Educational Activities. These funds constitute the balance of unspent grants received from the ESFA and other funding bodies which were received to deliver, develop and support educational activities as set out in the applicable funding agreements.

Restricted fixed asset funds are held to be applied to meet the costs of writing down assets purchased using grants for specific purposes and assets transferred from other organisations with restrictions attached.

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 2024.

21. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	As restated Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
General Funds	822,479	135,497	(58,008)	-	-	899,968
RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS						
General Annual Grant	867,842	3,949,551	(3,586,858)	(325,496)	-	905,039
Start Up Grant	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	173,122	(173,122)	-	-	-
Rates Relief	-	41,601	(41,601)	-	-	-
High Needs	-	2,022,791	(2,022,791)	-	-	-
Teachers Pay and Pension Grants	-	24,421	(24,421)	-	-	-
16-19 Funding	-	827,487	(827,487)	-	-	-
PE and Sport Grant	-	16,250	(16,250)	-	-	-
Other DfE Grants	15,717	173,985	(189,702)	-	-	-
Other LA Grants	-	130,610	(130,610)	-	-	-
Other Restricted	24,588	21,830	(46,418)	-	-	-
School Supplementary Grant	25,417	94,753	(120,170)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(387,000)	-	(52,000)	-	439,000	-
	546,564	7,486,401	(7,241,430)	(325,496)	439,000	905,039

21. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS						
Transfer on of fixed assets on conversion	13,299,896	-	(315,500)	-	-	12,984,396
DfE/ESFA capital grants	8,961,674	112,326	(490,393)	-	-	8,583,607
Capital expenditure from GAG	-	-	-	325,496	-	325,496
Capital Expenditure from Unrestricted Reserves	43,512	-	-	-	-	43,512
	22,305,082	112,326	(805,893)	325,496	-	21,937,011
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	22,851,646	7,598,727	(8,047,323)	-	439,000	22,842,050
TOTAL FUNDS	23,674,125	7,734,224	(8,105,331)	-	439,000	23,742,018

21. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 were allocated as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
The Forest High School	**(515,649)**	(394,177)
SGS Pegasus School	**2,092,333**	1,698,701
SGS Berkeley Green UTC	**438,272**	245,242
Central Services	**246,551**	255,241
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	**2,261,507**	1,805,007
Restricted fixed asset fund	**21,327,421**	21,937,011
TOTAL	**23,588,928**	23,742,018

The following academy is carrying a net deficit on its portion of the funds as follows:

	Deficit
	£
The Forest High School	**(515,649)**

The Academy is taking the following action to return the academy to surplus:

SGS Forest High School has operated with a net deficit since 2017/18. In line with the prior year, the Academy has operated at near breakeven under ordinary operational conditions. However, during the year 23/24, Trustees approved to deploy Trust reserves towards school improvement and to create further capacity at the school to accelerate the school towards the strongest possible graded Ofsted judgement. As a result the SGS Forest High School deficit increased during the year to £516k.

The trust is committed to assist with disciplined financial management exercised at the school which will see them gradually return to a surplus position.

21. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

TOTAL COST ANALYSIS BY ACADEMY

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	**Total 2024 £**	Total 2023 £
The Forest High School	1,327,226	538,470	62,944	647,146	**2,575,786**	3,092,750
SGS Pegasus School	1,230,122	1,379,183	68,127	592,482	**3,269,914**	1,850,293
SGS Berkeley Green UTC	1,351,430	430,591	36,368	638,177	**2,456,566**	1,136,467
Central Services	9,826	323,168	-	121,731	**454,725**	1,199,552
ACADEMY	3,918,604	2,671,412	167,439	1,999,536	**8,756,991**	7,279,062

22. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT PERIOD

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £	**Total funds 2024 £**
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	21,457,716	**21,457,716**
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	383	**383**
Current assets	1,025,390	1,794,954	48,558	**2,868,902**
Creditors due within one year	-	(558,837)	(59,152)	**(617,989)**
Creditors due in more than one year	-	-	(120,084)	**(120,084)**
TOTAL	1,025,390	1,236,117	21,327,421	**23,588,928**

22. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS (CONTINUED)

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR PERIOD

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	22,116,936	22,116,936
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	1,533	1,533
Current assets	236,485	2,362,731	21,147	2,620,363
Creditors due within one year	663,483	(1,457,692)	(26,360)	(820,569)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	-	(176,245)	(176,245)
TOTAL	899,968	905,039	21,937,011	23,742,018

23. RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2024 £	2023 £
Net expenditure for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	**(77,090)**	(371,107)
ADJUSTMENTS FOR:		
Amortisation	**1,150**	1,150
Depreciation	**824,665**	804,741
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	**(109,499)**	(112,326)
Interest receivable	**(54,156)**	(6,896)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	**(62,000)**	33,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	**(14,000)**	19,000
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	**79,636**	(41,541)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	**(235,372)**	157,070
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	**353,334**	483,091

24. CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES

	2024 £	2023 £
Repayments of borrowing	**(23,369)**	(10,364)
NET CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES	**(23,369)**	(10,364)

25. CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

	2024 £	2023 £
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**(174,009)**	(573,977)
Interest received	**54,156**	6,896
Capital grants from DfE Group	**109,499**	112,326
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets	**8,564**	-
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES	**(1,790)**	(454,755)

26. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand and at bank	**2,568,616**	2,240,441
TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	**2,568,616**	2,240,441

27. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 September 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	**2,240,441**	**328,175**	**2,568,616**
Debt due within 1 year	**(26,360)**	**(32,792)**	**(59,152)**
Debt due after 1 year	**(176,245)**	**56,161**	**(120,084)**
	2,037,836	**351,544**	**2,389,380**

28. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	2024 £	2023 £
CONTRACTED FOR BUT NOT PROVIDED IN THESE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	**-**	38,399

29. PENSION COMMITMENTS

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

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

Contributions amounting to £127,754 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2024 (2023 - £91,806) and are included within creditors.

TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME

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

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

VALUATION OF THE TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies the level of future contributions.

Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 27 October 2023, with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation outcome are:

- Employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy). This is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control result is such that no change in member benefits is needed.
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million

The result of this valuation was implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation is due to be implemented from 1 April 2028.

29. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £726,562 (2023 - £576,383).

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

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The Academy is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan. Accordingly, the Academy has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Academy has set out above, the information available on the scheme.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £409,000 (2023 - £322,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £312,000 (2023 - £247,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 97,000 (2023 - £75,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 30.2% per cent for employers and 5.5% - 12.5% for employees.

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

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

PRINCIPAL ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

	2024 %	2023 %
Rate of increase in salaries	**3.30**	3.59
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	**2.66**	2.97
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	**5.00**	5.20
Inflation assumption (CPI)	**2.66**	2.96

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

	2024 Years	2023 Years
RETIRING TODAY		
Males	**21.0**	21.3
Females	**24.1**	24.4
RETIRING IN 20 YEARS		
Males	**21.2**	21.6
Females	**25.5**	25.9

29. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

SHARE OF SCHEME ASSETS

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

	At 31 August 2024	At 31 August 2023
	£	£
Equities	**2,477,000**	2,081,000
Bonds	**798,000**	757,000
Property	**470,000**	385,000
Cash and other liquid assets	**75,000**	208,000
Other	**185,000**	-
TOTAL MARKET VALUE OF ASSETS	**4,005,000**	3,431,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £60,000 (2023 - £-199,000).

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

	2024	2023
	£	£
Current service cost	**(250,000)**	(280,000)
Interest income	**187,000**	121,000
Interest cost	**(169,000)**	(140,000)
TOTAL AMOUNT RECOGNISED IN THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	**(232,000)**	(299,000)

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

	2024	2023
	£	£
AT 1 SEPTEMBER	**3,167,000**	3,184,000
Current service cost	**250,000**	280,000
Interest cost	**169,000**	140,000
Employee contributions	**97,000**	75,000
Actuarial losses/(gains)	**4,000**	(460,000)
Benefits paid	**(66,000)**	(52,000)
AT 31 AUGUST	**3,621,000**	3,167,000

29. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

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

	2024 £	2023 £
AT 1 SEPTEMBER	**3,167,000**	2,798,000
Interest income	**187,000**	124,000
Actuarial gains	**239,000**	244,000
Employer contributions	**312,000**	247,000
Employee contributions	**97,000**	75,000
Benefits paid	**(66,000)**	(53,000)
Administration expenses	**(4,000)**	(3,000)
Derecognition of Pension Scheme Surplus	**(311,000)**	(265,000)
AT 31 AUGUST	**3,621,000**	3,167,000

The Academy has an unrecognised surplus of £311,000 (2023 - £265,000) in respect of its defined benefit pension scheme as it does not expect to recover the plan surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan.

30. MEMBERS' LIABILITY

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

31. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

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

The members of the Trust include South Gloucestershire and Stroud College (the College). The trustees of the trust include Phil Eames who is Governor of SGS College Corporation and Lynne Craig who is Governor of SGS College Corporation.

Income Related Party Transactions:

There were no income related party transactions during the period (2023: £NIL).

Expenditure Related Party Transactions:

South Gloucestershire and Stroud College:

- The Academy was charged £205,888 including VAT (2023: £215,793) for the Service Level Agreements and reimbursements.

Services received have been provided 'at no more than cost' and the College has provided a statement of assurance confirming this.

The initial contract with SGS College was agreed prior to 1 April 2019, thus the transaction was not in scope of the Department for Education's approval requirement for related party transactions agreed on or after 1 April 2019, as described at section 5.41 of the Academies Financial Handbook. However, since the inception of the contract with SGS College it has been renewed twice for a period of 3 years effective 1 September 2020 and most recently 1 September 2023. Approval for the most recent transaction was sought on 29 July 2020 using the Education and Skills Funding Agency's online form and the transaction was approved 23 September 2020 (ESFA reference RP1005610).

South Gloucestershire and Stroud College Commercial Services Limited (CSL):

- The Academy was charged £34,380 including VAT for staff recharges (2023: £34,640)

The £34,380 disclosure is in relation to the recharge of staff costs for Facilities Management support supplied during the period under review by SGS CSL, being a service supplied in addition to those regular services provided and charged via Service Charges, levied in accordance with the lease agreement between SGS College CSL and South Gloucestershire and Stroud Academy Trust (SGSAT) signed 6 July 2016. As this recurring RPT has been in place since 2016 with the inception of the lease, we have not sought a specific RPT advanced approval in relation to this lease agreement with SGS CSL.

SGS College disposed of its shareholding in SGS CSL on 21 August 2024, at which point SGS CSL (now renamed Chiltern Vital Berkeley Limited) ceased to be a related party to the Academy Trust.

In entering into the transactions the trust has complied with the requirements of ESFA’s Academies Trust Handbook 2024.

32. AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

Statement of Accounting Policies - Agency Arrangements

The academy trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the academy trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The academy trust can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs, where applied this would be recognised in the statement of financial activities.

Funds received and paid and balances held

The Academy distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting year/period ending 31 August 2024 the trust received £19,971 and disbursed £10,752 from the fund. An amount of £21,251 is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that is repayable to ESFA.

Comparatives for the accounting period ending 31 August 2023 are £16,894, £17,105 disbursed and £13,030 included in other creditors.